

Two *francophone* African countries opened embassies in Ottawa during the past year. Their Excellencies Aristide Issembe of Gabon and Djamel Houhou of Algeria became the first ambassadors of their respective countries resident in Canada. Canada opened an embassy in Algiers during the summer, and in November Mr. Christian Hardy became the first resident Canadian ambassador.

The Second General Conference of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation was held in Canada last October, and was attended by a large number of African delegations led by ministers. From May 27 to 29, His Excellency Abdou Diouf, Prime Minister of Senegal, came to Ottawa on his first official visit abroad. Then, from June 24 to July 3, His Excellency Diiori Hamani, President of Niger, visited Ottawa and four of the provinces -- Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and Quebec.

Mention should be made of the visit on September 30 of the President of Mauritania, His Excellency Moktar Ould Daddah, as leader of a delegation from the Organization of African Unity. The President was accompanied by the Foreign Affairs Ministers of Cameroon, Mali and Mauritania, Their Excellencies Jean Keutchu, Charles Cissoko and Hamdi Ould Mouknass, respectively.

The Canadian program of aid to French-speaking Africa has continued to grow. Among the notable achievements may be mentioned the inauguration of the Akonolinga Bridge in Cameroon -- an important step in the economic development of that country -- and a high-tension line in Tunisia built by Canada between Korba and Tunis, which was inaugurated on the occasion of the third meeting of the Canada-Tunisia Joint Committee in Tunis from September 20 to 28. Canada is also playing a large part in a project now nearing completion that will enable Ghana to export electricity to Togo and Dahomey from its power-plant at Akosombo.

In 1971, Canada also participated in a number of international conferences bringing together *francophone* African countries. Mention has already been made of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation, the chairman of which was Canada's Secretary of State, Mr. Gérard Pelletier. The Secretary-General of the Agency is a Canadian, Mr. Jean-Marc Léger. The General Assembly of the International Association of French-speaking Parliamentarians (IAFP) also met in Canada (Montreal, Ottawa and Quebec City) from September 15 to 21. Its host was Mr. Lucien Lamoureux, Speaker of the House of Commons and President of the Canadian Section of the IAFP. Canada was also represented at several conferences of nations wholly or partially French-speaking -- of national education ministers in Bangui (Central African Republic) in January and in Paris in May; of civil service ministers in Lome (Togo) in January; and of ministers of youth and sport in Dakar (Senegal) in June -- as well as at the Sixth Congress of the International Institute of French-speaking Jurists at Bujumbura (Burundi).

During 1971, Canada sent observers to various assemblies and meetings of the African Development Bank (ADB). The President of the Canadian International Development Agency, Mr. Paul Gérin-Lajoie, led the first Canadian delegation to the annual assembly of the ADB in Kampala (Uganda) in July.

French-speaking Africa thus continued to occupy an important place in the activities of the Department in 1971, and the Canadian presence there was