

Canadian delegation at ACTC special conference in Paris

Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan led a Canadian delegation to a special conference of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation held March 25-27 in Paris, where he also met with French Foreign Affairs Minister Jean-François Poncet.

In his address to members, Dr. MacGuigan said the Agency provided Canada with "a valuable multilateral instrument for co-operation and exchange with our French-speaking partners".

The decision to hold a special conference was made by the member states at the Agency's sixth general conference held in Lomé, Togo last December. At that time the members said that one of the main items on the conference agenda, reform of the fundamental texts, merited deeper consideration.

Dr. MacGuigan said that proposals by the Secretary General on reform of the fundamental texts "reflect a common desire to overcome the difficulties that have arisen in the past; as well as a desire to provide a solid foundation for the development and extension of the Agency's activities".

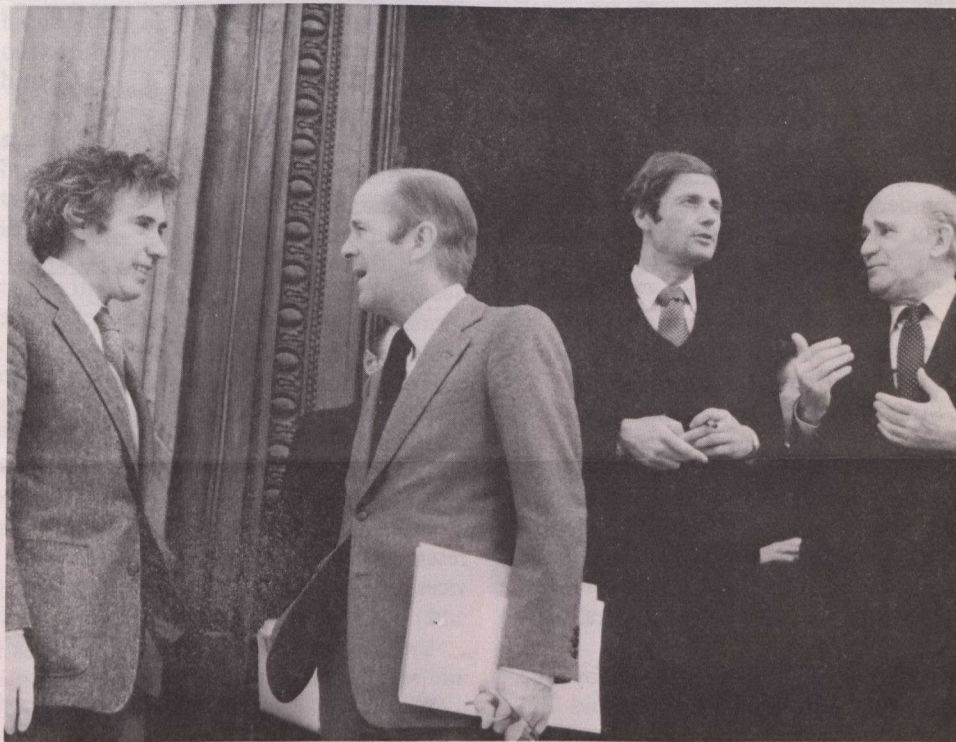
The review is considered necessary if the Agency, which is ten years old, is to pursue its goals of promoting and spreading knowledge of national cultures, and increasing multilateral cultural and technical co-operation. The agenda of the conference also dealt with the budget destined for special projects to assist member countries.

The Canadian delegation to the conference included representatives from Quebec and New Brunswick as participating governments in the Agency, as well as Federal Government advisers.

Canada provides \$6 million annually to the Agency, but is "prepared to contribute more if requested by member countries", said Dr. MacGuigan.

During their meeting, Dr. MacGuigan and Mr. Poncet discussed the Afghanistan question, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, and the Iranian situation.

They also talked about the summit meeting to be held in Venice in June, which will bring together representatives of the United States, Canada, West Germany, Great Britain, Japan, Italy and France.



Mark MacGuigan (left) leaves the Quai d'Orsay after a meeting with French Foreign Affairs Minister Jean-François Poncet (centre). Canadian Ambassador to France Gérard Pelletier (extreme right) speaks with French Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Olivier Stirn, who will be making an official visit to Canada later this year.

Message to El Salvador

Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan, sent a message of condolence to the Government of El Salvador following the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero.

In his statement Mr. MacGuigan said: "A distinguished and effective spokesman in the cause of human rights has been taken from his people. We must all hope that this tragic event will not engender further suffering for the Salvadorean people and that those concerned will move toward a just and peaceful solution of the problems faced by El Salvador."

Canada ups refugee quota

The Federal Government has announced that the 1979-80 Indochinese refugee resettlement program is being modified to allow additional 10,000 refugees to enter Canada.

The additional 10,000 refugees, being brought into Canada under sponsorship of the Federal Government, will raise the two-year commitment from 50,000 to 60,000 refugees.

Under the previous level of 50,000 refugees, Canada had received approximately 34,000 by the end of February. Of that number 12,400 were government-sponsored and 21,600 were privately-sponsored. The remaining 16,000 will arrive in Canada by the end of September.

Since the Federal Government has brought in 12,400 and private sponsors have made commitments to assist 35,000 refugees, the remaining portion of the 50,000 is 2,600. Private sponsors will be able to commit themselves to as many of the 2,600 places as they wish with the Government filling any of the remaining places with government-sponsored refugees, in addition to the 10,000 refugees.

The Government will provide accommodation, food, clothing and other necessities for the 10,000 additional refugees.

Employment and Immigration Minister Lloyd Axworthy said that he would be examining the global refugee problem in the months ahead to determine the appropriate Canadian Government response and the potential private sector involvement in 1981. He said there would be extensive consultations with both provincial governments and private groups, to develop Canada's 1981 refugee program.