



African Performing Arts Market (MASA)

Through Canadian Heritage, Canada participates in various projects on culture and communications within La Francophonie. The activities of Canadian Heritage are essentially intended to support the major programs of the Agence de la Francophonie (ACCT). For example, the Department encouraged the participation of Canadian purchasers in the African Performing Arts Market (MASA), organized by the ACCT in 1993 and 1995. MASA, which was held in Ivory Coast, attracted many Canadian buyers, who were able to evaluate the export potential of the African cultural sector.

III) HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT

At the Chaillot Summit, Canada proposed the establishment of the Human Rights and Democratic Development Promotion Program. This program was intended to make the Chaillot Declaration on democracy and development a reality through a series of measures in three vital related areas: documentation and information, support for the electoral process and training sessions for important figures in the development of democracy.

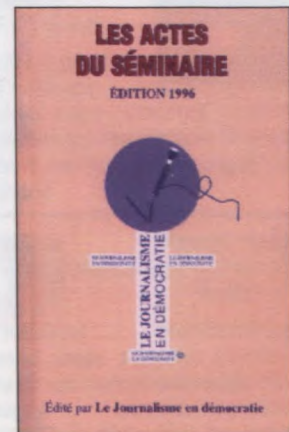
Documentation and Information

In the area of documentation and information, the International Data Bank on Francophone States (BIEF) conducted bibliographic research and research to identify equivalent titles in French of documents on human rights (approximately 10,000) based on UN data bases and the legal deposit catalogues of Canadian libraries.

This bibliography has been published by the UN and is also available on CD-ROM. In addition, a specific bibliography on human rights in French-speaking countries can be found in a directory that the BIEF has put on CD-ROM.

Support for the Electoral Process

In the area of support for the electoral process, La Francophonie, applying the guidelines for conducting electoral observation missions which it drew up in October 1992, has responded to numerous requests from countries to conduct preparatory missions and electoral observation missions proper. Since the Mauritius Summit in October 1993, seven Francophone countries have benefited from such missions: the Comoro Islands, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon (two missions), Togo, Benin, Niger and Guinea.



Development

In the area of development, seminars have been offered for various categories of stakeholders in democracy: parliamentarians, journalists, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), police forces and unions.

These seminars continued the work begun after the Chaillot Summit (November 1991) with training sessions lasting several weeks (three to five). The implementation agencies were as follows: for parliamentarians, the Canadian section of the International Association of French-Speaking Parliamentarians; for journalists, Radio-Canada; for NGOs, the Canadian Human