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VISIT TO CANADA OF MR. JEAN-MARC LEGER
PROVISIONAL EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE
AGENCY FOR CULTURAL AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, today announced that Mr. Jean-Marc Léger, Provisional Executive Secretary of the "Agence de Coopération culturelle et technique" (Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation), will visit Ottawa from Monday September 8.

During the first Conference of partly or wholly French speaking countries convened at Niamey by President Diouri of Niger in February 1969, and at which Canada took an active part, it was decided to study the creation of an Agency for cultural and technical co-operation, and to appoint Mr. Léger Provisional Executive Secretary. His visit falls within the framework of the consultations he has undertaken since the Niamey conference with countries which might participate in the Agency.

In Ottawa Mr. Léger will be received by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, with whom he had discussions last May. Mr. Léger will also meet Mr. Jean-Pierre Goyer, Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, and will have working meetings with senior officials. These meetings will concern the Agency and its activities.

A short biography of Mr. Léger is attached.

JEAN-MARC LEGER

Born in Montreal on January 8, 1927. Classical studies at Collège André-Grasset. Bachelor of Arts from University of Montreal in 1946. Law studies, degree in 1949. Studies in social and political science, degree in 1948. Studies in History, Master's degree in 1949. Studied at "l'Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris", 1949-1950. Journalist with daily La Presse from 1950 to 1956, with daily Le Devoir from 1956 to 1962. Director of "l'Office de la Langue française", Quebec Ministry of Cultural Affairs, in 1962 and 1963. Returning to Le Devoir in June 1963, he was on the editorial staff until 1967. In turn Secretary-General (1954-59) then President (1959-61) of "l'Union canadienne des Journalistes de Langue française", President of "l'Association internationale des Journalistes de Langue française" from 1960 to 1962. Secretary-General of AUPELF (Association of wholly or partly French-speaking Universities) since its foundation in September 1961. Author of a work entitled "Afrique française--Afrique nouvelle" and of two brochures, one on Quebec facing immigration and the other on the economic situation of French-speaking Canadians. Appointed Provisional Executive Secretary of "l'Agence de Coopération culturelle et technique" (Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation) during the first Conference of wholly or partly French-speaking countries at Niamey in February 1969. Mr. Léger is married and has three children.