

The Council took note of Lebanon's intention of playing host to the next General Conference, which is to be held in the fall of 1977. The Council welcomed the Seychelles Islands as a new member of the Agency. The Seychelles, Canada and Mauritius are members of both the Commonwealth and the Agency.

Conferences on education and on youth and sports

The annual session of the Conference of Ministers of Education of French-speaking Countries was held in N'Djamena, Chad, from February 23 to 27. Bernard Lachapelle, then Quebec's Minister of Education, headed the Canadian delegation, which also included representatives from New Brunswick, Ontario and Manitoba. The conference gave particular attention to the problems of teacher-training. It approved the plan to merge the technical secretariats of the two sectoral conferences (on education and on youth and sports). In order to bring about closer collaboration with the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation, the conference declared itself in favour of the joint operation of projects proposed by the Agency relating to national languages and local production of pedagogical materials for teaching and professional training. For its next session, the conference has chosen as its theme pedagogical supervision for elementary and secondary teachers.

The annual session of the Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports was held in Paris from July 12 to 14. Headed by Paul Phaneuf, the minister responsible for the Quebec High Commission for Youth, Recreation and Sport, the Canadian delegation also included Jean-Pierre Ouellet, New Brunswick's Minister of Youth, René Toupin, Manitoba's Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, and a representative from Ontario.

In consideration of the need for French-speaking institutions to harmonize their programs and standardize their procedures, the Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports agreed to a merger of its secretariat with that of the Conference of Ministers of Education,

and took certain steps towards this end. In the light of the recommendations made by the various technical committees, the conference approved a series of training programs and youth workshops that will be financed partly from external sources and partly by support from the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation. Canada made changes in its program of training grants for senior managers, increasing its expenditure by \$75,000; its contribution to this federally-initiated program will thus amount to approximately \$450,000. Quebec intends to make financial contributions amounting to about \$60,000 to certain programs.

Non-governmental organizations

Canada continues to encourage, and in many cases provide, financial support for the numerous private French-speaking associations that unite individuals within a common profession or specific sector who wish to establish bonds of co-operation and means of mutual recognition. The interest demonstrated by these associations and the activities they sponsor have contributed a great deal to the progress achieved by the international French-speaking community.

Among these groups are the International Conference of French-speaking Economists, which met at Laval University from May 13 to 15, with participants from many French-speaking countries. York University organized a symposium on the topic "The French-speaking Community in the Americas" from June 2 to 5, to which participants came from Canada, France, the United States, Haiti and the West Indies. Finally, the International French-language Conference on Immunology met at the Manoir Richelieu, Pointe-au-Pic, Quebec, from October 11 to 15.

United Nations

The year under review was a period of relative calm for the United Nations. Events outside the main UN forums, together with a greater appreciation on the part of member states of the value of consensus, lessened confrontation and eased certain of the immediate