

originators of the program, contributed \$750,000 to it in November and hoped to increase its contribution to \$2 million during the next three years. Simon Venne, a Canadian seconded from CIDA, was appointed Director-General of the Special Program.

In addition, the general conference took note of the result of the Conference of Ministers Responsible for Science Policy in Agency member countries, which was held in Luxembourg from September 19 to 24. At that conference, the Agency's science policy was initiated and a program of scientific and technical activities was established.

The general conference agreed to hold in 1979 a meeting of ministers responsible for co-operation with the aim of improving the Agency's activities in this area. It was also agreed that the next general conference would be held in Lebanon in 1979.

In February, the Agency convened a meeting in Chad of ministers responsible for handicrafts in order to formulate guidelines for Agency handicraft activities. A visit to Ottawa was made in April by Agency Secretary-General Dan Dicko, who met with the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the adviser to the Secretary of State for External Affairs on matters relating to French-speaking countries and the President of CIDA, as well as senior officials. The visit gave Canada an opportunity to confirm the importance it attached to consolidating and broadening the activities of the Agency as the central body of the international French-speaking community.

### **Conference on education**

The thirtieth session of the Conference of Ministers of Education of French-speaking Countries took place in Brussels from March 14 to 18. The Canadian delegation was headed by the Ambassador to Belgium, and included the Vice-Premier and Minister of Education of Quebec, as well as officials of the Provinces of New Brunswick, Ontario and Manitoba. The conference theme was elementary and secondary teacher development. The conference ratified the

merging of the technical secretariats of the two sectoral conferences, that of Ministers of Education and of Ministers of Youth and Sports. The conference also took note of its increased collaboration with the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation, especially in the area of local production of pedagogical materials.

The thirty-first session was scheduled to be held in Ouagadougou, Upper Volta, in March 1978, on the themes of the relations between school and life, and the production of pedagogical materials and documentation.

### **Conference on youth and sports**

The annual session of the Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports of French-speaking countries was held in Lomé, Togo, from September 26 to 30. The Canadian delegation was headed by Jean-Pierre Ouellet, New Brunswick's Minister of Youth, Recreation and Cultural Resources, and included Claude Charron, minister responsible for the Quebec High Commission for Youth, Recreation and Sport, and officials from Ontario and Ottawa. The conference agreed to co-ordinate its youth activities with those of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation. Canada contributes to certain of those programs, including a work camp for young people in Benin. In addition, the Permanent Technical Secretariat administers, on behalf of CIDA, a program of scholarships for developing countries that are members of the conference to be used for physical education. Quebec and New Brunswick likewise contribute to the financing of certain programs. The next session of the conference is to be held in Libreville in August 1978.