

PRESIDENT OF NIGER VISITS

At the invitation of the Governor General, President Diori Hamani of the Republic of Niger arrived in Ottawa on September 17 for a state visit to Canada. During his stay, which had to be curtailed by three days owing to "pressing business" in his own country, the President visited Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Manitoba. He returned to Niger on September 26. The President was accompanied by his wife, and his entourage included Messrs Mamoudou Maidah, Minister of Rural Economy, Zakara Mouddour, Minister of Saharan and Nomad Affairs, the Post Office and Telecommunications, Abdou Sidikou, Secretary of State to the President with responsibility for foreign affairs, Colonel Balarabe, Chief of Staff of Niger's armed forces, His Excellency Amadou Mayaki, Niger's Ambassador to Canada, and other dignitaries.

President Hamani was met at the airport by Governor-General Roland Michener, whose guest he was while in Ottawa. Discussions between the President and the Prime Minister and other members of the Canadian Government touched on major topics of current international significance. The President and the Prime Minister expressed the determination of their Governments to continue to contribute by all means within their power to the search for solutions to the problems of world peace. They gave particular emphasis to the importance of a sustained effort to reduce economic disparities at the international level. They also discussed recent developments in Nigeria, and agreed on the need to continue their efforts to get negotiations started.

COMMON LINGUISTIC TIES

These conversations also provided an opportunity for a fruitful exchange of views on *la Francophonie*. The President and the Prime Minister stressed the importance of a rapid expansion in co-operation between French-speaking countries to meet the strongly-felt needs of countries which, like Canada and Niger, had a common heritage of French linguistic and cultural traditions; the establishment of a functional

GIFT OF RARE PLANTS TO MUSEUM

Some rare and beautiful plant specimens from the tundra region of Ontario have been given to the National Museums of Canada. The gift is the latest of many made over the past 20 years by Northern Ontario naturalist Fred N. Cowell of Moosonee, Ontario.

The specimens, dried and mounted on 75 sheets, were collected near Cape Henrietta Maria, where James Bay joins Hudson Bay. This remarkable area of Arctic tundra is of particular interest since it is part of the 7,000 square miles recently set aside by the Ontario government for the new Polar Bear Provincial Park.

Besides its scientific value, the information

framework within which cultural and technical co-operation could quickly attain their full potential was cited as a means to this end.

NIAMEY CONFERENCE

In this connection, the President and the Prime Minister expressed satisfaction with the decisive steps taken by the French-speaking countries at the conference convened in Niamey last February by President Diori Hamani, in his capacity as chairman of the Organisation Commune Africaine et Malgache (OCAM). Niger and Canada reaffirmed their support for the proposed agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation between French-speaking Countries, which was approved unanimously at the Niamey conference. The President and the Prime Minister noted their agreement in principle on the role of the Agency and its relations with their respective countries.

They also dealt with questions of economic and social development, a subject in which both countries are interested. The Canadian program of aid to Niger began five years ago. The Prime Minister expressed once again his Government's desire to increase Canadian participation in the economic development of Niger, as evidenced by, among other things, the technical co-operation agreement and the three conventions for financing signed on September 18 in Ottawa by the President and the Prime Minister. These conventions concern (1) the enlarging of Mariama College in Niamey and the sending of professors to the college; (2) mining prospecting in Niger; and (3) plant protection, including construction of laboratories, furnishing of equipment, sending experts and granting scholarships.

The President and the Prime Minister agreed on other subjects of co-operation. In particular, the Canadian Government has undertaken to place advisers at Niger's disposal and to supply food and pharmaceutical products. Canada has also undertaken a technical study of the campaign against endemic diseases.

obtained by Mr. Cowell, in consultation with botanists from the Museums' National Herbarium, will aid in the plant management of this primitive park and its interpretation to future visitors.

One of the finest specimens in the collection — the *Oxytropis hudsonica* — is an interesting relative of the loco weeds. A handsome plant, it is found only in the Hudson Bay and Central Arctic regions.

Excellent specimens of the orchid family of the James Bay area are in the collection, as are nine species of the heath family. This family includes such important members as the blueberry and Labrador tea.

Primulas, gentians, asters, goldenrods and other members of the composite family are also included in the collection.