

During 1969, at the intergovernmental level, the Division contributed to Canada's participation in conferences that brought together the education ministers of the French-speaking states of Africa and Madagascar from January 13 to 18 in Kinshasa, and from December 1 to 4 in Paris, which was also the scene on December 5 and 6 of the first conference of youth and recreation ministers of French-speaking countries. An active part was played by Canada in the important conference from January 17 to 20 in Niamey, the capital of Niger, where the foundations were laid for the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation between Partially and Entirely French-speaking Countries. Canada has lent its full and enthusiastic support to the idea of this Agency, and has been host on a number of occasions during the year to Mr. Jean-Marc Léger, the Agency's interim Executive Secretary, to whom the countries participating in the Niamey Conference have entrusted the task of drawing up a draft constitution and a potential program of activities for the new Agency.

At the private level, the Division's activities in connection with la Francophonie have included assistance in the preparation for the annual meeting of the Institut de Droit d'Expression française, an international association of French-speaking jurists, which took place in Canada from September 7 to 13.

United States Division

The United States Division is concerned with the whole range of practical problems of Canada's relations with the United States. Within the Department it has a general co-ordinating responsibility involving a continuing review and analysis of the important aspects of the increasing number of matters of interest to the two countries. In performing this function, it maintains close liaison with other government departments and agencies and with other divisions in the Department that have primary responsibility for particular aspects of the bilateral relation, such as those involving defence, consular, trade and economic matters.

The Division has specific responsibility for subjects of bilateral concern dealt with by the International Joint Commission and the International Boundary Commission. It works closely, therefore, with these two commissions and with the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority and other international commissions and organizations concerned with Canada-United States affairs. The Division's work covers the development of water resources, transportation links, international parks, water and air pollution, all international fisheries commissions and fisheries conservation, shipping (including tolls and pilotage on the St. Lawrence Seaway system), and trans-border traffic and migration, in their international context. The Division also has responsibility for co-ordinating inter-departmental views on the construction and operation of international bridges and on international transportation questions in Canada's Pacific Coast region.

In the field, Canada's relations with the United States are conducted through the Canadian Embassy in Washington, the Consulates-General in Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, New Orleans, New York, San Francisco and Seattle, and the Consulates in Cleveland, Dallas, Detroit and San Juan, Puerto Rico.