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VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF NIGER

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DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

During his visit to Canada from June 24 to July 3, 1971, the President of Niger, His Excellency Diori Hamani, accompanied by H.E. Mai Maigana, Secretary of State, has had private discussions with the Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Pierre Elliott Trudeau, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, and the President of the Canadian International Development Agency, Mr. Paul Gérin-Lajoie.

Their discussions have covered the international situation, relations between Canada and Niger and the program of economic and technical co-operation between the two countries.

During his meeting with the Prime Minister, Niger's Head of State and Mr. Trudeau congratulated one another on the state of relations between Canada and Niger, and undertook to strengthen the close ties of friendship and co-operation that are constantly growing between the two countries.

Mr. Trudeau expressed his pleasure at President Diori's recent decision to appoint a resident ambassador to Canada in the person of H.E. Mai Ary Tanimoune, former First Vice-President of the National Assembly of Niger. The Prime Minister in turn made the official announcement of the posting of a representative of the Canadian International Development Agency to Niamey. He will be responsible to Canada's Ambassador to Niger. The two heads of government noted that these measures would permit better co-ordination of the program of economic and technical co-operation between the two countries.

Messrs. Trudeau and Diori expressed their satisfaction with the progress accomplished by the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation between French-speaking Countries since its creation in 1970. They took the opportunity to reaffirm their continued support for the Agency's objectives. Prime Minister Trudeau stated that he felt honoured that Canada can be host next autumn to this great gathering of French-speaking countries after the Agency's first two founding conferences in Niamey in 1969 and 1970.

In the area of economic and technical co-operation between Canada and Niger, President Diori expressed great satisfaction with the overall progress of the present

program. On this latter point, Canadian authorities received a number of projects in such varied fields as community development, river navigation, hydroelectric power transmission, education and mining development.

It is pointed out that agreement in principle has been given for an increase in technical assistance for the shipment of educational supplies and medicine. The Canadian International Development Agency has also expressed interest in the possibility of a Canadian contribution in a sector of the vast Liptako-Gourma regional development project involving Niger, Upper Volta and Mali. The Agency has announced its readiness to undertake a pilot experiment in a mass education project, to supply an initial complement of equipment and technical aid to the Niger River navigation project, and to Niger's Food Products Office. The Agency is now studying the possibility of Canadian involvement in a project involving the transmission of electrical power between Niger and Nigeria, and in a technical education project.

President Diori and his entourage will be leaving Ottawa today for Regina, whence he will be making a private visit lasting until July 3, 1971 that will take him in turn to the provinces of Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and Quebec.