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COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER TO LEAD CANADIAN DELEGATION TO
CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF CULTURE

COTONOU, BENIN -- SEPTEMBER 14-19, 1981

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mark MacGuigan, today announced that the Honourable Francis Fox, Minister of Communications, will lead the Canadian delegation to the Conference of Ministers of Culture to be held in Cotonou, Benin from September 14 to 19, under the auspices of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation.

This is the first cultural conference organized by the agency at the ministerial level. In addition to providing the member countries with an opportunity to compare their cultural policies, the immediate objective of the conference is to prepare an agency action programme. The delegates will study the possibility of adopting certain concrete projects to offset North-South imbalances, to promote free circulation of cultural property and to activate exchanges between members.

In accordance with normal policy where agency conferences are concerned, there will also be provincial participation by Quebec and New Brunswick, which are participating governments in the agency. Officials from Ontario and Manitoba will complete the Canadian delegation.