

with this evolution and with the facts of Canadian life itself, that Quebec's participation in the Agency be viewed in the light of this continuity and with respect for the facts to which I have just alluded.

Moreover, the Government of Quebec intends to act in areas where it has constitutional jurisdiction, and the responsibility for which, in accordance with its frequently stated position, it neither can nor wishes to entrust to another government. Now, as you will no doubt agree, the Agency that is to be established in Niamey will touch on all or almost all of these areas. This situation explains both our interest in the Agency and our concern, as a responsible government and as a Francophone government, that we be able to play a major role, readily identifiable and clearly accepted by all our Canadian partners, including the federal government.

What this amounts to therefore, in our opinion, is that the arrangements proposed must clearly recognize the actual position and role of Quebec in the French-speaking community of Canada and in Francophonie in general. In this regard, it must be admitted that no other Canadian province is in the same situation as Quebec.

From this standpoint, therefore, we feel that it is entirely reasonable for Quebec to request recognition of these undeniable facts, and the inclusion of certain guarantees as to the nature of our participation in the Agency once it has been created. Quite simply, it is a matter of assuring us that the important role of Quebec, about which obviously no one is in any doubt today, will not be questioned later on.

These are the general principles which motivated us in preparing the amendments which we should like to see made to the counter-proposals which you sent me. I should now like to stress some specific points concerning these arrangements, as regards both our participation in the founding conference and in the Agency itself.

#### A - AD HOC ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SECOND CONFERENCE OF FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES

1. It seems to us normal that the Quebec minister should be co-chairman of the Canadian delegation and not Vice-chairman. This would in no way interfere with Canada's foreign policy and would reflect the fact that, of all the Canadian provinces, Quebec can make the greatest contribution to la Francophonie because of its people, its government and its institutions. At the two recent international conferences of education ministers from Francophone countries, the minister representing Quebec acted as Chairman of the Canadian delegation. In the present case, and since the subjects to be