

stop here in Moncton. New Brunswick's participation in the Agency is greatly appreciated.

This status devised by the Canadian government is absolutely unique in its class. Nowhere else in the world can a similar arrangement be found, by which a federal government grants to the government of a province or federated or provincial state the status of participating government having its own voice in an international or regional organization. In my opinion this is a fine example of the federal government's flexibility in allowing the provincial governments, in areas that fall within their own jurisdiction and that are compatible with Canada's foreign policy, to participate fully in international organizations. Mechanisms to inform and to consult have been established between these two participating governments and the federal government to ensure that all three can participate in an active, original manner while maintaining unity of Canadian action within the community of Agency members.

Although the Agency is an important institution in La Francophonie, mention should also be made of the other intergovernmental organizations and private associations. In this connection, I am pleased to welcome the Physical Education Department of the University of Moncton for its consistent participation in the Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports in Africa, and to congratulate the Department of Education employees for their participation in the activities of the Conference of Ministers of Education. In regard to non-governmental francophone organizations, I am pleased that last September your Department of Education was able to second one of its officials for a two-year period, to the African office of the AUPELF, the Association of Partly or Wholly French-speaking Universities in Dakar. With the assistance of a sizable annual subsidy from CIDA, a few years ago the AUPELF was able to establish the International Fund for University Cooperation, or the FICU. The African office in Dakar is closely linked with the administration of the FICU, which promotes horizontal cooperation among universities. Finally, I would also like to draw your attention to the close cooperation of the University of Moncton, which joined with my Department to prepare an annual program that, beginning in September, will enable an Acadian from Louisiana to study at the Master's and Doctoral levels in Moncton. Also through the cooperation of the New Brunswick government, my department will again, in April, send a cultural resource person to the Louisiana Franco-Americans for one year.

In sum, La Francophonie is the business of all francophone Canadians, and, I would say, of all Canadians. Like the Commonwealth, it is something of interest to us all.