

M  
b 2647473

March 25, 1970

SECOND NIAMEY CONFERENCE

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE FEDERAL AND QUEBEC GOVERNMENTS

INTRODUCTION

The conference held in Niamey last week was a follow up to the first meeting of entirely or partially French-speaking countries--which also took place in Niamey, from February 17 to 21, 1969. At the 1969 meeting, the principle of establishing an agency for cultural and technical cooperation was approved. The second Niamey conference was devoted to study and adoption of statutes and programmes for the Agency.

2. This was a conference of sovereign states, where the countries invited were called upon to undertake formally, by signature of a convention, to set up a new international Agency, with a permanent secretariat and budget. For its part, Canada as a whole undertook to participate in an institutionalized and international Francophonie, similar to its participation in the Commonwealth and the Commonwealth Secretariat.

3. In seeking to define the participation in Franco-phonie by Canada as a whole, the federal government sought always to ensure that Quebec, within the framework of Canada's participation, would take part in the activities of the major institutions of the Agency and in the Agency's programmes.

4. It is worth noting that since September 1969, federal and Quebec officials had been meeting in Quebec City and in Ottawa to discuss possible programmes for the Agency.

THE CORRESPONDENCE

5. Attached are to be found copies of letters and telegrams exchanged between the federal government and that of the province of Quebec about (1) the ad hoc arrangements for the second conference of francophone countries, and (2) arrangements relating to the role of the Quebec government within Canadian membership in the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation.

6. This correspondence is concerned with three fundamental principles which, had they been accepted, would have endangered Canada's international personality. The points at issue were the capacity of provinces, acting independently of the Government of Canada, to send their own delegations to international conferences, to conclude in their own right international treaties and to become members of international governmental organizations.

Dep. of External Affairs  
Min. des Affaires extérieures  
APR 19 1975  
RETURN TO DEPARTMENTAL LIBRARY  
RETOURNER A LA BIBLIOTHEQUE DU MINISTERE

...2

43-270-755  
162647473