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in this area is intended to demonstrate that it is possible to put two official languages on an equal footing and keep them there, while also maintaining a variety of ethno-cultural traditions. Many signs are already appearing that this general policy will, in the long run, encourage the cultural minorities of Canada to study the two official languages, especially French, more willingly, and to use them with more confidence, since doing so will no longer be seen as a menace to their cultural identity.

These preliminary statements are not without relevance to the experience of a number of African countries over the last few years -- namely, that the propagation within their borders of common languages of European origin, especially French, has accelerated since they gained independence, even when the authorities have deliberately tried to promote national languages and culture. We do not see any *a priori* contradiction between the increasingly-general use of French as an international language, an official language, a common language or a working language -- according to the situation in each country -- and this other new orientation that the General Conference of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation has decided to apply to its programs. The federal authorities of Canada will, accordingly, provide the Agency with the results of the research studies and experiments that have been done in the Canadian context, if this seems useful.

In conclusion, I can only express my satisfaction with the positive results of this fourth General Conference of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation. We have every reason to expect a renewal of its activities, especially in the development field, a reaffirmation of its cultural role and an accentuation of its technical role. Finally, I thank the Government of Mauritius for the hospitality and warm welcome it has provided to the delegates from Canada and from the other member states.

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