

The search for dialogue and solidarity was also evident in the continued consideration of the proposed Conference of Heads of State and Government of partially or entirely French-speaking states. President Senghor of Senegal consulted a number of countries that might be interested in it.

Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation

Founded in March 1970 in Niamey, Niger, the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation is chief among the international French-language organizations. It has 28 member states, three associate states (a fourth associate state, Mauritania, was admitted on March 26, 1980) and two participating governments. Its purpose is to develop multilateral co-operation between partially or entirely French-speaking states, in education, culture, science and technology.

The Agency held its sixth General Conference in Lomé, Togo from December 12 to 15. The General Conference, which is the highest level meeting of the Agency, brings together every two years ministerial delegations of its member states. The Canadian delegation was led by the Minister of State responsible for the Canadian International Development Agency. Also in the delegation were the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs of Quebec, the Minister of Youth, Recreation and Cultural Resources of New Brunswick and a representative of Ontario. Quebec and New Brunswick both have participating government status in the institutions, activities and programs of the Agency.

The Lomé Conference was a particularly important one, as it was charged with studying significant reform of the Agency's fundamental texts. The reform, which has been a matter of concern for some years, affects the collegial management of the Agency Secretariat, the method of nomination, the responsibilities and the titles of the Secretary-General's chief assistants, and the operation of the Agency bodies. No decision could be reached at the Lomé Conference on the reform proposals. The member states were of the opinion that more thorough consideration would have to be given to the matter, and they proposed that a Special General Conference be held in Paris in March 1980.

The General Conference in Lomé also examined the programs implemented since the decision of the Mauritius General Conference in 1975, grouping them under four headings: development, education, scientific and technical co-operation and promotion of national languages and cultures. It gave its agreement to the addition of three new sectors—consultation, training and publishing. With regard to consultation, a meeting to be held in Cameroun, of ministers responsible for co-operation, is being planned, and the possibility of a meeting of ministers of agriculture in 1980 or 1981 is to be studied. An *ad hoc* committee will have as its mandate to draw up a general policy of cultural co-operation within the framework of the Agency's programs.

Among the most significant projects planned for 1980-1981 some of which are not new, there are: assistance in the creation and circulation of literary or artistic works; restoration of cultural heritage; research in education for promotion of the use of modern means of communication; promotion of the manufacture of educational materials; research into new energy forms; and rural development. The training sector is well served by the International School of Bordeaux, a training and development centre for middle- and upper-level management of the member countries. Its courses and seminars reflect the priorities of the Agency's general programs. More than 300 trainees annually, including a number from Canada, take part in these courses and seminars.

Conference on youth and sports

The tenth annual session of the Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports of French-speaking Countries, initially planned for November 1979, took place in Cotonou, Benin on January 25 and 26, 1980. The Canadian delegation was led by Canada's Ambassador to Benin, and it included Quebec's Minister of Recreation, Game and Fish, as well as senior officials from Ontario. The participants adopted a significant action program which the Canadian government as well as those of Quebec, New Brunswick and Ontario will help to carry out.

Conference of ministers of education

The thirty-second session of the Conference of Ministers of Education of French-speaking Countries was held in Quebec City from April 25 to 27, 1979. Representatives of 29 countries and seven international organizations took part in the proceedings. The Canadian delegation, led by the Minister of Youth, Recreation and Cultural Resources of New Brunswick, included, besides representatives of that province, senior officials from Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba. The Vice-Premier and Minister of Education of Quebec was appointed president in office of the organization until its next session. The thirty-second session constituted a turning point for the Conference, which is tending increasingly to become an agency for effective co-operation in education—a tendency which is in harmony with the conference's original purpose of exchange and consultation in this field. At the end of the meeting, the participants had an opportunity to visit briefly Fredericton, New Brunswick.

Non-governmental organizations

The federal government also continued its efforts in 1979 towards facilitating and promoting the participation of Canadians in the activities of the non-governmental sector of La Francophonie internationale. This sector includes those professional, cultural and other associations which, having a common language, have been formed to develop links of co-operation and mutual understanding. The non-governmental sector is very active in its pursuit of the goals