

- T R A N S L A T I O N -

February 20, 1970

The Honourable Mitchell Sharp
Minister of External Affairs.

Dear Mr. Minister,

In a letter dated February 17, His Excellency M. Diouri Hamani, President of the Republic of Niger, recently invited the Prime Minister to appoint a ministerial-level delegation fully empowered to represent your country at the second Conference of wholly or partly Francophone countries which is to take place in Niamey from March 16 to 20, 1970. The Conference will be devoted to the examination and adoption of the draft statutes and the programme of activities of the Agency for cultural and technical cooperation, the creation of which was recommended last year by the Final Resolution of the Niamey conference.

I have been instructed to convey to you all necessary information in connection with the organization of the conference and your country's participation. I wrote you on February 3 last, to send you the documents proposed for consideration at this conference. The conference agenda provides that the opening session be held on Monday morning, March 16. Beginning with the afternoon session of the same day the conference will carry on its work in committees. There will be three of these: the Committee on orientation of the Agency, which will study the Agency's field of activities and consider the four reports of the groups of experts; the Legal Committee, which will be responsible for examining the statutes and texts pertaining thereto; and the Finance Committee, to which the budget and the program of activities will be submitted. The committees will meet from Monday afternoon to Wednesday afternoon. Their reports will be submitted to the Plenary Meeting on Thursday, March 19 and, if necessary, on Friday, March 20. As all delegations will be represented on these three committees, it would seem highly desirable that each delegation consist of at least three members and preferably four. Each government will thus be assured that its views are made known fully in the various committees and that it is contributing its full share to the progress of the work of the conference and the course of the new international organization.