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SEPTEMBER 20, 1976

The Department of External Affairs announces that  
able Jean-Pierre Goyer, Minister of Supply and Services,  
ver-General of Canada, will represent the Canadian  
at the opening ceremonies of the "Route de l'Unité  
amitié canadienne" in Niger  
accompanied by the Canadian Ambassador to Niger, Mr.  
Goumois, the Inter-Departmental Coordinator for the Canadian  
ational Development Agency, Mr. S. J. Seward, and other  
atives of the Department of External Affairs and the  
International Development Research Centre.

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The Minister's program will include visits to  
ouré and Jajiri where he will meet with government

The construction of the "Route de l'Unité et de  
amitié canadienne" began in April 1974. The 477 kilometer  
5 million road extends from Goudo to N'Gouad through  
la, Mainé-Sorea and Diffa, servicing the South-East  
the country and linking the Niger River to the Lake  
a. Among other things, the project is a continuation of  
originating in this country. It is a project which  
has stimulated the economic development of the region.  
This project also provides a link between the  
It was implemented, the project was carried out by a  
ing team which was composed of Canadian and Nigerien  
struction projects using Canadian equipment and  
Government loan.

OPENING CEREMONIES OF THE  
"ROUTE DE L'UNITÉ ET DE L'AMITIÉ CANADIENNE"  
NIAMEY, NIGER  
SEPTEMBER 20 TO SEPTEMBER 22, 1976

As well as assisting Niger in strengthening its  
unity, this project has a special importance for our  
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major step in the growing relationship between  
Canada, an a tangible demonstration of Canadian  
toward Niger and Francophone Africa as a whole.

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DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

The Department of External Affairs announces that the Honourable Jean-Pierre Goyer, Minister of Supply and Services, and Receiver-General of Canada, will represent the Canadian Government at the opening ceremonies of the "Route de l'unité et de l'amitié canadienne" in Niger, September 20-22. He will be accompanied by the Canadian Ambassador to Niger, Mr. Michel de Goumois, the interim Vice-President of the Canadian International Development Agency, Mr. Pierre Sicard, and other representatives of the Department of External Affairs and the Canadian International Development Agency.

The Minister's programme will consist of visits to Niamey, Gouré and Jajiri where he will meet with government leaders.

The construction of the "Route de l'unité et de l'amitié canadienne" began in April of 1972. The 427 kilometre long, \$32.5 million road extends from Gouré to N'Guimi through Goudoumaria, Mainé-Soroa and Diffa, servicing the South-East region of the country and linking the Niger River to the Lake Chad basin. Among other things, it facilitates marketing of products originating in this vast region in the main Nigerian centres, thus stimulating fisheries, agricultural and industrial development. This project also envisaged, through the way in which it was implemented, the formation of a Nigerian engineering team which would be qualified to undertake other road construction projects using equipment acquired with a Canadian Government loan.

As well as assisting Niger in strengthening its national unity, this project has a special importance for our two countries. It will have been, because of its challenging nature, a major step in the growing relationship between Niger and Canada, and a tangible demonstration of Canadian friendship toward Niger and Francophone Africa as a whole.