

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, announced today that Canada will participate in the Conference of Ministers for the Public Service of French-speaking Countries belonging to the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation, which will take place at Lome, Republic of Togo, January 17-24. The decision to have this conference was made in June 1970 by the Agency's Council of Administration; it was called by the Agency's Secretary General Mr. Jean-Marc Léger. The Government of the Republic of Togo agreed to be host.

This will be the first conference of ministers for the Public Service of member countries of the Agency. One of the most important points on the agenda will be the examination of a proposal for an international school for training in management techniques, with particular emphasis on developing countries. This school will be the most important project on the Agency's program for 1971.

If the project appears feasible, this institution, which will have an international staff, may begin operation in September 1971 to provide advanced training in modern management techniques for senior members of the Public Service of member countries of the Agency.

The Chairman of the Canadian delegation will be the Honourable Gérard Pelletier, Secretary of State for Canada and will include representatives of the governments of Quebec, New Brunswick, Ontario and Manitoba. A list of its members is attached.