

Ministers of both agriculture and health, at their respective meetings, identified areas for increased Commonwealth co-operation: in the dissemination of information, in programs for better public health, and in the mobilization of resources and experience to assist developing members in the areas of food production and rural development.

#### Commonwealth secretariat

In 1980, Commonwealth Senior Officials agreed that a review of the secretariat's operations would be made in two stages: the first, of its priorities and objectives and, second, of the structure and establishment.

#### Unofficial Commonwealth

There are over 200 Commonwealth non-governmental organizations (NGO) active throughout member countries. At their meeting in Lusaka in 1979, heads of government encouraged the Commonwealth Foundation, in line with its expanded mandate, to assist exchanges between the official and unofficial Commonwealth. The variety of these exchanges is considerable and, during the year under review, included: regional workshops on teaching and extension methods in agriculture and on farm machinery testing procedures; a regional metrication workshop; a workshop on method techniques and skills in youth work; a project planning meeting on rural housing; a workshop for the Africa region on teacher support services; and a regional project planning meeting on organizing traditional light engineering.

In Canada, the Royal Commonwealth Society continued to promote public awareness of the association through its branches in major cities across the country and in a variety of activities, the most notable of which was the annual celebration of "Commonwealth Day" in March, and sponsorship of the ninth Student Commonwealth Conference in Ottawa in May. The Department of External Affairs assisted the Society with arrangements for the student conference in which over 100 students from across Canada took part.

#### LA FRANCOPHONIE

The international meetings held under the auspices of La Francophonie were noteworthy in both numbers and importance in 1981. In March, ministers of agriculture convened in Paris for a meeting sponsored by the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation (the ACCT). They recommended that agriculture and rural development be given a place of key importance. To continue the process of concentrating on activities that had already been started, they recommended the integration of rural development, preparation of an inventory and development plans for natural resources, for technological adaptation and for information distribution. Pierre De Bané, then Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, led the Canadian delegation. In September, ministers of culture, meeting in Cotonou, Bénin, published a declaration on the free exchange of cultural property, cultural exchanges and heritage protection. They also submitted several recommendations. Francis Fox, Minister of Communications, led the Canadian delegation.