

providing the French-language world with an organized framework and functional structures.

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. The conference agreed to launch a special development program based on voluntary contributions from approximately half of the participating countries. Canada is a main contributor to this program which has proved to be a successful tool of co-operation especially for the African countries involved.

The December 1979 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 held in Quebec in April 1979, Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick and Manitoba were represented.

Canada is also a member of the conference of ministers of youth and sports of French-language countries. In October 1978 a delegation to Paris was led by the Canadian ambassador to France, accompanied by representatives from Quebec, New Brunswick and Ontario.

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. Since 1977 New Brunswick has had similar recognition.

Various private French-language associations also work to develop relations between their members around the world. The agency has stimulated their activities and led to the creation of a number of new organizations. The Canadian government supports several that are either Canadian or have significant Canadian participation. The most recent of these institutions is the International Council of French speaking Radio and Television which was formally constituted in June 1978.

20.2.3 Canada and the OECD

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) was established in Paris in September 1961 to succeed the Organization for European Economic Co-operation (OEEC) founded in 1948 by the countries of Western Europe to facilitate reconstruction of their war-shattered economies and to administer the Marshall Plan. With the establishment of the OECD, Canada and the United States and later Japan (May 1964), Australia (June 1971) and New Zealand (May 1973) joined with the countries of Western Europe to form a major intergovernmental forum for consultation and co-operation among the advanced industrialized nations in virtually every major field of economic activity. At present 24 countries are full members while Yugoslavia has a special status entitling it to participate in certain activities.

The aim of the OECD is to facilitate the formulation of policy approaches which are conducive to stability, balanced economic growth and social progress of both member and non-member countries. The organization assembles and examines knowledge relevant to policy-making and is a forum, meeting the year round, for exchange and analysis of ideas and experiences from all member countries.

The organization plays a significant role in harmonizing international economic and financial policy and is the main area where industrialized nations hold consultations on