

guistic and cultural traditions; the establishment of a functional framework within which cultural and technical cooperation could quickly attain their full potential was cited as a means to this end.

In this connection, the President and the Prime Minister expressed satisfaction with the decisive steps taken by the French-speaking countries at the conference convened in Niamey last February by President Diouri Hamani, in his capacity as chairman of the "Organisation Commune Africaine et Malgache" (OCAI). Niger and Canada reaffirmed their full support for the proposed Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation between French-speaking Countries, which was approved unanimously at the Niamey conference. The President and the Prime Minister noted their agreement in principle on the role of the Agency and its relations with their respective countries.

They also dealt with questions of economic and social development, a subject in which both countries have a profound interest. The Canadian program of aid to Niger has now been in existence for over five years. The Prime Minister expressed once again his Government's desire to increase Canadian participation in the economic development of Niger, as evidenced by, among other things, the technical cooperation agreement and the three conventions for financing signed today in Ottawa by the President and the Prime Minister. These conventions concern the following projects:

- 1) the enlarging of Mariama College in Niamey and the sending of professors to the college;
- 2) mining prospecting in Niger;
- 3) plant protection, including construction of laboratories, furnishing of equipment, sending experts and granting of scholarships.

The President and the Prime Minister agreed on other subjects of cooperation. In particular, the Canadian Government has undertaken to place advisors at Niger's disposal and to supply food and pharmaceutical products. Canada has also undertaken a technical study of the campaign against endemic diseases.

Other development projects have been studied seriously. Niger is completing a study of the "W" dam, a far reaching project. Once the feasibility of this project is established, Canada contemplates supporting Niger's