

In 1971, Canada acted as host for the second General Conference of the Agency, held from October 11 to 17 in Ottawa and Quebec City in order to discuss ways and means of pursuing the Agency's objectives. The Conference was attended by some 250 delegates from the 22 member countries, and four other countries sent observers.

Also under the Agency's auspices, Canada was represented at a conference for ministers of national civil services held in Lomé, Togo, from January 18 to 22, and at a seminar on educational television in Niamey from February 22 to 27; organized, in conjunction with the provinces, a tour that brought an international handicrafts exhibition to Moncton, Quebec City, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto and Winnipeg; and made arrangements for visits to Canada by 29 young people, and visits to African countries by 30 young Canadians, as part of the Agency's youth-exchange program.

During 1971, the Division was also responsible for Canadian representation at meetings of education ministers from French-speaking African countries held in Bangui, Central African Republic, from January 25 to 28 and in Paris from May 10 to 13, and at a conference for ministers of youth and sport in Dakar, Senegal, from June 14 to 16.

#### Role of Quebec and the Provinces

The government of Quebec has long been particularly interested in co-operation with members of La Francophonie. Striking evidence of this fact was given in October of 1971 when Quebec was admitted to the institutions, activities and programs of the Agency as a participating government. Having been recognized in this manner by the Agency, it will be able to provide even greater support to La Francophonie and thus to strengthen Canada's *francophone* policy. Quebec also chaired the delegation to the French-language conferences on education and on youth and sport. As in the past, the governments of New Brunswick, Ontario and Manitoba have full access to Canadian participation in Agency activities and French-language conferences. The Division is responsible for ensuring liaison with Quebec and the other provinces concerned.

The Division has also taken an interest in the meetings of non-governmental international French-language associations, and contributed to Canadian participation in the annual congress of the Institut de droit d'expression française, held in Bujumbura, Burundi, from August 10 to 18. It co-operated in the organization of an international congress of French-speaking parliamentarians held in Ottawa, Montreal and Quebec City from September 16 to 21; Mr. Lucien Lamoureux, Speaker of the House of Commons, acted as host. The Division has also continued to support AUPELF, an association of universities that are wholly or partially French-speaking, and to take an interest in the activities of other non-governmental organizations such as the Conseil international de la langue française and the Association internationale de solidarité francophone, whose founding congress was held in Marly-le-Roi, France, from May 25 to 28.