



# communiqué

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## CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN NIGER AND CANADA APRIL 22-24, 1981

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The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Dr. Mark MacGuigan, today announced that the Minister of Planning of Niger, Mr. Brah Mahamane, heading an important delegation, is paying an official visit to Canada from April 22 to 26, 1981 within the framework of the seventh annual consultations between Canada and Niger on development co-operation.

The Hon. Pierre De Bané, Minister of Regional Economic Expansion and Adviser to the Secretary of State for External Affairs on Francophone Affairs, led the Canadian delegation to the meeting held at the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) Headquarters in Hull from April 22 to 24, 1981.

Mr. Brah Mahamane's visit to Canada gave him an opportunity to examine many aspects of the relations between Niger and Canada during private talks with the Hon. Pierre De Bané who also hosted a luncheon on behalf of the Canadian government, in honour of Mr. Mahamane and the Niger delegation on April 22. Niger's Minister of Planning also met with the Hon. Jean-Luc Pépin, Minister of Transport, the Hon. Pierre Bussières, Minister of State in the Department of Finance, and the Hon. Charles Lapointe, Minister of State for Small Business. In addition, he exchanged views with Marcel Massé, President of CIDA, and Michel de Goumois, Deputy Under Secretary of State for External Affairs.

The open and cordial discussions, marked by a broad harmony of views, demonstrated the friendliness and warmth of the relations between Canada and Niger. The representatives of the two countries expressed their desire

to join forces in a full effort to expand and develop the relations between Canada and Niger, both bilaterally and multilaterally.

Mr. Mahamane and the delegation from Niger will be in Montreal on April 25 and 26 to visit the Salon de la Femme and take part in the activities presented by Niger within the framework of the Salon.

In the consultations on development assistance, the parties from Canada and Niger took stock of the projects currently under way and considered the directions for future operations, focussing on three priority concerns: food self-sufficiency, the search for economic independence and the establishment of a developing society.

With these criteria in mind, the parties examined the proposals and approved a number of new projects which will contribute to the economic and social development of Niger in the next few years. Canada gave assurance of its active co-operation, within the limits of its financial and human resources, in the prompt implementation of the activities approved.

The two delegations expressed satisfaction with the constructive and open climate of the deliberations. They observed, in this regard, that the positive results of the meeting would definitely provide a new impetus to co-operation between the two countries.

The delegation from Niger expressed hearty thanks to the Canadian government for the warmth of the welcome it received during its stay in Canada.