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AGRICULTURE MINISTERS' CONFERENCE  
OF THE AGENCY FOR CULTURAL AND TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION (ACCT)  
PARIS, MARCH 2 AND 3, 1981

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The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Dr. Mark MacGuigan, announces that the Honourable Pierre De Bané, Minister of Regional Economic Expansion and Francophone Affairs Advisor to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, will lead a Canadian delegation to the first conference of agriculture ministers of the member countries of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation, to be held in Paris on March 2 and 3. He will be accompanied by Marcel Ostiguy, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture, and Gaëtan Lussier, Deputy Minister of Agriculture. The governments of Quebec and New Brunswick will also be represented in the Canadian delegation, as participating governments in the agency.

The decision to hold this conference was made at the VIth General Conference of the agency which was held in Lomé, Togo in December 1979. The purpose of the ministerial meeting is to promote co-ordination of efforts and sharing of resources by all agency members in the agricultural sphere, particularly in the research, technology and training sectors.

Water problems, managerial training, as well as co-operation and exchanges in the dissemination of scientific and technical information are on the agenda. The ministerial meeting will also help the agency give direction to and formulate action programmes in the technical co-operation sphere of its activities.