

The Department deals with all aspects of Canada's participation in La Francophonie, a cultural community comprising some 30 or more countries. More particularly, it is responsible for multilateral relations between Canada and these wholly or partly French-speaking countries, concentrating its efforts on inter-governmental relations while also providing occasional support to international francophone associations the private sector.

Intergovernmental Relations

Founded at Niamey (Niger) in March 1970, the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation (ACCT) is the keystone of the international francophone system. Its purpose is to develop ties of mutual cooperation between wholly or partially French-speaking countries in education, culture, science and technology. Canada played a very active role in these areas in 1972, notably in the work of the Programs Committee, the Administrative Council and the General Conference. Last year (1971), Canada had the honour of hosting the second General Conference which provided the ACCT with necessary funds and other means for pursuing its objectives.

The Agency's most noteworthy achievement in the field of teaching and research was the establishment of the Ecole Internationale de Bordeaux which comprises a training centre in modern management techniques and an initiation centre into the problems of the Third World. The school welcomes trainees from any of the member countries of the ACCT. A practical training course is offered in Canada every year for African and European students, and in Europe for Canadians. Two other projects are of particular interest to Canada, namely the Program of Scientific and Technical Information and the Development Aid Program; the purpose of the former program is to provide for better and faster dissemination of scientific and technical information among the francophone countries. In order to obtain expert advice on the best way to proceed, meetings were held in Paris and Ottawa during 1972.

To launch the latter program, the ACCT organized a conference in Bamako to enlist the aid of member states in defining its activity with respect to



Mr. Sydney Green, Minister representing Manitoba (left), and Mr. François Cloutier (centre), Quebec Minister of Education, welcome guests at a Canadian reception held in Tananarive, Madagascar, during the Conference of Education Ministers of the francophone world.

lateral co-operation between Third World countries, in effect to establish the orientation, procedures and areas covered by this new program. With a view to promoting handicrafts, the Agency opened a sales centre in Montreal following the Canadian tour of its international handicrafts exhibition. Lastly, the Department has helped to organize the visits of foreign nationals to Canada and visits of young Canadians to Europe and Africa under the ACCT's Youth Exchange Program.

In addition to its efforts on behalf of the ACCT, the Department has assisted other intergovernmental associations of the francophone world. In 1972, for example, it organized Canada's participation in the meetings of the Conference of Education Ministers of the Francophone States of Africa and Madagascar at Tanana-