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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 18, 1969VISIT OF PRESIDENT DIORI HAMANI

At the invitation of the Governor General, President Diiori Hamani of the Republic of Niger arrived in Ottawa on September 17 for a state visit to Canada. During his stay, which will last until September 29, the President will visit Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. He is accompanied by his wife, and his entourage includes Messrs. Mamoudou Maidah, Minister of Rural Economy, Zakara Mouddour, Minister of Saharan and Nomad Affairs, the Post Office and Telecommunications, Abdou Sidikou, Secretary of State to the President with responsibility for foreign affairs, Colonel Balarabe, Chief of Staff of Niger's armed forces, His Excellency Amadou Mayaki, Niger's Ambassador to Canada, and other dignitaries.

President Diiori Hamani was met at the airport by His Excellency Roland Michener, Governor General of Canada, whose guest he is while in Ottawa. Discussions between the President, the Prime Minister and other members of the Canadian Government have touched on major topics of current international significance. The President and the Prime Minister have expressed their Governments' determination to continue to contribute by all means within their power to the search for solutions to the problems of world peace. They gave particular emphasis to the fundamental importance of a sustained effort to reduce economic disparities at the international level. They discussed recent developments in Nigeria, and agreed on the need to continue their efforts to get negotiations started.

These conversations also provided an opportunity for a fruitful exchange of views on la Francophonie. The President and the Prime Minister stressed the importance of a rapid expansion in cooperation between French-speaking countries to meet the strongly felt needs of countries which, like Canada and Niger, have a common heritage of French lin-