

It goes without saying that this is strictly a proposal, I might even say a preliminary proposal, about which the final decision naturally lies solely with the governments concerned.

In reality, France at once opposed the proposal. Jacques Amalric wrote in *Le Monde* of March 19, 1970:

Today, relations between Mr. Léger and the French Government have broken down completely. The provisional secretary of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation has been accused of taking sides with Ottawa. The reason? If the proposed Agency constitution drafted by Mr. Léger were adopted, Quebec could not become a member of the Agency. It would have to act through Ottawa and submit to the goodwill of the Canadian federal authorities. This is a prospect which the French authorities frown upon. The possibility even surprised them, for only a few months ago Mr. Léger had considered drafting a constitution which would allow governments to join the new organization

The French delegation immediately circulated a counter-proposal, which provided that full membership in the Agency be open to ordinary cultural organizations, and, of course, to governments of any kind. Secretary of State Gérard Pelletier, chairman of the Canadian delegation, remarked bitterly, according to the *Le Monde* account, that:

Canada, which is supplying 32.4 per cent of the Agency's budget, is ready to use every means available to make the Agency a true instrument for co-operation, but we refuse to be placed on an equal footing with just any association on the pretext that such association is concerned with matters coming under the Agency's jurisdiction.

Stormy discussions took place behind closed doors. Most of the provisional secretariat's proposals in the field of technical assistance were indefinitely postponed. Only a few proposals for seminars and exchanges were accepted. The Agency's budget was correspondingly cut; the budget agreed upon was less than one-third of that proposed by the provisional secretariat.

Annoyed by duel

The Third World countries were embarrassed and annoyed by these quarrels between Canada and Quebec and the duel between Paris and Ottawa. The Senegalese Minister of Co-operation, Emile Badiané, went so far as to say:

It is unthinkable that a federal government with an English-speaking majority should prevent us from creating a French-language agency for co-operation. If need be, we will do without them. (*Le Monde*, March 21, 1970).

A goodwill committee, created by the African countries, managed with difficulty to reach a compromise. Finally, after exchanges of telegrams and telephone calls between Messrs Pelletier and Trudeau, a text was drafted which represented a com-

promise between the French and Canadian Government positions. This text, which became the famous Article 3.3 of the Agency's Charter, reads as follows:

With due respect for the sovereignty and international jurisdiction of member states, any government may be admitted to the institutions, activities and programs of the Agency as a participating government, subject to the approval of the member state representing the territory over which the participating government in question exercises its authority, and according to procedures agreed upon between the latter government and that of the member state.

Paris was still not satisfied with this proposal but accepted it when the Canadian Government indicated that it was not prepared to go any further. Gérard Pelletier emphasized that, "though this text does not give Quebec full membership in the future Agency, it allows Quebec to play an original and important role".

It only remained for the delegates to sign the Convention establishing the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation and giving recognition to the existence of member states and associate states. The Convention stipulates that the Agency's motto is "Egalité, complémentarité, solidarité". It also indicates the procedure for joining the Agency, and the privileges and immunity of the organization, and provides for registering and amending the Convention. The Charter was added as an appendix to the Convention; it is a sort of internal constitution, in which the "Quebec clause" mentioned above is found.

Signatures by twenty

Some 20 countries signed the document, most signatures being subject to ratification: Belgium, Burundi, Cameroun, Canada, Ivory Coast, Dahomey, France, Gabon, Upper Volta, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Monaco, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Chad, Tunisia and the Republic of Viet-Nam (Saigon). Morocco, Laos and Cambodia did not sign the Convention, but indicated that they were interested in the Agency's work. The absence of Algeria, the Central African Republic, Congo (Brazzaville), Guinea, Haiti, Mauritania, the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam (Hanoi), Switzerland and Lebanon deserves to be noted. However, the Government of Haiti subsequently joined the Agency.

Quebec and the other Canadian provinces present in Niamey — Ontario, New Brunswick and Manitoba — participated in the signing by Canada, adding their signatures beneath that of the Federal Government.

The Assembly then became the First General Conference of the Agency. Jean-

Pelletier sees important role for Quebec