

objectives have remained constant: to strengthen the association, to encourage more active participation in it by members, and to assist its development as a vehicle for practical co-operation. The organization has no binding rules and decisions are by consensus rather than formal vote.

A Commonwealth secretariat in London organizes and services official Commonwealth conferences, facilitates exchanges of information between member countries and collates their views. Canada's assessment to the 1976-77 budget of the secretariat was 20.6% of the total, or approximately \$912,000. In addition, in 1977 Canada contributed over \$11.0 million to many other Commonwealth institutions and programs, with particular emphasis on a Commonwealth fund for technical co-operation (\$6.5 million), a Commonwealth youth program (\$521,000), a Commonwealth foundation (\$401,000) and a Commonwealth scholarship and fellowship plan (\$2.2 million).

An important duty of the secretariat is organization of Commonwealth heads of government meetings such as the one in London in June 1977 and the next to be held in Lusaka, Zambia in mid-1979. Of approximately 50 Commonwealth conferences in 1977, almost half were in the non-governmental sector, such as the Commonwealth parliamentary conference in Ottawa. Major governmental meetings in 1978 include the Commonwealth senior officials meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Commonwealth finance ministers meeting in Montreal, and a Commonwealth youth affairs council meeting in Ottawa. In addition, Canada hosted the Eleventh Commonwealth Games in Edmonton, August 3-12, 1978.

### Canada and "la Francophonie"

3.6.2.2

The term "la Francophonie" generally describes countries whose language is wholly or partly French, that is, the French-language community. This term has also been used to designate a movement aimed at providing the French-language world with an organized framework and functional structures.

To demonstrate abroad the French aspect of Canadian society, the federal government fosters the strengthening of ties with francophone countries. In the last few years relations with French-language countries of Europe have been considerably expanded and diversified, complemented by the establishment of ties with the French-language countries of the Third World. Development aid remains an important activity.

Canada also participates in multilateral organizations such as the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation, of which it is a founding member. At the agency's fifth general conference, in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, in December 1977, it was agreed to develop scientific and technical co-operation within the agency, following the resolutions prepared at a conference of ministers responsible for science and technology held in Luxembourg in September 1977. Furthermore, the conference agreed to launch a special development program based on voluntary contributions from approximately half of the participating countries.

The conference also reaffirmed the principle of regrouping the agency's programs around three main cores — development, education and scientific and technical co-operation, as well as promotion of national cultures and languages.

Canada is a member of the conference of ministers of education of French-language countries; at the annual session which was held in Ouagadougou, Upper Volta in April 1978, Quebec, Ontario and New Brunswick participated as part of a Canadian delegation led by the Canadian ambassador to the Ivory Coast and Upper Volta. Canada also participated in the conference of ministers of youth and sports of French-language countries in Lomey, Togo in September 1977; the minister responsible for these matters in New Brunswick led the Canadian delegation.

The federal government is not alone in its efforts to draw francophone countries closer. On the bilateral level, the provinces take part in joint commissions and in the implementation of Canadian government aid programs. On the multilateral level, New Brunswick, Ontario, Manitoba and Quebec participate in some of the agency's activities. Since 1971, Quebec has had the status of a participating government within the agency's institutions, activities and programs. On a proposal of the Canadian government, the