

7. The exchange of correspondence began on January 8, 1970, at the level of officials with a telegram to the Department of External Affairs from the Quebec Department of Intergovernmental Affairs. This message contained the text of an "Aide Memoire on the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation" setting out "certain conditions" by virtue of which "the Government of Quebec would be prepared to collaborate with the Government of Canada for the purposes of the Agency".

8. On January 16, the Department of External Affairs replied with a telegram which contained two distinct parts, one entitled "Summary of Ad Hoc Arrangements for the Second Conference of Francophone Countries" and the other "Arrangements on Canadian Participation in the Agency". This division was necessary because the initial Quebec proposal put the arrangements for the Niamey conference itself and those dealing with future Canadian participation in the Agency under one and the same heading. The advantage of this separation (which was accepted by the Quebec authorities) was that it clarified the problem and, in addition, applied a clear distinction between the ad hoc modalities, valid for Niamey II only, and those which would affect the parties concerned over the long term, that is, those arrangements dealing with future Canadian participation in the Agency which was to be established at the Niamey conference.

9. Correspondence carried out at the level of officials continued until February 12, when the Prime Minister of Canada intervened and forwarded new proposals to the Prime Minister of Quebec. The exchange of letters and telegrams between the two Prime Ministers, which included a meeting on February 16 during the Federal-Provincial Conference, ended on March 13. On that date, a telegram from M. Trudeau to M. Bertrand sealed the final arrangements between the federal government and the Government of the Province of Quebec.

10. In his final telegram (of March 13), the Prime Minister of Canada underlined that: "The other Canadian provinces concerned have already had an opportunity, at earlier francophone conferences, to observe the modalities which could apply to the participation of their representatives in the Canadian delegation. I have taken steps to inform the provincial governments concerned of the arrangements which provide that provincial representatives on the delegation may, if they wish, participate in Canada's signature of the convention establishing the Agency. It goes without saying that, in general these provinces may avail themselves, as is provided for in the ad hoc arrangements, of the agreed modalities for identification of provincial representatives, expression of their points of view, and so on."