

UNESCO

The Department co-ordinates Canada's participation in the work of UNESCO. Encompassing the natural and social sciences, education and culture, UNESCO's activities are of interest to many governmental departments and agencies in Canada, both federal and provincial, to institutions of learning, and to a great number of private organizations. The Department works closely with the Canadian Commission for UNESCO and the Director of the Cultural Affairs Division is a member of its Executive Committee. Both the Canadian members of the Executive Board, Mr. Napoléon Leblanc and Canada's Permanent Delegate in Paris, serve as intermediaries between these Canadian authorities and the UNESCO Secretariat to make sure that the organization benefits fully from Canadian knowledge and experience and that interested Canadian organizations are kept informed of matters of interest to them.

Canada is actively participating in the International Oceanographic Commission, the "Man and Biosphere" Program, and the International Hydrological Decade, which is being transformed into the International Hydrological Program. Canada is also involved in UNISIST, even though there are some reservations about the need to prepare explicit goals, methods and objectives for this program.

Canada has been involved with a number of UNESCO program services, and at the same time has been advocating that the program would benefit from considerable revision under the headings of *cultural identity*, *cultural communications* and *cultural policy*. Canada has expressed interest in studies of the cultural effect of contemporary mass communication and continues to endorse and support those activities that employed the social sciences as disciplines to permit better understanding and forecasting of human behaviour and trends in the nature and

interaction of societies with the aim of assisting UNESCO in solving important world problems.

In the field of education, there are a number of items of interest to Canada, including the problems of higher education. An observer delegation of federal and provincial representatives under the chairmanship of Jean-Louis Gagnon, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate to UNESCO, attended the Second Conference of Ministers of Education of European Member States, which was held in Bucharest from November 26 to December 3, 1973.

UNESCO-assisted Rural Educational Radio Service in Senegal helps maintain communication between government officials and citizens. (UNESCO/de Decker Photo)

