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in action



**THE COMMONWEALTH
/ LA FRANCOPHONIE**

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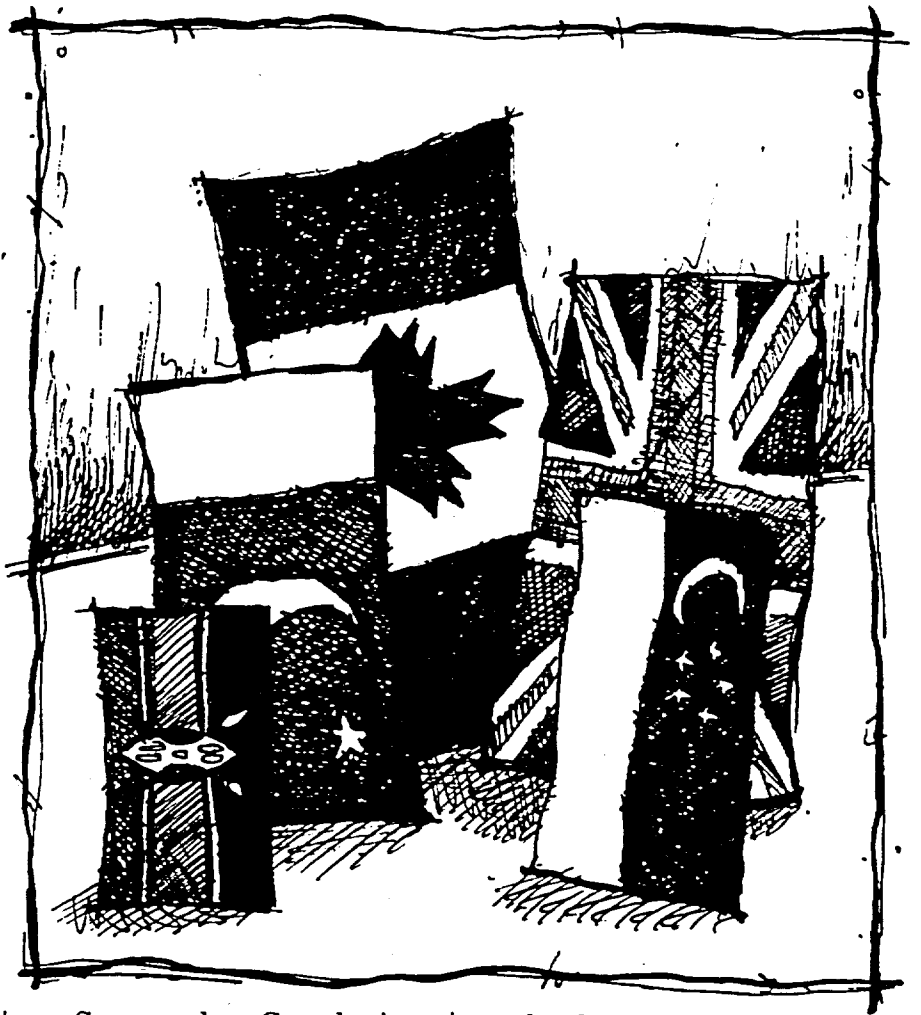
THE MODERN COMMONWEALTH A FAMILY OF NATIONS

As we look toward a new century, former British Empire colonies, now independent nations spanning the globe, are still linked together as members of the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth is a loose association of independent sovereign states. Members consult and co-operate with each other, and try to further world peace, social understanding, racial equality and economic development.

The Commonwealth has no formal constitution, although it does have a set of principles, called the Declaration of Commonwealth Principles. These principles stress peace and order, liberty of the individual, and equal rights for all people. The Commonwealth is not a military alliance. Members can belong to any other group or alliance they wish.

The 50 Commonwealth members include about a quarter of the world's population (more than 1.3 billion people). They form a diverse group, with populations that speak many languages, observe different religions, and have varied racial origins.



Some, such as Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, are industrialized nations with populations that are mostly of European origin. Many

are developing African or Caribbean countries or tiny Pacific islands. About half the members are small states with populations under one million.

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There are also political differences. Some countries, such as Canada, are constitutional monarchies. That means they recognize Queen Elizabeth II as symbolic head of state. She is represented by a governor general. Other Commonwealth nations, such as India, are republics.

So what ties hold Commonwealth members together? In most parts of the Commonwealth, at least some segment of the population speaks English. Many Commonwealth members have similar education systems. And these countries share many traditions in law and administration.

Common law, a system of justice that has been handed down through centuries of British history, forms the basis of law in most English-speaking countries. (In Canada, Quebec is an exception; it follows the legal traditions of the French Civil Code.) This means that for everything, from selling a house, to getting a traffic ticket, to being charged with a criminal offence, legal processes are similar throughout the Commonwealth.

Commonwealth members also inherited the notion of a parliamentary system of government. This means resolving problems through discussion and compromise. Commonwealth leaders have been able to apply that con-

sultative tradition to their dealings with each other.

Canada believes the Commonwealth is important because of its non-threatening, supportive and responsive attitude to members' needs. It can build bridges and generate consensus on delicate questions. The Commonwealth also benefits member states by helping them find solutions to their conflicts and problems.

The Commonwealth dates back to 1887 when the first Colonial Conference created a forum for consultation between Britain and its colonies. In 1931, the British passed a law, the Statute of Westminster, that gave legal status to the independence of Australia, Canada, the Irish Free State, Newfoundland (it was not until 1949 that

Newfoundland joined Canada as its 10th province), New Zealand and South Africa. These, then, were the founding members of what was to become the Commonwealth.

In 1947 and 1948, India, Pakistan and Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) became independent and chose to join the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth began to resemble the multiracial organization it is today. In 1957, the colony of Gold Coast became the independent nation of Ghana. It was the first of many African nations to achieve independence and membership in the Commonwealth over the following decade. Many newly formed Caribbean countries, including Jamaica and Barbados, as well as Asian countries such as Singapore and Malaysia followed suit.

Canada has played an important part in the Commonwealth from the beginning. It paved the way toward self-government with Confederation in 1867. With its size, wealth and experience, Canada became a leader other colonies could follow as they too became independent of Great Britain. Although a middle power in world politics, Canada takes a leading role among Commonwealth nations.

The Commonwealth Heads of Government meet every two years in a different

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LINKS COMMONWEALTH

One of the most obvious characteristics of the Commonwealth is the common use of English. In some Commonwealth countries, such as Great Britain, Canada and Australia, English is the mother tongue, or first language, of a large segment of the population. But in other places, many people learn languages other than English as children. When they go to school, they may study English, and as adults they may use it at work, when they deal with the government, or when they read the newspaper.

Over the years, English has been influenced by the languages native to these Commonwealth members. For example, the name Canada comes from the Huron-Iroquois word *kanata*, meaning village or settlement. *Kiwi* comes from the Maori name for the flightless bird native to New Zealand. The words *bungalow* and *pajamas* have Hindi origins.

Once, the student of English literature read British authors such as Charles Dickens.

Today, some of the finest books in English are being written in the Commonwealth by authors such as Canada's Margaret Atwood, Nigerian novelist, poet and short-story writer Ben Okri, and Keri Hulme, a part-Maori New Zealander.

In many cases, English is not the author's mother tongue. As Indian novelist Vikram Seth told *Time* magazine last year: "The English language has been taken over, or taken to heart, or taken to tongue, by people whose original language historically it was not."

In 1992, four Commonwealth writers made headlines: Derek Walcott, a poet and playwright from Trinidad and Tobago became the first West Indian to win the Nobel Prize for Literature; Michael Ondaatje, a Canadian resident who was born in Sri Lanka of Indian, Dutch, and English ancestry, shared the Booker Prize with Britain's Barry Unsworth; and Rohinton Mistry, born in Bombay and now living in Canada, won the 1992 Commonwealth Writers' Prize.

country. Their most recent meeting took place in Cyprus in the fall of 1993. These meetings have a very relaxed feeling compared to the political posturing of some international gatherings. Informal discussion is the rule, and prepared speeches are kept to a minimum.

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings are particularly important to small nations. What other opportunity would the leader of a tiny nation such as Solomon Islands, for example, have to chat informally with the British Prime Minister? Such an opportunity would not arise in the United Nations forum, which is more formal.

One of the most important aspects of the Commonwealth is the "unofficial" Commonwealth of non-governmental organizations, or NGOs. They link thousands of individuals in a vast international network of professional, service and cultural organizations. NGOs such as the Commonwealth associations of architects, of museums, of statisticians and of journalists form the grassroots base of the Commonwealth, and give it its vitality.

The Commonwealth has a permanent office in London, England, called the Secretariat. The staff of 360 people, drawn from some 30 countries, co-ordinates programs and activities; these programs include the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation, the Commonwealth Science Council, the Commonwealth Youth Program, and the Commonwealth Consultative Group on Technology Management. Most programs are modest and practical. Canada is the largest financial contributor to Secretariat programs.

For many developing countries, the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation (CFTC) is a very important program. All member countries, no matter how small, are encour-

aged to contribute to the agency, so all feel they are partners in it. The CFTC provides technical experts and consultants on a short-term basis, offers education and training opportunities and carries out economic feasibility studies on industries and export markets.

COMMONWEALTH DAY

Imagine young people in 50 countries all doing similar activities related to the Commonwealth on the same day. That's what Commonwealth Day is all about. Celebrated on the second Monday in March every year, this is an opportunity for students and teachers to become more aware of the Commonwealth, its programs and relevance to their lives.

This year, Commonwealth Day is March 14 and the theme is sports, primarily because the XVth Commonwealth Games will take place this year and because sports represent an important means of cooperation among member countries. Queen Elizabeth II, Head of the Commonwealth, will discuss this theme in her annual message to the Commonwealth. In London, England, the Queen will attend a multi faith church service in Westminster Abbey and half of the 2 000 congregation members will be school children.

Commonwealth Day offers a chance to learn more about other countries, other customs a chance to explore new and exciting ideas.

In fact, the idea of nations working together to help developing countries originated with the Commonwealth. In 1950, Commonwealth foreign ministers designed the Colombo Plan to combat poverty in South and

Southeast Asia. Canada, Australia, Ceylon, Great Britain, India, New Zealand and Pakistan agreed to work together on development assistance projects. Soon, other countries joined the plan.

For many years, Commonwealth nations were trading partners. According to a 1932 agreement called the imperial preference, these countries put lower tariffs on each others' goods. Today, the world trading order has changed: Britain is a member of the European Community, Canada is a part of the North American Free Trade Agreement, and also looks forward to increased trade with Asian and Pacific nations.

Life in the Commonwealth family hasn't always been easy. For example, South Africa left the organization in 1961 because of Commonwealth opposition to its racist apartheid policies (see sidebar). There was another difficult period in 1979-80 over Rhodesia (now called Zimbabwe).

There have been other international crises, yet the organization has survived, even thrived. One explanation is its unique, informal approach to diplomacy. Another advantage is its size: it is a third the size of the United Nations. And the British legacy members share makes it seem more like a family of equals than a place to confront other nations.

Former Australian diplomat Owen Harries wrote in *Reader's Digest* several years ago: "The rest of the world will continue to be baffled by the Commonwealth. It lacks the might and majesty of the old British Empire. Yet, there is no sign of it coming unstuck. On the contrary, it has found a unique way of transforming the imperial idea into that of a family of nations who find it desirable to keep in touch and help one another, simply because they are a family." ∞

THE COMMONWEALTH OF LEARNING

In many Commonwealth countries, there is a desperate need to educate children and train adults for employment. Finding qualified teachers and materials, however, is costly and difficult, especially in countries with poor economies or small populations. In 1988, the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) was set up to help meet this challenge. Based in Vancouver, Canada it is the only Commonwealth intergovernmental organization located outside of Britain.

Its goal is to widen opportunities for learning through cooperation among institutions in different parts of the Commonwealth. The emphasis is on what is called "distance education." That means applying modern methods of communication to education: satellites, teleconferencing (where several people in different locations have a joint telephone conversation), videos, audio tapes, computerized lists of resources and information, and desktop publishing. "You can teach almost anything by distance once you have the resources," says a COL spokesperson.

For example, in Guyana, students are enrolled in distance English, science, and math courses. Their local high schools were not equipped to prepare them for university.

In Jamaica, men and women are trained as automobile me-

chanics without leaving their villages. The program and learning materials were originally developed to train First Nations people in outlying areas of Australia.

In Zimbabwe, so many children have graduated from primary schools that secondary schools can't keep up with the demand. Thousands of students complete their secondary education in study groups using correspondence materials. They pass the same examinations as their friends in regular schools.

On campuses of the University of the West Indies, lectures given in Jamaica are beamed via satellite to classrooms in Barbados.



Distance education is useful in upgrading the qualifications of teachers. In Jamaica, for example, several hundred primary school teachers have completed distance courses de-

signed to improve their skills. Distance learning is also being used in the health field. Memorial University in Newfoundland, Canada, has developed a program for doctors across the province using teleconferencing, while four medical schools in East Africa set up a network for sharing expertise.

Cost-saving measures of distance education are attractive to countries where funding is scarce. There are many other advantages to distance education: the best teachers can be used, all students get the same well-developed curriculum and package of print, audio, and video materials, and distance learning can be mixed with regular classroom activities.

COL does not itself give courses, but it does assist educational institutions around the Commonwealth. For example, COL makes material available to train writers to prepare course materials, to teach educators to use the available technology, and to help teachers obtain educational videos.

COL also helps make educational productions. For example, it supported a video, made in India, to encourage women to learn to read, and it made a co-production with the CBC entitled "Sustainable Development." The latter video showed how individuals and nations can protect the environment without sacrificing development. ∞

THE FRIENDLY GAMES

One of Canada's great moments in international sport came in 1978. Our athletes won an unprecedented 45 gold, 31 silver, and 33 bronze medals at the Commonwealth Games, held that year in Edmonton, Alberta.

This summer, Canadian athletes hope to excel again during the fifteenth Commonwealth Games. They will take place in Victoria, British Columbia, August 18 to 28. Some 300 million people around the world are expected to watch on television.

The games take place every four years. The first British Empire Games took place in Hamilton, Ontario, in 1930, with 400 participants from 11 countries. Since then, they have grown in size and importance.

The Commonwealth Games are known as "the friendly games." Canadian runner Charmaine Crooks has won Olympic silver and Commonwealth gold in the 800-metre event. She says: "There is a high level of competition at the Commonwealth Games, but they aren't as grandiose as the Olympics, so there isn't the same kind of tension. Athletes from a lot of Commonwealth countries speak English, so it's easy to communicate. And we have a lot of fun trading pins."

Some 3200 athletes from 66 nations are expected to attend the games this year in Victoria. Events include track and field,

aquatics (diving, swimming, and synchronized swimming), badminton, boxing, cycling, gymnastics, lawn bowling, shooting, weightlifting, and wrestling. There will be a record number of events for women. Field lacrosse will be a demonstration sport.

This year, for the first time, athletes with a disability will take part in the Games as members of their national teams. Around 100 handicapped athletes will stay in the Games village with the other athletes and take part in six events: men's and women's visually impaired lawn bowls, two women's wheelchair races, and men's and women's 100-metre freestyle swimming.

The whole city of Victoria is involved. More than 13 000 volunteers are helping with special projects, and some will take part in the opening and closing ceremonies. A year-long Arts and Culture Festival is already under way. Aboriginal people from across Canada are also coming to Victoria in 1994 to celebrate their cultures through traditional sports and ceremonial events.

After all the visitors have gone home, Victoria will be left with a new Aquatic Centre and track and lawn bowling facilities. There will also be a new Commonwealth Centre for Sport Development, which will offer support programs to athletes and coaches.

The Games are entertain-

ing for observers and challenging for participants. Organizers also believe they have other purposes: they help tie the Commonwealth together; they are a means of promoting the principles of the Commonwealth; and they are a means of helping young people. Says Ms. Crooks: "If the Games can get one more kid involved in sport and improve that kid's life, then we will have done our job."

There are more than one billion young people in the Commonwealth making up 60 percent of the population. Commonwealth leaders worry that many of these young people are unaware of the association, its principles of justice, tolerance, and equality, and the many cultures it embraces.

George Heller, president of the Victoria Commonwealth Games Society, notes that sport is important to youth in every society. Sport:

- provides role models, and inspires youngsters to pursue excellence;

- teaches values such as equality and dignity of the individual, non-discrimination, and fair play;

- helps young people develop social skills and leadership;

- improves their health and well-being, and makes them more productive and creative members of society;

- builds bridges by increasing understanding and forging friendships.

STUDENTS ROLE-PLAY As COMMONWEALTH LEADERS

Ottawa, Ontario, high school student Shawn Singh knows from experience how difficult a consensus can be to achieve. Last spring, he took part in the Na-

tional Student Commonwealth Forum, a week-long event during which students from across Canada role-play as leaders of Commonwealth

nations. They discuss issues facing the Commonwealth, and try to overcome obstacles to agreement. "Consensus was the big word," he recalls. "It's a great goal, but it's hard to achieve."

The 120 participants attend workshops and small discussion groups during the week leading up to the model heads of government meeting. They discuss issues such as Canada's role in the Commonwealth, human rights, the environment, AIDS awareness, women's rights, and economic development. Discussions focus on both Canadian and international issues.

Mr. Singh, 18, says it was a really good experience. "I met a lot of new people, and I've stayed in touch with some of them." He learned about the country he represented—Singapore—and he enjoyed debating so much that he decided he would become a lawyer.

The forum, which has been held every year since 1973, is sponsored by the Ottawa branch of the Royal Commonwealth Society. The goal of this international non-governmental organization is to support the Commonwealth. In Canada, there are about 2500 members and branches in cities across the country.

The work of planning the forum is done by young people who attended in previous years, and one adult volunteer. Mr. Singh and the other organizers are now busy making sure this year's forum is even better than last. ☺

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

In 1971, Commonwealth members agreed on the Singapore Declaration, the first statement of six principles forming the foundation of their ethical beliefs. The Singapore Principles underlying the Commonwealth are:

- a belief that international peace and order are essential to the security and prosperity of mankind;
- a belief in the liberty of the individual under law;
- the recognition racial prejudice and intolerance as a dangerous sickness...
- the opposition all forms of racial oppression, and a commitment to the principles of human dignity and equality;
- the recognition of the urgency of economic and social development to satisfy the basic aspirations of the vast majority of peoples of the world; we seek the progressive removal of the wide disparities in living standards amongst our members.

In 1991, at the Heads of Government meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe, Commonwealth leaders reaffirmed these principles. In

the Harare Declaration, they pledged to concentrate on the following areas:

- the protection and promotion of the Commonwealth's fundamental political values of democracy, the rule of law, just, honest government and fundamental human rights;
- equality for women;
- universal access to education;
- eradication of apartheid and the establishment of a democratic, non-racial, prosperous South Africa;
- the promotion of sustainable development and the alleviation of poverty;
- protection of the environment;
- action to combat drug trafficking and abuse, and communicable diseases;
- assistance to small member-states in tackling their particular economic and security problems;
- support of the United Nations and other international institutions in the world's search for peace, disarmament and effective arms control, and the promotion of international consensus on major global issues.

WOMEN: STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT

As governments tighten their purse strings, women find their own pocketbooks emptier than ever. Around the world, governments are heavily in debt. To meet this crisis, they have to cut back on programs: we call such economic reforms "structural adjustment." Cut-backs often affect health-care, educational, and social programs. Because women are usually responsible for feeding the family, caring for sick relatives, and making sure the children go to school, these cuts affect women disproportionately.

Commonwealth ministers responsible for women's affairs meet every three years. The impact of structural adjustment frequently comes up in their discussions. They note that investments in the nutrition, health, and education of a country's population are crucial to

the development of its economy and the well-being of its people.

Meeting in Ottawa in 1990, they passed a Declaration on Women and Structural Adjustment. They pledged their governments to:

- increase funding of nutrition, education, and health programs;
- improve opportunities for women to earn money through small businesses and agricultural production;
- reform laws and other policies to make sure women have the right to own land and borrow money; and
- increase the involvement of women in decision-making at all levels of government.

In Cyprus in 1993, the ministers asked the Commonwealth Heads of Government to be sure to carry out these measures. ∞

THE WORLD OF WOMEN

In some African countries, women in rural areas do 60 to 90 percent of the farm work while their husbands work in cities. They do this on top of looking after the home and the children. Yet, they are often illiterate because they are denied an education. Also, they have limited rights to own property, they can't get credit, they have few support systems or training opportunities, and they have little access to information. According to the United Nations, women:

- are more than 50 percent of the world's population;
- do 66 percent of hours worked;
- get 10 percent of world's income;
- and own 1 percent of its property.

WOMEN AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The key phrase in developed and developing countries these days is *sustainable development*: development that looks to the long term because it is designed not to deplete or destroy resources. Many people are now starting to realize women hold the key to sustainable development and protecting the environment.

In many countries, women do most of the work on the farms that feed their families. They collect the water and fuel and dispose of the waste. Damage to the forests, soil erosion, and water pollution pose an

immediate threat to survival. Many women have, over time, learned how to help protect their environments.

According to one Commonwealth study, women haven't been given enough credit for their work as guardians of the environment. Also, not enough is being done to train women to manage their households in a more environmentally friendly way.

Women need to be recognized as the people who manage natural resources and protect the land. Methods of organic farming from

developed nations need to be adapted by the women who understand their own environments and economic needs. And government planners need to understand the importance of involving women in efforts to conserve the environment.

The Commonwealth Secretariat has prepared training manuals to help teach conservation techniques to women in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. These manuals emphasize the successful efforts of local women's groups in conservation.

WORKING TOWARD DEMOCRACY: BREAKTHROUGH IN SOUTH AFRICA

In December 1993, members of South Africa's racially segregated parliament approved a new constitution that ended more than three centuries of white rule. Under this constitution, South Africa will hold the first election in which the black majority of the population will be able to vote.

The new constitution is partly due to the efforts of President F.W. de Klerk and African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, who shared the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize. It is also partly because of the efforts of the Commonwealth, which opposed South Africa's apartheid system for decades. This system not only denied political rights to South Africa's blacks, it controlled where they could live and work, and created huge gaps between rich (mostly whites) and poor (mostly blacks).

At the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in 1961, Canadian Prime Minister John Diefenbaker attacked apartheid. Following that incident, South Africa withdrew

from the Commonwealth.

Even after South Africa was no longer a member, Commonwealth countries continued to speak out against apartheid. On principle, they could not be silent about South Africa's racist policies. Countries that are close to South Africa, such as Zambia and Zimbabwe, were particularly active.



This was not an easy issue. Members could not always agree on what would work best or how far to go. Britain opposed eco-

nomie sanctions, arguing that sanctions would make South Africa's leaders even more stubborn and less willing to consider reforms. Canada was in favour of sanctions.

The Commonwealth did impose sanctions, such as bans on new bank loans and investment in South Africa. Members refused to buy South African products. The Commonwealth always made it clear that sanctions were not intended to punish South Africa, but to persuade its leaders of the need for change. Meanwhile, Commonwealth representatives tried to find ways to support the negotiation process among South African political groups.

Since 1990, apartheid has been slowly dismantled. Mr. Mandela was freed from prison. The government lifted bans on political parties and restrictions on the media, and other apartheid regulations were withdrawn.

As the South African government moved toward change,



the Commonwealth lifted sanctions. In 1991, restrictions on tourism promotion, cultural and scientific boycotts, and the ban on sports contacts were lifted. If all goes well, organizers hope South Africa will compete at the 1994 Commonwealth Games in Victoria, British Columbia.

In 1993, South Africa set up a multiracial advisory council, the Transitional Executive Council, to oversee the transition to democracy. In a speech to the United Nations, Mr. Mandela asked that all remaining trade, investment and financial sanctions be removed. The Commonwealth did so in September. The ban on the sale of weapons to South Africa remains.

Meanwhile, the Commonwealth is helping the country prepare for a new and democratic South Africa. For example, it is helping to train administrators for the coming social and political changes, it has also been active in helping to control violence.

International observers will be there to watch the coming

election, and to try to ensure the vote is free and fair. A series of Commonwealth observer groups have been there since 1992.

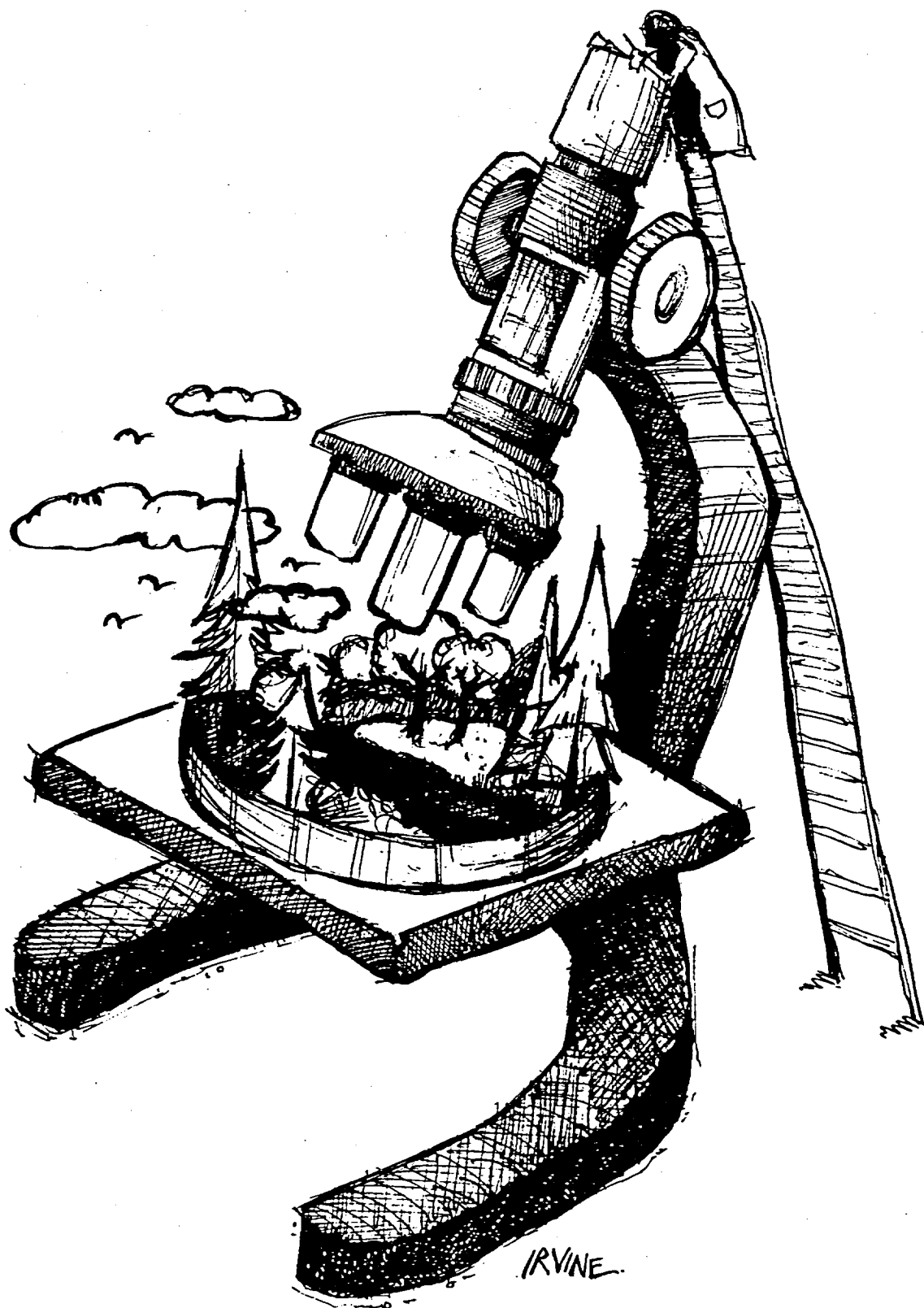
Observing elections is nothing new for the Commonwealth. In the past few years, it has sent teams to Malaysia, Bangladesh, Zambia, Seychelles, Guyana, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho and Pakistan. Missions are only sent when governments invite them, and all political parties must agree to their presence. These missions are aimed at boosting the confidence of voters that the electoral system will be fair and the results will reflect the wishes of the people.

The Commonwealth helps countries set up democratic practices in other ways. It provides experts to help strengthen democratic systems and laws. It helps governments to adopt practices found to work well in other Commonwealth countries. It also sends technical experts, such as lawyers who can help rewrite laws and train local lawyers.

Promoting democracy and

human rights is an important part of Canada's foreign policy. Respect for human rights is needed to achieve peace, prosperity, and good government everywhere and Canada has long been a leading voice in insisting that human rights be given a high priority in the Commonwealth.

In 1991, a committee sponsored by five Commonwealth NGOs and chaired by a Canadian, Flora MacDonald, described the human rights records of some Commonwealth nations as "deplorable and often appalling." Following this, the Commonwealth leaders meeting in Harare passed a declaration that put the spotlight on human rights principles. In 1993, the Heads of Government Meeting in Cyprus released a statement that reaffirmed "their commitment to democracy, fundamental human rights, the independence of the judiciary, and just and honest government as essential ingredients of the Commonwealth's fundamental political values."



RAINFOREST LABORATORY

It has been called a "laboratory for the world:" approximately 360,000 hectares of Amazon rainforest in Guyana, set aside for an experiment in tropical forest management. This Commonwealth project is called the Iwokrama Rain Forest Program, after the Iwokrama mountain range which lies in the area.

About a third of the site will be protected as a wilderness area. The rest will be used for experiments. Researchers will try out ways to use the forest's resources without destroying them forever. This is called sustainable forestry.

Rainforests produce oxygen that is important for the atmosphere, that is why they are called the "lungs of the planet." Rainforests are also home to more than 50 percent of the species of plants and animals in the world. One aim of the project is to conserve the diversity of plant and animal life here.

Experts from several Commonwealth countries have helped to organize the program. Besides the rainforest site, there will be an International Centre for Research and Training in Sustainable Management of Rainforests at the University of Guyana in Georgetown.

The Amerindians who live near the area are also involved, and have been helping scientists identify plants. Their traditional methods of using the forest will be included in the studies. They will also be employed as forest rangers and administrators.

Canadian consultants have

played a large role in planning the project. Canadians have also been involved in site surveys.

Until recently, aerial surveys of tropical rainforests have been difficult. Clouds and rain frequently hide the trees. In 1995, Canada plans to launch RADARSAT, its first radar satellite. This satellite will carry equipment, designed by Canada's Centre for Remote Sensing, that can penetrate both clouds and darkness, and produce images of the forest. These images can tell researchers about the state of the forest, the rivers, the land forms, and the types of

vegetation. They will also show what impact human activities, such as agricultural clearing or tree cutting, have on the forest.

Canadian government experts installed this radar equipment in a plane that can fly six kilometres above the earth. "In order to develop applications and users for the data from the satellite, we have been flying our airborne radar in areas of the world such as tropical regions," says a spokesperson for the remote sensing centre. "We had projects in Venezuela, Brazil, and Guyana: we flew various areas for them, then worked with the people in those countries to train them to analyze and interpret the data. Once RADARSAT is launched, they will have a core of trained users and applications."

Meanwhile on the ground at Iwokrama, teams organized by British researchers employed more traditional survey methods: using trails and rivers to get into the forest, they observed the soil, vegetation and geology. Scientists need this kind of detailed information to help interpret the radar data.

Canada's International Development Research Centre is also helping to set up an international communications centre within the Iwokrama program. The centre will spread the knowledge gained about methods for sustainable use of tropical rainforests. It will also help the public and politicians understand that healthy forests are necessary for a good quality of life around the world. 22

NEW NGO

The Commonwealth's newest NGO, scheduled to hold its first conference this summer in Charlottetown, is designed to meet some very modern problems. The Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management will bring together bureaucrats and university people who study public administration. Says organizer George Post: "The notion is that running government is quite similar around the world, particularly in countries which have the British common law tradition."

Today, all governments are faced with the need to reorganize in order to run more efficiently, with less money. Public servants from countries which have already started this process, such as New Zealand, can share their experiences with others.

LANGUAGE TIES LA FRANCOPHONIE TOGETHER

La Francophonie is the worldwide community of peoples who speak French, or use French to some extent. It's a common bond linking more than 120 million people around the world. This international community includes more than one quarter of the world's nations.

The international organizations of La Francophonie bring people together so they can discuss issues of common interest. They support co-operation between governments and between non-governmental associations. Because the majority of members of La Francophonie

are developing nations, many activities are designed to encourage economic development.

At the highest government level, prime ministers of governments and presidents of countries which share the French language hold summit meetings every two years. They



QUÉBEC AND NEW BRUNSWICK: INTERNATIONAL ROLES

Québec and New Brunswick, the two provinces that have the largest French-speaking populations, have carved official roles in La Francophonie.

Since 1971, Québec has had "participating government" status in ACCT. This means it has its own place and name plate at the discussion table. New Brunswick has had similar status since 1977.

The provinces and the federal government consult with each other about issues and programs so that they can work more effectively toward the same goals.

These provinces also partici-

pate in two other organizations of La Francophonie: the annual conference of national ministers of education and the annual conference of youth and sports ministers. Usually only for the Conference of Ministers of Education, the head of the Canadian delegation is a provincial minister who speaks in the name of Canada.

In the 1980s, Canada was faced with the problem of how to give Québec a role in the proposed francophone summit meeting. This would be a meeting of heads of sovereign states, and the issues would deal with external affairs, a

matter of federal jurisdiction.

In 1985, then-Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and former Parti Québécois premier Pierre Marc Johnson reached an agreement. Québec participates fully in matters of co-operation and development. In issues concerning world politics and economics, Canada has the primary role, while Québec is an "interested observer." The federal and provincial delegations discuss their positions and co-ordinate activities. A month after reaching this accord with Québec, Ottawa signed a similar agreement with New Brunswick.

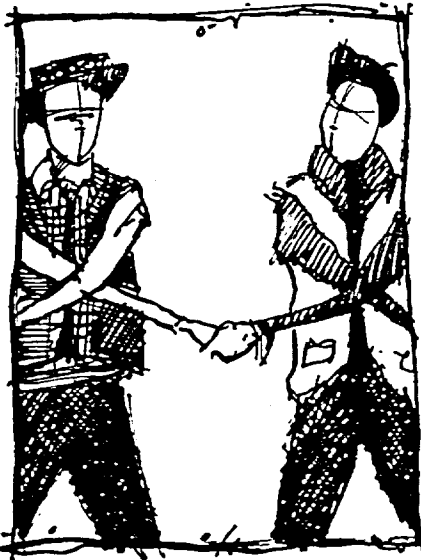
discuss international issues and set priorities for La Francophonie's activities.

The idea of international co-operation among francophone countries was first put forward by Leopold Sedar Senghor, then president of Senegal, in the 1960s. The notion was that, despite their differences, these countries share a common culture and language. By meeting together, they could pool resources and help each other to solve problems they couldn't solve alone.

During the 1960s, the ministers responsible for education and for youth and sport in francophone countries started holding annual conferences. These conferences continue today.

The first major intergovernmental conference took place in Niamey, Niger, in 1969. The following year, the l'Agence de coopération culturelle et technique (ACCT) was set up. Its objectives are to promote mutual co-operation in education, culture, science and technology,

and to form closer ties in these fields through the use of the French language. It aims at creating new ties between northern (developed) countries and less-developed nations in the Southern hemisphere. It also tries to promote cultural diversity and understanding.



There are also many private francophone associations and non-governmental organizations

within La Francophonie. Most are professional associations or were created on the basis of common goals. Examples include the International Union of French-Language Journalism, the International Association of French-Speaking Mayors, and the International Association of French-Speaking Physicians.

Canada regards ACCT as a keystone of La Francophonie and has played an important role in this organization. Both its first secretary general, and the current secretary general, Jean-Louis Roy, are Quebecers. Today, ACCT has 37 member-states, five associate states, and two participating governments: Québec and New Brunswick.

During the 1970s, Senghor continued to push for a leaders' summit. The presidents of two other African nations, Tunisia and Niger, supported him. The first summit took place in 1986 near Paris.

At the Paris Summit, the leaders of 41 countries and governments discussed the world

political and economic situation, and decided to collaborate in several areas.

With this first summit, La Francophonie made a big step. The leaders went beyond exchanging views and having bilateral agreements between pairs of countries. They laid the foundations for programs through co-operation among many countries. Today, La Francophonie is a forum for co-operation in nine technical fields that are considered priorities: agriculture, energy, environment, culture, communications, scientific and technological information, language industries, legal co-operation and education and training.

In 1987, Canada, Québec, and New Brunswick made a joint invitation to a summit in Québec City. Forty countries attended. At the Québec summit, the leaders adopted a number of programs. For example, they set up a co-operative project to support the creation of small agricultural businesses in Africa, and they established a francophone institute of energy, based in Québec, to train specialists in the energy field.

They also passed a Declaration of Solidarity, in which they agreed to respect each others' diverse traditions, and to work in a spirit of "solidarity, cooperativeness, and mutual understanding." They expressed their desire to "together take up the great challenges of development and modernization that lie before us."

In 1989, representatives of 41 governments and countries met in Dakar, Senegal. This meeting stressed the role of education and training within the French-speaking community. The French government won praise for canceling \$3-billion worth of debt owed to it by 35 poor countries.

The most recent summit took place in October 1993, in the Republic of Mauritius, in

SPORTS AND CULTURE: THE FRANCOPHONIE GAMES

Solidarity and excellence are the twin themes of the second Jeux de la Francophonie, to be held this summer in France. Organizers expect 3000 athletes and artists from around the world will attend. The first-ever Francophone Games were held in 1989 in Morocco, and drew 2000 participants from 39 countries.

Events for elite athletes will include track and field, soccer, judo and women's basketball. There will be two races for wheelchair athletes. Cultural events such as singing, art, dance and television specials will highlight the creativity and diversity of francophone peoples.

the Indian Ocean. This country is held as a model of integration, a melting-pot of people from Chinese, Indian, African and European ancestry. A former French, then British, colony, English is the official language. The majority of the one million residents speak Creole. Eighty percent understand French, which is widely used in newspapers, radio, and television.

Forty-seven countries attended the Mauritius summit, including Bulgaria, Romania, and Cambodia. They passed 21 resolutions, including several that addressed important international issues. As Anerood Jugnauth, prime minister of the Republic of Mauritius, said in a closing speech, "these messages issued by the summit to the rest of the world express the desire

of La Francophonie to make its presence felt in the concert of nations."

For example, France pressed for, and got, a resolution supporting its determination to exclude cultural goods from the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which was being negotiated. France argued that if culture — including films and television series — were included in the GATT, the power of money would lead to world domination by one culture. When the GATT negotiations were concluded, culture was excluded. Other important resolutions addressed the issues of Haiti and of human rights.

The leaders also raised their concerns about the status of the French language. They passed resolutions demanding that the United Nations respect the status of French as one of its six official languages, and reminding Olympic Games organizers that French is an official language of the Olympics. The president of the Olympic organizing committee had used English, with no remarks in French, to announce the location of the next games.

Because Canada has a large French-speaking population, our government has been active from the outset in creating and supporting the many institutions of La Francophonie. Today, involvement in La Francophonie is an integral part of Canadian foreign policy.

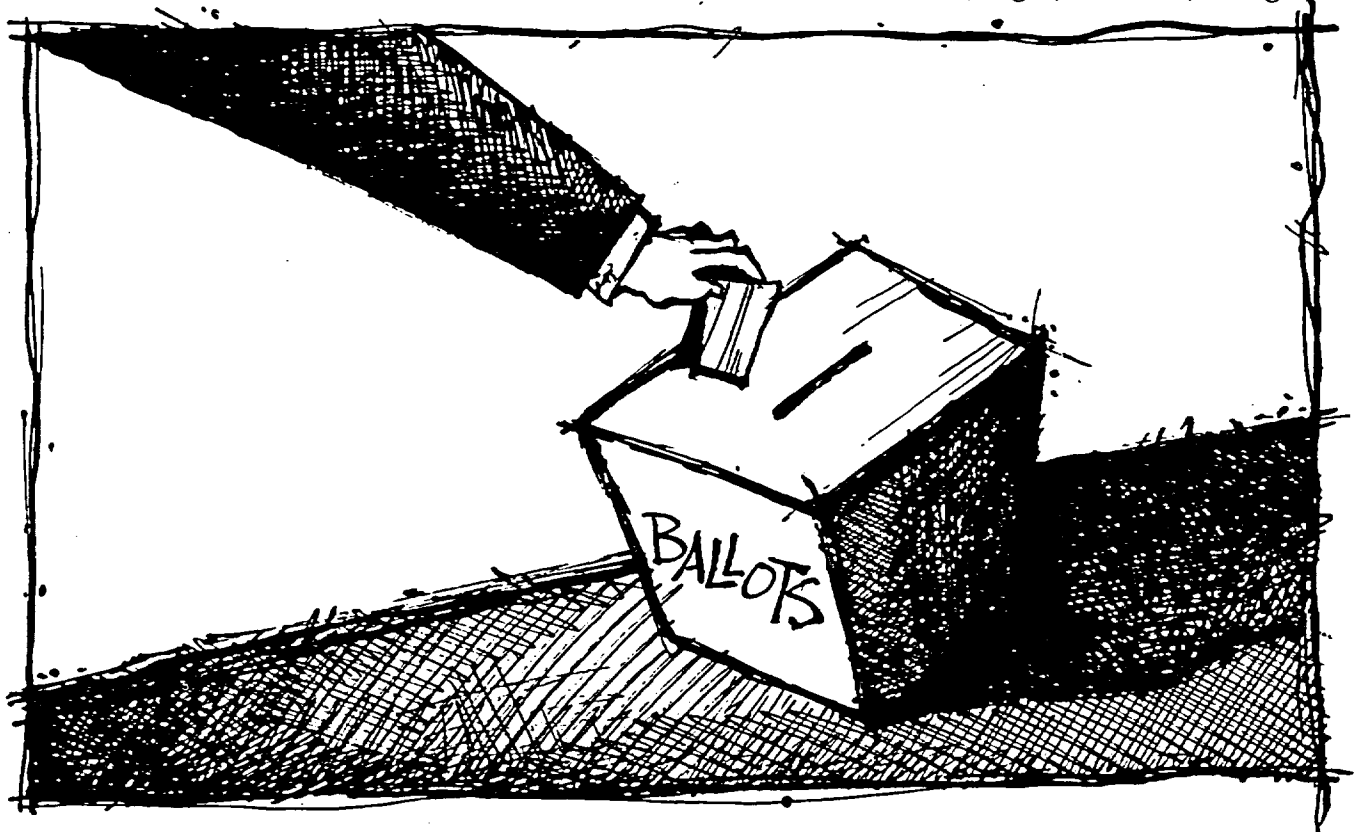
The Canadian government says its objectives are not based on the hope of an immediate return, or on the prospect of financial gain. But Canada expects that, as a middle power, it can have an influence on this community. Its role here is comparable to its role in the Organization of American States or the Commonwealth. It can also derive cultural and scientific benefits from its association with these countries.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN LA FRANCOPHONIE

When countries decide to undertake democratic reforms, they face many unfamiliar problems. People have to learn how a parliament operates and how journalists do their jobs in a democracy. They need to understand the role of trade unions. Police have to become more aware of the rights of citizens.

La Francophonie is helping people in developing countries deal with issues such as these. In the past few years, it has sponsored seminars for members of non-governmental organizations, members of parliament, police forces, and unions. These projects have involved more than 30 countries.

La Francophonie set up guidelines for election observers. Since the guidelines were adopted in 1992, at least a dozen countries have asked for observers to be present before or during voting day. They include Burkina Faso, Burundi, Congo, Djibouti, Guinea, Madagascar, Mali, Niger, Romania, Senegal,



the Seychelles, the Central African Republic and Togo.

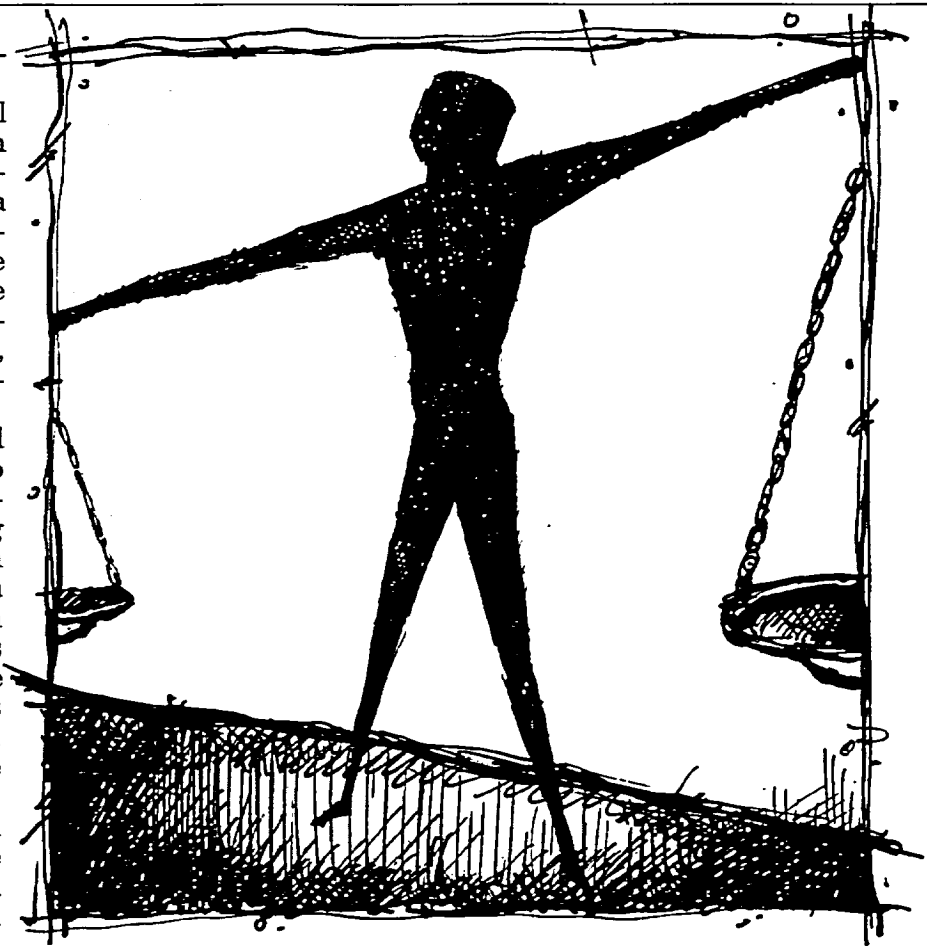
Canada is making a special contribution to support human rights and democracy in member countries of La Francophonie. It set up a special office in ACCT to handle requests for information. The office also helps organize elections and write constitutions, operate electoral observer missions and provide training.

In 1993, a seminar was held in Yaoundé, Cameroon, to launch a special project: a network of legal aid and counseling centres for women in francophone Africa. Canada funded these projects through ACCT. Some 80 participants from 20 countries attended the seminar. They discussed ways of running counseling centres, and methods of explaining the law to the public.

The first two centres are in Benin and Cameroon. While there are women lawyers in those countries, many women don't know their legal rights, are afraid to exercise them, or can't afford to hire a lawyer. For example, a woman may find when her father dies that her brothers claim she has no right to inherit anything because she is a woman. The counseling centres will help women — and men — understand their rights.

Encouraging democracy is an important task. But, prior to the 1989 Dakar summit, Amnesty International published a report listing human rights abuses in several French-speaking countries. Accusations included torture, imprisonment for political opinions and restrictions on religious activities. Summit leaders agreed to address the issue of human rights at Dakar. There was unanimous support for a resolution on human rights, put forward by Canada.

At the 1991 Chailot Summit, human rights dominated discussions behind closed doors.



Then-Prime Minister Brian Mulroney wanted the international community to give economic aid only to countries which have good human rights records. This proposal did not get approval. Finally, the leaders signed a Declaration of Human Rights and Democratization which left it up to each nation "to determine the roads that will appropriately strengthen its democratic institutions."

Chailot Summit participants also voted to adopt economic sanctions against Haiti. The military overthrew and exiled Haiti's democratically elected president, Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide, in September 1991. Many other international organizations, such as the Organization of American States and the United Nations, have also condemned the Haitian military leaders and banned trade with the nation.

So far, the military leaders have snubbed these international efforts to restore Father Aristide to power.

In 1993, the Haitian situation arose again. Summit leaders meeting in Mauritius strengthened their resolve to try to bring democracy to this impoverished country. French President François Mitterand told delegates: "This takeover by violent minority groups who intervene to prevent the establishment of democratic institutions in Haiti is unbearable."

Summit participants also passed a resolution that condemned nations which abuse human rights, but did not mention any countries by name, as the Canadian delegation had hoped.

These efforts to deal with the sensitive issue of human rights show that La Francophonie wants to be an important player on the international stage.

FRENCH AS A WORLD LANGUAGE

In Canada, we tend to think of French as the language of Québec and of France. But the French-speaking, or francophone, world is much larger than that: French is either the mother tongue, or second language in several countries of Africa, as well as the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific, the Indian Ocean and Europe.

For example:

- In Morocco, Arabic is the official language, but more than four million of the country's 22.5 million people speak French. French is used in the media and in education.

- In Cameroon, there are two official languages: French and English. There are also more than 200 different African languages. Of the approximately 10.5 million inhabitants, 1.5 million speak French.

- In Zaire, with a population of 31.7 million, French is the official language, and is spoken by more than 2.6 million people. There are some 250 other languages, although four are

dominant. French is commonly used in schools and the media.

- The Caribbean islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique are possessions of France. Here,

Creole — a French-based language — is used in daily life.

- Cambodia, Laos, and Viet Nam used to be called Indochina, part of the former



French colonial empire. Although the use of French has decreased since they became independent, Laos and Viet Nam are members of ACCT and attend summit meetings of La Francophonie.

• In Europe, besides France, French is spoken in Luxembourg, Monaco, parts of Switzerland, and in bilingual Belgium.

The language started its long history in the north of France in the ninth century A.D., when it developed as a blend of Latin and Celtic-Germanic tongues. French was exported to England by William the Conqueror in 1066, and Norman French became the language of the English court.

In the 17th century, Samuel de Champlain founded the first permanent French settlement in North America at Québec City. Other French communities were established along the St. Lawrence River and in Acadia (now New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.) The voyageurs extended the influence of New France to the Rocky Mountains and down the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico.

During the 18th century, French was used in the great courts of Europe: in Prussia, Sweden and Russia. Yet, ironically, only about half the population of France spoke French. The rest used the regional languages of Brittany, Alsace, Gascony, etc. These didn't give way to French until the next century.

In Africa, French got its first foothold with the founding of Saint-Louis du Senegal in 1659. But it wasn't until the mid-19th and early 20th centuries that the French and Belgians established colonies in northern and sub-Saharan Africa.

African countries became independent from France and Belgium during the same period that British colonies became independent members of the Com-

NORTH AMERICAN FRANCOPHONIE

“ci on parle français.” You might see that sign in a store window anywhere in Canada, or even in the United States. There are francophone communities scattered across the continent.

In Québec, French is the mother tongue of five million people, or more than 80 percent of the population. Montréal is the world's largest French-speaking city after Paris. French is the only official provincial language.

In New Brunswick, 34 percent of people are Acadian, or of French descent. English and French are both official provincial languages. The Acadians have maintained a strong culture and several of their writers and singers are known throughout La Francophonie.

Ontario also has a French-speaking population of half a million. The largest communities are in eastern and northern Ontario. In Manitoba, there is a small but vocal francophone community.

In the United States, some 13 million people say their origins are either in France, Québec, or Acadia. That includes 1.2 million Californians and another million in Louisiana, where about 300,000 still speak French. The textile mill towns of New England also attracted many Québécois during the last century, and their descendants live there today.

Faced with the dominance of English, many small French-speaking communities, especially those that are far from Québec, are having a hard time maintaining their language and institutions. Education is a key. The Supreme Court of Canada recently ruled that francophone-run school boards must be established in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia.

Internationally, March 20 is La Francophonie day. In Canada, a whole week is set aside to promote the French language. This year, the second annual Semaine nationale de la francophonie will be held March 20-26, and the theme will be literacy. Literacy is fundamental to the survival of the language, yet there are high levels of illiteracy in many francophone communities.

The week is designed to make Canadians, especially those who live in areas where francophones are in the minority, aware of the advantages of using French, and to find ways of improving the quality of written and spoken French.

Activities focus on education. There are cash prizes for teachers in primary and secondary schools for the best class projects on the theme of the French language and community. College or university students can win money for ideas on how to increase the use of French in their environments.

monwealth, from the mid-1950s to the mid-1970s. In some, French remained the official language, or shared that status with other tongues.

French coexists with many other local or national languages. Often, the majority of the population speak African languages, while only an elite minority in large cities speak

French. In some countries, notably in Arab Africa, French has no official role, yet it is still spoken by many people and is taught in school.

Today, about 120 million people worldwide have French either as their first or second language. It is an official working language of many international organizations, such

as the United Nations.

It is also the most commonly taught language after English. Approximately 25 million students around the world learn it with the help of 250 000 French teachers.

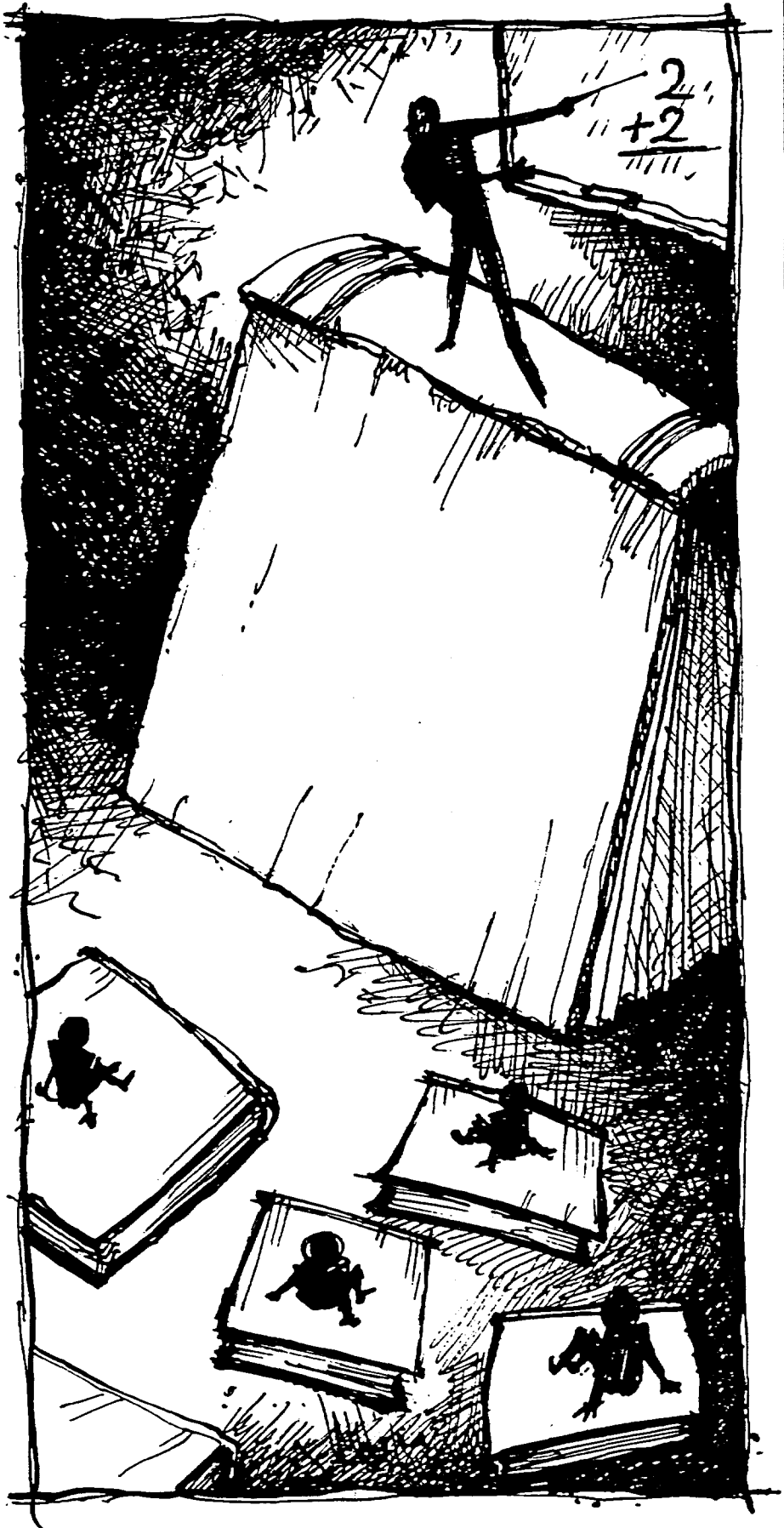
Some of the best recent French-language books were written in Africa, Quebec, and the United States. And contact with diverse traditions and languages is enriching the French language and culture.

However, many francophones warn that, faced with the popularity of English and the dominance of American popular culture in music, films and television, the future of the French language is in danger. Some of the efforts of La Francophonie, therefore, are to support the use of French in scientific fields and to hold French-language film festivals.

Originally, the French language helped bring far-flung colonies under French rule. Today, the leaders of countries where French is spoken use the fact that they share this language as a reason for collaborating in order to strengthen each other.

La Francophonie is a community, based on a common language, which believes in the unity and diversity of cultures. In 1985, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, then Egyptian minister of foreign affairs (and now Secretary General of the United Nations) called French "the language of non-alignment."

Leopold Sedar Senghor, the former president of Senegal, and one of the first leaders to push for summit meetings, said that French isn't just a practical common language for use in administration and education. Senghor defined the French language as "a way of thinking and of action: a certain way of asking the question and of finding solutions...thanks to a language which contains all the richness of centuries."



TV AROUND THE GLOBE

Canadian children love to watch Bibi the puppet and his human friend Genevieve on the French-language cable Canal Famille. Children all over Europe enjoy this Canadian production on TV5, an international French-language channel that is one of the big success stories of La Francophonie. This channel is truly a window on the world, offering news and entertainment via satellite to viewers in North America, Europe, Africa and the Caribbean.

TV5 started in 1983 when three French channels, along with French-language channels in Belgium and Switzerland, formed a company to distribute programs by satellite throughout Europe and the Mediterranean region.

The idea of television as a means of communication among people who

share the French language and as an instrument for multilateral co-operation appealed to La Francophonie leaders. Summit participants supported and expanded the project.

In 1986, the Canadian and Québec television industries formed a consortium and joined TV5. As well as the CBC, Radio Québec, TV-Ontario, and several private broadcasters are involved. Broadcasts started in 1988.

Today, through cable, TV5 Québec-Canada reaches 1.6 million homes in Québec, 3.4 million in the rest of Canada, and another 3 million in the United States. TV5 Europe reaches 40 countries in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. TV5 Africa and TV5 Latin America and the Caribbean have been on the air since 1992.

Eventually, TV5 may also reach other countries.

From the Canadian perspective, viewers here have a chance to watch international programs, while our producers benefit from exposure abroad.

Canada has also played a big part in getting TV5 Africa on the air. ACCT pays the cost of African programming contributions to TV5. Funds were also

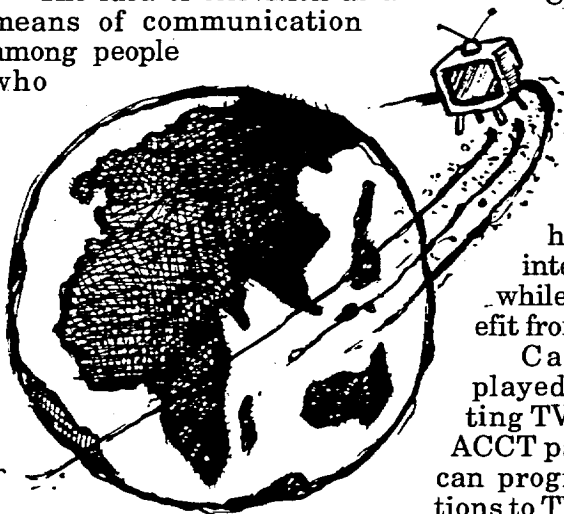
set aside to put TV5 Africa on satellite.

TV5 Africa staff worked with Canadian experts to study a cheap method of distribution through microwave transmission in Dakar, Senegal. Now at least 5000 homes in that city receive TV5.

Gilles Desjardins, vice-president of DTI Telecom Inc., a Montréal consulting company, helped get the project started with Canadian government funding. His solution was to use a satellite dish to receive the TV5 signal from space. From the dish, the signal goes to a large antenna, which re-transmits it. Any home with an inexpensive antenna can then receive the programs. So far, similar projects have been installed in the largest cities of Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Benin and Ivory Coast.

"TV5 is a big success in Africa," he says, because, while colour TV sets are popular consumer items (more people have TV sets than telephones), there isn't much choice in programming. In some countries, there is only one national TV station, broadcasting for a limited time each day.

And, Desjardins suggests, "opening a country to the world" can help strengthen newly-established democracies. ∞



CO-OPERATION IN THE FOOD INDUSTRY

Canada has some of the highest food industry standards in the world. When you buy a quart of 2% milk, you know you are getting exactly that. When you buy jam, you can read the ingredients on the label. When you buy meat, you can be confident it has been kept refrigerated.

In many developing countries, however, things are not as sophisticated. Countries that want to export food products to Europe or North America have to learn how to improve production methods and meet tougher regulations.

The Food Research and Development Centre (FRDC) of Agriculture Canada, based in

Saint-Hyacinthe, Québec, has a special program to help developing countries learn from our expertise. Established in 1990 in collaboration with ACCT, the program allows the FRDC to work with similar research centres in several developing countries. They share information on conservation methods, sterilization, bottling, packaging, etc. For example, it is now working on natural food colouring additives with a university research centre in Viet Nam.

The program also encourages partnerships among small and medium-sized food processing companies in Canada and in developing countries. A Canadian company may help a juice

producer in Africa improve its product. In return, it may be guaranteed supplies of juice concentrate. Current projects include Senegalese hibiscus juice and Moroccan red wine.

In 1993, the FRDC helped the Québec Food Processors Association (AMPAQ) hold a conference on technology and food quality. Marco Lagimonière, director of international co-operation for AMPAQ, also travelled to Ivory Coast to give a week-long seminar to 30 participants from eight countries on product quality. He says the key is to work together. "If you go there saying you know everything, it won't work. You have to adapt your ideas to the reality there." ∞

QUÉBEC PROMOTES ECONOMIC TIES

"Our participation in La Francophonie is vital for the development of Québec," says Rene Leduc, director of the Québec government's La Francophonie office.

Besides the cultural and political benefits of membership, Québec wants to promote economic ties through La Francophonie. For example, Québec encourages co-operation among small and medium-sized companies in Québec and similar businesses in developing countries.

Québec publishers have en-

tered into joint ventures with publishers in Mali, Senegal and Ivory Coast. The African companies mainly publish school textbooks. "If you want to develop competitive national publishing houses in Africa, you have to do it by means of partnerships with publishers who have a lot of experience," says Mr. Leduc.

Access to loans is fundamental to the growth of small businesses. In Québec, credit unions have an important place in the economy. Members of credit unions have control over the

credit union's funds, and can borrow from them. Québec recently announced a program to help credit unions in francophone Africa. It offers training to managers of existing credit unions, and helps develop computerized systems for co-operative banks.

Another field in which Québec shares its expertise is energy. The Energy Institute of La Francophonie, based in Québec City, sponsors seminars both here and in developing countries, and puts out technical publications. ∞

THE CHALLENGE OF EDUCATION

The next time you complain about hauling home a heavy textbook or not being able to find a book in the school library, imagine what student life must be like in many parts of Africa. In many schools, there's only one textbook for every 100 students. Illiteracy and school drop-out rates are high.

The ministers of education of La Francophonie, meeting in Montréal in 1992, set out to change that: they set a goal of one book per student by the year 2002.

Other priorities are:

- support for the teaching of French;



- teacher training;
- professional and technical training;
- distance training programs.

Books recently prepared with the support of La Francophonie organizations,

such as a children's encyclopedia of Africa, are distributed in several countries. A French program developed in Viet Nam is being adapted for Creole- and Arab-speaking countries.

Training is crucial for economic development. Many young people in rural Africa, for example, don't have the technical and professional skills they need to find jobs.

Distance training programs permit institutions to collaborate and exchange teaching materials. For example, universities share expertise in fields such as health and municipal administration. ∞

RECOGNITION FOR ACADIA

Participation in La Francophonie is very important for New Brunswick's francophone population. "For the Acadian people, this is a way of recognizing that we have equal status," says Mirelle Cyr, director of co-operation for the province's department of intergovernmental affairs.

She adds there are economic benefits to attending summit meetings: "It is the only place where Premier Frank McKenna has direct access to world heads of state. We need to become more competitive, and to do business with the world. We can make contacts and our expertise becomes well-known."

Fishing is an important part of the economy for many members of La Francophonie. But many countries need to improve knowledge in areas such as fish processing techniques, navigation, safety procedures, and the management of fish stocks so

that overfishing doesn't occur.

New Brunswick, which has a well-known fishery school, is funding a network of similar schools in La Francophonie countries. The first step will be to identify the schools and their specialties. The network will create links between schools, encouraging the exchange of knowledge, teaching materials and teachers.

New Brunswick has also launched a four-year project to help women in a rural area of Benin become more economically self-sufficient. The project will help women learn to read, borrow from a bank or credit union, do market studies, and set up small co-operative businesses. For example, they could dry or can mangoes, which are currently only eaten fresh.

Women from New Brunswick who own small businesses or have other skills will travel to

Benin. Women from Benin will come to Canada. They will learn from each other. Ms. Cyr says, for example, that women in Benin may not have sophisticated technical knowledge, but they are very skilled at organizing and sharing responsibilities.

But it is the University of Moncton's International Centre of Common Law in French that really put New Brunswick on the Francophonie map. The centre offers a variety of French-language courses on common law. Some countries which are members of both the Commonwealth and La Francophonie, Canada, Mauritius, Vanuatu and St. Lucia, use common law. Some countries do not use common law, but do business with countries that do. The university also has a legal translation centre which recently translated the constitution of Mauritius from English into French. ∞

THE COMMONWEALTH

NOTES TO TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

SOURCES, CONTACTS AND ACTIVITES

Following is a list of addresses to which you can write for further information on the Commonwealth

If you would like a free subscription to *Commonwealth Currents*, a bimonthly newsletter including news about Commonwealth activities and issues, contact:

Commonwealth Liaison Unit
126 York St., Suite 402
Ottawa, Ontario
K1N 5T5

For more information on Commonwealth Secretariat publications, including a price list of Commonwealth publications relating to youth and drugs, youth and enterprise, youth policy, and publications on sustainable development, the environment, human rights and Commonwealth Science Council publications, write:

Publications Section
Commonwealth Secretariat
Marlborough House
Pall Mall
London
SW1Y 5HX
England

The Secretariat's Commonwealth Youth Programme publishes a free newsletter called *In Common*. For more information on this or other activities related to youth, or issues that affect women, write:

Women's and Youth Affairs
Division
Commonwealth Secretariat
Marlborough House
Pall Mall
London
SW1Y 5HY
England

For more information about this year's Commonwealth Games, write to:

Victoria Commonwealth
Games Society
P.O. Box 1994
Victoria, B.C.
V8W 3M8

The Commonwealth Youth Service Awards offers five cash prizes annually to youth groups which have made outstanding contributions to their communities. Winners demonstrate innovative approaches to solving social problems which are relevant to young people across the Commonwealth. Every year, Canada submits two projects to the competition. For further information, write:

Commonwealth Liaison Unit
126 York St., Suite 402
Ottawa, Ontario
K1N 5T5

The Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan offers graduate students academic exchange and research opportunities. Since the start of the CSFP in 1960, more than 17 000 scholars and fellows have been able to study across the Commonwealth. If you dream of doing graduate work in England, Australia or any other Commonwealth country, contact:

Canadian Bureau
of International Education
220 Laurier Ave., Suite 1100
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 5Z9

There is also an annual essay competition, open to all schools in the Commonwealth. There are four topics for each of four age groups. Prizes range from international and regional travel to cash and book awards. There are also special prizes in each age group for entrants with a disability. This year's competition closed 1 March 1994, but there's always next year. For information write:

Commonwealth Essay
Competition
Royal Commonwealth Society
18 Northumberland Ave.,
London
WC2N 5BJ
England

The League for the Exchange of Commonwealth Teachers (LECT) organizes exchanges among some 500 teachers every year. *Commonwealth Times*, the quarterly newsletter, is available from:

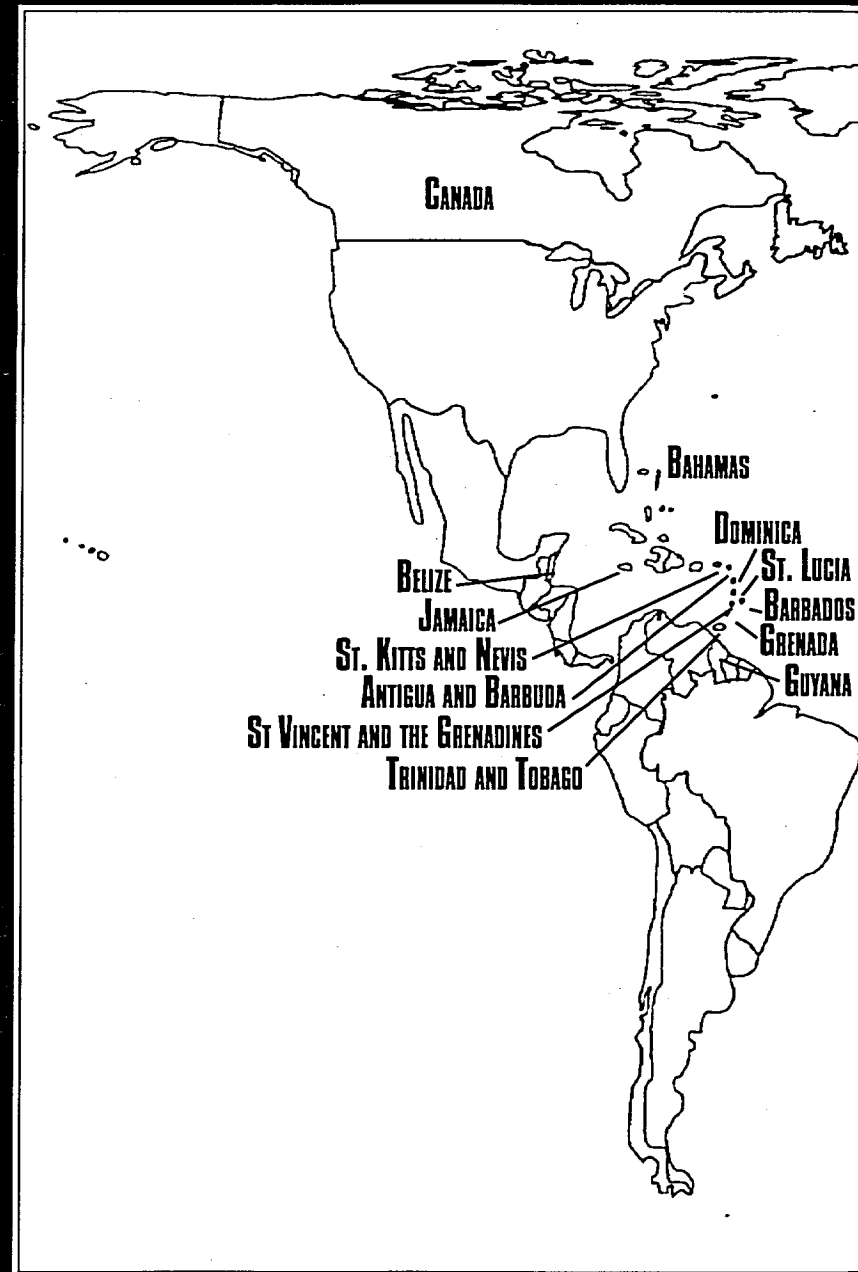
LECT
7 Lion Yard
Tremadoc Road
London
SW4 7NQ
England

If you would like to be more involved in the Commonwealth, become a member of the Royal Commonwealth Society (RCS). To find the branch nearest you, or to find out how to take part in the National Student Commonwealth Forum, write:

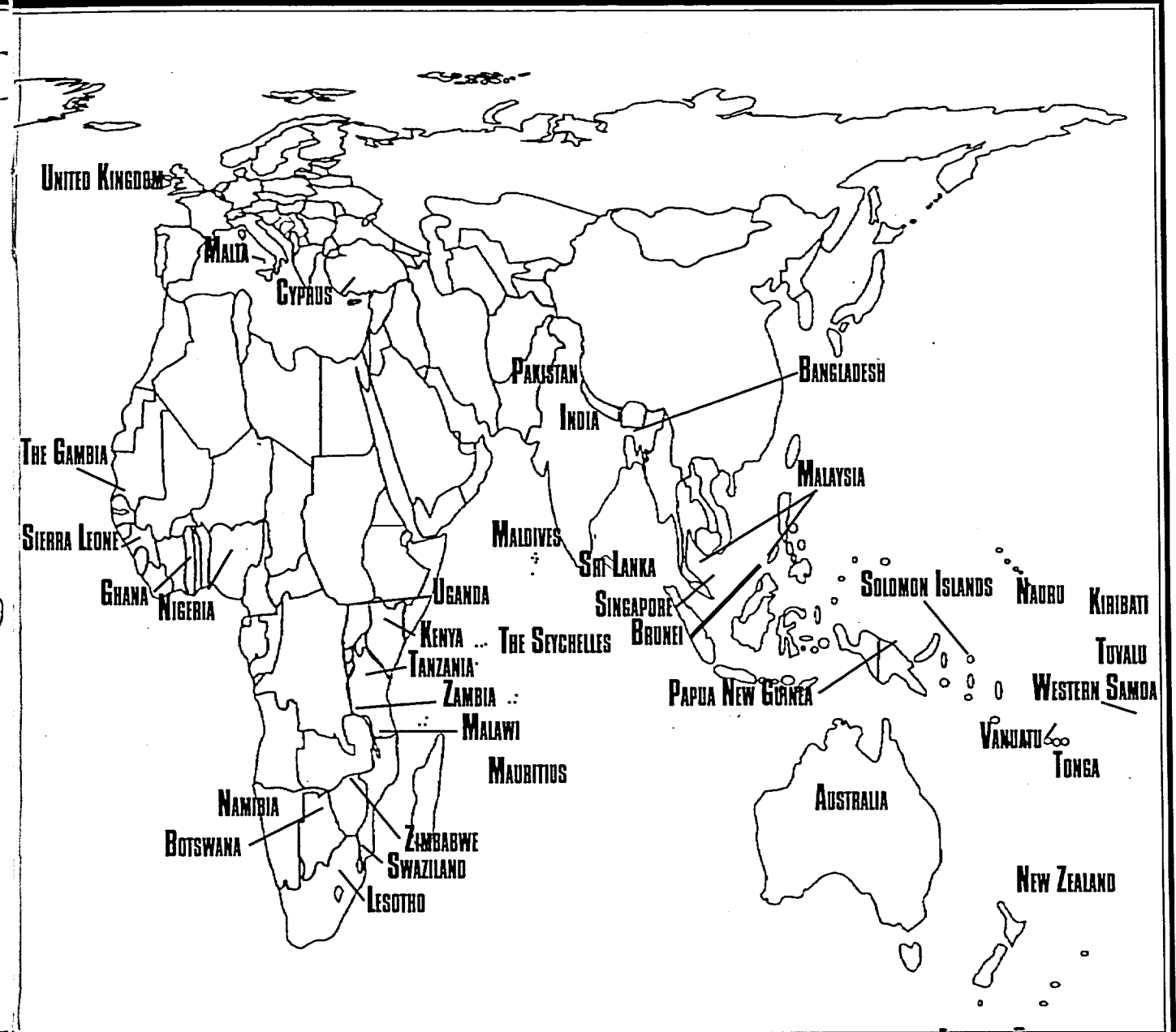
Royal Commonwealth Society,
Ottawa Branch
1386 Richmond Rd.,
P.O. Box 32072
Ottawa, Ontario
K2B 1A1

COMMONWEALTH MEMBERS

- | | |
|---|---|
| ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
<i>St. John's</i> | GUYANA
<i>Georgetown</i> |
| AUSTRALIA
<i>Canberra</i> | INDIA
<i>New Delhi</i> |
| BAHAMAS
<i>Nassau</i> | JAMAICA
<i>Kingston</i> |
| BANGLADESH
<i>Dhaka</i> | KENYA
<i>Nairobi</i> |
| BARBADOS
<i>Bridgetown</i> | KIRIBATI
<i>Tarawa</i> |
| BELIZE
<i>Belmopan</i> | LESOTHO
<i>Maseru</i> |
| BOTSWANA
<i>Gaborone</i> | MALAWI
<i>Lilongwe</i> |
| BRUNEI
<i>Bandar Seri Begawan</i> | MALAYSIA
<i>Kuala Lumpur</i> |
| CANADA
<i>Ottawa</i> | MALDIVES
<i>Male</i> |
| CYPRUS
<i>Nicosia</i> | MALTA
<i>Valetta</i> |
| DOMINICA
<i>Roseau</i> | MAURITIUS
<i>Port Louis</i> |
| THE GAMBIA
<i>Banjul</i> | NAMIBIA
<i>Windhoek</i> |
| GHANA
<i>Accra</i> | NAURU*
<i>(no capital city)</i> |
| GRENADA
<i>St George's</i> | NEW ZEALAND
<i>Wellington</i> |



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| NIGERIA
<i>Lagos/Abuja</i> | ST. KITTS AND NEVIS
<i>Basseterre</i> | THE SEYCHELLES
<i>Victoria</i> |
| PAKISTAN
<i>Islamabad</i> | ST. LUCIA
<i>Castries</i> | SIERRA LEONE
<i>Freetown</i> |
| PAPUA NEW GUINEA
<i>Port Moresby</i> | ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
<i>Kingstown</i> | SINGAPORE
<i>Singapore</i> |



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|--|--|--|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| SOLOMON ISLANDS
<i>Honiara</i> | TANZANIA
<i>Dar es Salaam</i> | TUVALU*
<i>Funafuti</i> | VANUATU
<i>Port-Vila</i> | ZIMBABWE
<i>Harare</i> |
| SRI LANKA
<i>Colombo</i> | TONGA
<i>Nuku'alofa</i> | UGANDA
<i>Kampala</i> | WESTERN SAMOA
<i>Apia</i> | *SPECIAL MEMBER |
| SWAZILAND
<i>Mbabane</i> | TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
<i>Port of Spain</i> | UNITED KINGDOM
<i>London</i> | ZAMBIA
<i>Lusaka</i> | |

For more information about Commonwealth Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Canada, write:

Commonwealth Liaison Unit
126 York St., Suite 402
Ottawa, Ontario
K1N 5T5

For more information about Canadian development aid projects abroad, contact:

Canadian International
Development Agency
200 Promenade du Portage
Hull, Québec
K1A 0G4

The International Development Research Centre supports research designed to help adapt science and technology to the needs of developing countries, contact:

International Development
Research Centre
P.O. Box 8500
Ottawa, Ontario
K1G 3H9

If you are curious about RADARSAT, write:

Canada Centre
for Remote Sensing
588 Booth St.,
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0Y7

If you have any questions about Canadian foreign policy, contact:

Foreign Affairs and
International Trade Canada
Infoex Division (MKI)
125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0G2

SUGGESTIONS ABOUT ACTIVITIES

- **A**ppoint a team of students to clip newspaper and magazine articles about the April elections in South Africa. Have the team summarize the latest news and lead a class discussion.
- **R**ead a novel or short story by one of the new Commonwealth writers and then write a book report.
- **L**eaders of both La Francophonie and the Commonwealth strongly believe that sports can help young people learn important values. Imagine that a benefactor has given you \$10,000 to design a sports project for young people. As a class, choose a sport, set the goals of your program, outline a budget (equipment, facilities, publicity, etc.), and suggest how you would attract kids and coaches to the program. Discuss how you would involve young people who are not very good at sports.
- **Y**ou run into someone who says: "The Commonwealth is just an outdated vestige of British colonialism. Our important economic ties are with the United States. Canada should forget about the Commonwealth." What is your response?
- **A**ccording to the Harare Declaration, issued by the Commonwealth Heads of Government in 1991: "The special strength of the Commonwealth lies in the combination of the diversity of its members with their shared inheritance in language, culture and the rule of law." Design a poster illustrating this statement. If you prefer, your poster could illustrate one or more of the Singapore Principles.
- **P**repare a presentation for the class on the music of a Commonwealth or Francophonie member country, such as Jamaica, France, Australia, or Viet Nam.
- **W**hen the Commonwealth Heads of Government met in Cyprus in 1993, they noted that young people represent a large and ever-growing proportion of the population of the Commonwealth. They affirmed "the importance of the unique role which young people could play in tackling priority issues including the protection of the rights of youth and children, HIV/AIDS, creating employment opportunities and combating the abuse of drugs and alcohol." Write a letter to Hon. Ethel Blondin-Andrew, Secretary of State (Training and Youth) in which you suggest ways in which young people can better participate in forming Canada's policies on youth issues. What issues should be the top priority in Canada? Do Canada's policies influence other Commonwealth countries?

LA FRANCOPHONIE

NOTES TO TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

SOURCES, CONTACTS AND ACTIVITES

To contact ACCT, write:
 Agence de coopération culturelle
 et technique
 13 quai André Citroën
 75015 Paris
 France

The goal of CONFEMEN is to encourage education to meet the economic and social development needs of member countries, and to share experiences and expertise in this field.

Conférence des ministres
 de l'éducation nationale
 des pays d'expression française
 (CONFEMEN)
 B.P. 3220
 Dakar
 Sénégal

This Francophonie organization focuses on the training of instructors and group leaders. It organizes the Francophones Games.

Conférence des ministres
 de la jeunesse et des sports
 (CONFJES)
 B.P. 3314
 Dakar
 Sénégal

This federal government office promotes Canada's official languages:

Promotion des langues officielles
 Secrétariat d'Etat de Canada
 15, rue Eddy, pièce 7C1
 Hull, (Québec)
 K1A 0M5

This association helps promote La Francophonie week activities, and publishes a newsletter called *Au fil des jours*:

Association canadienne
 d'éducation de langue française
 (ACELF)
 268, rue Marie de l'Incarnation
 Québec, (Québec)
 G1N 3G4

This organization helps businesses make contacts with companies in other francophone countries, and encourages investments, technology transfers, partnerships and other types of economic co-operation.

Forum Francophone des affaires
 330, rue Saint-Antoine Ouest,
 Bureau 5200
 Montréal (Québec)
 H2Y 3X7

For more explanation about Québec's role in La Francophonie, contact:

Direction de la Francophonie
 Ministère des Affaires
 internationales
 Édifice Hector-Fabre
 525, boulevard René-Lévesque est
 Québec (Québec)
 G1R 5R9

This body advises the Québec government on language policy issues.

Conseil de la langue française
 800, Place d'Youville
 Québec (Québec)
 G1R 3P4

This Québec government agency does research on French linguistics and terminology, and helps businesses in the province to operate in French.

Office de la langue française
 Tour de la Bourse
 B.P. 316, Place Victoria
 Montréal (Québec)
 H2Z 1G8

For more information about sharing expertise in the field of energy, contact:

Institut de l'énergie des pays
 ayant en commun l'usage
 de français
 56, rue Saint-Pierre 3e étage
 Québec (Québec)
 G1K 4A1

For more information about New Brunswick's involvement in La Francophonie, write:

Affaires Intergouvernementales
 Nouveau Brunswick
 B.P. 6000
 Fredericton (Nouveau Brunswick)
 E3B 5H1

For more information about programs in the food technology field:

Agriculture Canada
 Centre de recherche et de
 développement sur les aliments
 3600 boul. Casavant ouest
 Saint-Hyacinthe (Québec), J2S 8E3

The Office franco-québécois pour la jeunesse organizes exchanges in France for young people between the ages of 17 and 35. This program is available only to Québec residents. Fields of interest include commerce, communications, culture, international law, environment, management, technology and tourism. Write:

Office franco-québécois
 pour la jeunesse
 1441, boul. René-Lévesque ouest
 Bureau 301
 Montréal (Québec), H3G 1T7

To find out more about the programs you can watch on TV5, write:

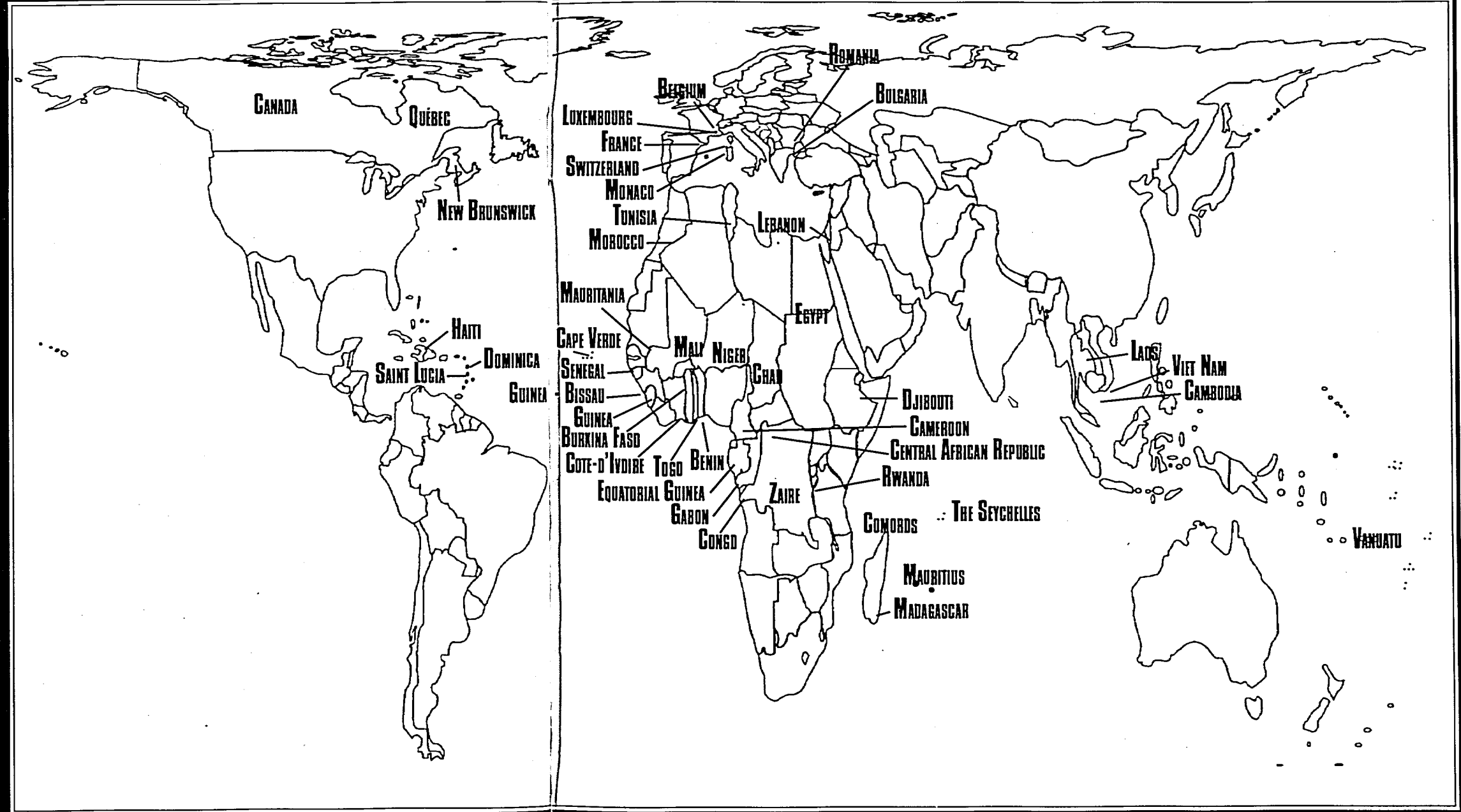
TV5 - La télévision internationale
 Consortium de télévision Québec
 Canada
 1755 boul. René-Lévesque est.
 Bureau 101
 Montréal (Québec), H2K 4P6

The annual book *L'année francophone internationale*, which reviews the year's cultural and political news, as well as news from various Francophonie organizations, is put together by:

Groupe d'études et de recherches
 sur la Francophonie
 Faculté des lettres
 Université Laval
 Québec (Québec), G1K 7P4

LA FRANCOPHONIE MEMBERS

- | | |
|--|--|
| BELGIUM
<i>Brussels</i> | DOMINICA
<i>Roseau</i> |
| BENIN
<i>Porto Novo</i> | EGYPT
<i>Cairo</i> |
| BULGARIA
<i>Sofia</i> | EQUATORIAL GUINEA
<i>Malabo</i> |
| BURKINA FASO
<i>Ouagadougou</i> | FRANCE
<i>Paris</i> |
| BURUNDI
<i>Bujumbura</i> | GABON
<i>Libreville</i> |
| CAMBODIA
<i>Phnom Penh</i> | GUINEA
<i>Conakry</i> |
| CAMEROON
<i>Yaoundé</i> | GUINEA-BISSAU
<i>Bissau</i> |
| CANADA
<i>Ottawa</i> | HAITI
<i>Port-au-Prince</i> |
| CAPE VERDE
<i>Praia</i> | LAOS
<i>Vientiane</i> |
| CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
<i>Bangui</i> | LEBANON
<i>Beirut</i> |
| CHAD
<i>N'Djamena</i> | LUXEMBOURG
<i>Luxembourg</i> |
| COMOROS
<i>Moroni</i> | MADAGASCAR
<i>Antananarivo</i> |
| CONGO
<i>Brazzaville</i> | MALI
<i>Bamako</i> |
| COTE-D'IVOIRE
<i>Abidjan</i> | MAURITANIA
<i>Nouakchott</i> |
| DJIBOUTI
<i>Djibouti</i> | MAURITIUS
<i>Port-Louis</i> |
| | MONACO
<i>Monaco</i> |
| | MOROCCO
<i>Rabat</i> |
| | NEW BRUNSWICK
<i>Fredericton</i> |
| | QUÉBEC
<i>Québec</i> |
| | ROMANIA
<i>Bucharest</i> |
| | NIGER
<i>Niamey</i> |
| | RUANDA
<i>Kigali</i> |
| | SAINT LUCIA
<i>Castries</i> |
| | SENEGAL
<i>Dakar</i> |
| | SWITZERLAND
<i>Bern</i> |
| | TUNISIA
<i>Tunis</i> |
| | VIET NAM
<i>Hanoi</i> |
| | ZAIRE
<i>Kinshasa</i> |



Strategies, a glossy business magazine, published seven times a year, is aimed at readers in Canada, Africa and La Francophonie. For more information, contact:

Stratégies
1253, ave. McGill College,
Bureau 404
Montréal (Québec)
H3B 2Y5

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

L'ANNÉE FRANCOPHONE
INTERNATIONALE
Bilan 1992.

PERSPECTIVES

This is published annually by ACCT, in collaboration with a number of international francophone associations.

ETAT DE LA FRANCOPHONIE DANS LE MONDE.

Données 1991 et 6 enquêtes inédites.
Haut conseil de la francophonie
La documentation Française - Paris,
1991

This book looks at the current state of the French language, the teaching of French, French culture, communications, and the use of French in science and technology.

FORCES

Economic, social and cultural
quarterly
Fall, 1987

This special bilingual issue on America and International Francophonie was published for the 1987 Québec Summit.

ECHOS

no. 56, 1989-1990

A special issue of this publication, from France, on la Francophonie.
La Francophonie. L'émergence d'une alliance?

Jean-Louis Roy
Editions Hurtubise HMH Ltee.,
Montréal, 1989.

The author of this book is now director-general of ACCT.

SUGGESTIONS FOR ACTIVITIES

- **I**mage you are sent to observe an election in a Francophonie or Commonwealth country that has not known democracy for many years. A citizen comes up and asks, "What is an election? Why should I bother to vote." What would you say?
- **I**f you get TV-5 on cable at home, watch a program that interests you and report to your class on what you saw.
- **R**esearch a Francophonie member country and write a profile of it looking at: languages spoken, religions, ethnic groups, climate, economic base, trading partners, type of government, etc.. What does the country you chose share in common with Canada? What are the main differences?
- **I**f you live in a mainly English-speaking area, find out more about the francophone communities in your province. How big are they? Where are they located? How did they come to be there? How do the people maintain their language and traditions? If you live in Quebec or New Brunswick, discuss how important it is for your province to be a member of La Francophonie.
- **G**ood teaching is crucial if French is to maintain its place as an important world language. Suggest ways in which your school board might improve the way French is taught in your system.
- **U**sing a dictionary, find 20 French words that have come from other languages.
- **T**hrough discussion, list as many French words or phrases as you can that are commonly used in English (eg: a la carte, RSVP). Find five words that are spelled the same in French and English; do they have the same meanings?
- **I**f there are any class members who speak languages other than English ask them to list words they use that are derived from French.
- **U**sing this booklet, encyclopedias, almanacs, and news magazines, come up with five questions each (nothing too obscure) that can be used in a game of Francophonie (or Commonwealth) trivia. Make a note of your sources in case someone challenges the accuracy of your questions or answers. Divide the class into two teams. Take turns asking questions you have prepared. Each team gets a point if someone answers correctly, two points if it is a really hard question. Questions can cover geography, politics, the arts, etc. Here are a couple of starters: In what part of the United States would you eat Cajun food (Cajun is a corruption of the word Acadian)? (Louisiana). What Francophonie member used to be known as the Belgian Congo? (Zaire).
- **Y**ou are expecting a visitor from another country for dinner. You want your guest to feel at home, so you plan a menu that includes dishes from that country. What will be on your menu for either a Senegalese, St. Lucian, or Romanian visitor? What main ingredients will you have to buy?