FRANCE and COMOROS

Convention concerning personnel assistance provided by the French Republic for the operation of the public services of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros (with annexes and protocols). Signed at Paris on 10 November 1978

Authentic text: French.

Registered by France on 30 March 1983.

FRANCE et COMORES

Convention relative au concours en personnel apporté par la République française au fonctionnement des services publics de la République fédérale islamique des Comores (avec annexes et protocoles). Signée à Paris le 10 novembre 1978

Texte authentique: français.

Enregistrée par la France le 30 mars 1983.

[Translation — Traduction]

CONVENTION¹ CONCERNING PERSONNEL ASSISTANCE PRO-VIDED BY THE FRENCH REPUBLIC FOR THE OPERATION OF THE PUBLIC SERVICES OF THE ISLAMIC FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF THE COMOROS

The Government of the French Republic, on the one hand, and

The Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros, on the other hand,

Conscious of the bonds of friendship between the two countries;

Desiring to co-operate on the basis of equality and mutual respect and interest.

Have agreed on the following provisions:

Article I. The Government of the French Republic shall, as far as possible, second to the Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros the technical assistance personnel whom the latter considers necessary for the operation of its public and semi-public services. The provision of such assistance shall be independent of any assistance forming the subject of particular conventions relating either to the operation of certain services or institutions, or to the execution of temporary missions with specific objectives.

PART I. PROCEDURES FOR THE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE FRENCH REPUBLIC

Article II. The principal function of the technical assistance personnel shall be to serve as advisers in the operation of the public services of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros and to participate in the training of their personnel.

In addition, the French Republic shall assist with the basic and further training, in French institutions, of civil servants and personnel nominated by the Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros.

Article III. The Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros shall communicate to the Government of the French Republic the list of posts to be filled, specifying for each post the place of residence, a description of the functions and qualifications sought.

The two Governments shall then draw up by agreement a list of posts which may be held by personnel seconded by the French Republic to the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros. This list may be reviewed annually.

Within the limits of the personnel thus agreed on, the Government of the French Republic shall second to the Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros such personnel as it can supply from its own personnel resources.

¹ Came into force on 2 February 1983, the date of the last of the notifications (effected on 24 July 1981 and 2 February 1983) by which the Contracting Parties informed each other of the completion of the required constitutional procedures, in accordance with article XX.

Article IV. To that end, the Government of the French Republic shall submit, as soon as possible, for approval by the Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros, the name of a candidate together with the necessary data, for each post listed pursuant to article III above.

The Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros shall have one month from the date of receipt of the nomination in which to give its approval or convey its decision of rejection.

Once that time-limit has expired, or in the event of rejection, the personnel who have not been accepted shall revert to the jurisdiction of the Government of the French Republic.

The latter shall, however, as far as possible, submit new proposals which may be accepted or rejected on the conditions set forth above.

For the purpose of facilitating this procedure of secondment and approval of civil service personnel, the Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros may put forward any proposals or suggestions designed to encourage the appointment of persons suited for a technical assistance mission by virtue of their special knowledge of specific issues in the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros.

Article V. On receipt of the notification of acceptance of the proposed candidate by the Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros, the competent French authority shall second the person concerned to that Government and take all the necessary measures for his transfer.

The accepted candidate shall be appointed and assigned to the post in question by decision of the competent authority of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros for a period of two years from the date of arrival in the territory of that State. That period may, as an exceptional measure, be reduced by the authority of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros.

Any transfer of the personnel covered by this Convention contemplated by the Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros which would result in a change in the level or nature of the post to which they were appointed by virtue of article IV above shall be subject to consultation between the two Governments.

Transfers may not take place until the personnel concerned have been consulted, but their refusal may lead to termination of their secondment.

Article VI. On expiry of the period laid down in article V, paragraph 2, the personnel shall automatically revert to the Government of the French Republic. They may, however, be retained in their posts, with their consent, for no more than six months by a simple exchange of letters at least one month before the expiry of the normal tour of duty.

The secondment may be renewed at the request of the Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros.

In the event of termination of service, the Government of the French Republic shall, at the request of the Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros, propose a new candidate to replace the person concerned.

Article VII. The Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros may at any time terminate the secondment or employment provided that they notify the other Government

accordingly. In such event, a joint decision shall be taken concerning the date of departure of the person concerned.

When an assignment is terminated prematurely by unilateral decision of the Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros, all the expenses connected with the return travel shall be borne by that State.

Such termination of assignment shall not preclude replacement of the person concerned on the conditions set forth in the foregoing articles.

Article VIII. The personnel shall have such leave as they are entitled to under the French regulations applicable to them.

Such leave shall not terminate the secondment unless the Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros should deem it necessary. In such event, the French Government shall be informed at least one month before the departure of the person concerned.

The evacuation of staff for health reasons, sick leave involving repatriation, convalescent leave and extended leave granted outside the territory of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros shall terminate the secondment of the staff concerned. The same shall apply when the person concerned is retired in accordance with the staff regulations governing him.

The costs of repatriation or evacuation shall then be borne by the French Republic.

PART II. MUTUAL OBLIGATIONS OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES AND THE PERSONNEL

Article IX. The personnel seconded for service with the Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros under this Convention shall carry out their functions under the authority of that Government and shall be bound to comply with its regulations and instructions. They shall receive from the said Government assistance and protection on the same terms as civil servants.

The two Contracting Parties undertake not to require of them any act or manifestation not connected with their duties.

Article X. The personnel shall be bound by the obligation of confidentiality with regard to all facts or information which come to their knowledge in the performance of their functions and shall also refrain from any act which might embarrass either the French Republic or the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros.

Article XI. The personnel seconded for service with the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros may not engage in any gainful activity in its territory.

As an exceptional measure and when warranted in the general interest, this prohibition may be waived by joint decision of the two Parties.

When the spouse of a person seconded to the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros wishes to engage in any public or private gainful activity in the territory of that State, the person shall make a prior declaration to that effect to the competent Comorian authority and to the French representation who shall take joint measures deemed to be in the interests of the service and of safeguarding the national interest of the two Parties.

Article XII. The Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros undertakes to make good any damages caused by personnel seconded to it under this Convention by the Government of the French Republic in the performance of or because of the performance of their duties. If legal proceedings are instituted in connection with such damages, the French officials against whom action has been brought shall be represented at the trial by the Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros.

The Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros may request the Government of the French Republic to make good damage which is the result of personal misconduct.

In the case of damages suffered by such French personnel in the performance of or because of the performance of their duties, except where there has been personal misconduct, the Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros shall pay fair compensation. Requests for compensation shall be transmitted to the Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros through the Government of the French Republic.

Article XIII. The Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros shall guarantee to such personnel and their families:

- (1) Freedom to leave and return to the territory of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros;
- (2) Immunity from jurisdiction and execution for any words spoken or written, or action taken in the performance of their duties.

Article XIV. The Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros shall forward to the French representation annual reports on the manner in which the personnel seconded to it under this Convention have performed their duties. Such reports shall be issued on evaluation forms provided for this purpose.

PART III. APPORTIONMENT OF FINANCIAL COSTS

Article XV. The Government of the French Republic shall bear the cost of:

- —The remuneration and family allowances which personnel seconded to the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros may claim under French regulations;
- —Transportation of each person and his family from his place of residence to the point of entry in the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros and, subject to article VII, paragraph 2, at the time of repatriation from the point of departure in the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros to the place determined, in so far as he is concerned, by the French regulations in force;
- —The travel allowance applicable to the above journeys, subject to the same reservation;
- —The contribution necessary to maintain the personnel's pension rights in accordance with the rates in force under French regulations.

Article XVI. The Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros shall pay to the Government of the French Republic a contribution for each person seconded to it as a contribution to the costs of his remuneration.

Procedures for this contribution shall be specified in an implementing protocol.

Article XVII. The Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros shall provide to each person seconded to it furnished accommodation suitable for his duties and family situation.

The procedures for providing such accommodation shall be specified in an exchange of letters.

The personnel seconded for service with the Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros shall receive medical treatment and hospital care for themselves and their families on the same basis and terms as permanent civil servants of equivalent grade of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros.

The Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros shall not grant to the personnel covered by this Convention any special remuneration in their personal capacity other than that applicable to mission expenses inside and outside its territory, to overtime or leave or to reimbursement of expenses for which provision is made in Comorian regulations.

The foregoing provisions do not preclude the possibility of providing benefits in kind (electricity, water, car or telephone) envisaged in Comorian regulations.

Article XVIII. The fiscal and customs arrangements applicable to technical assistance personnel seconded by the French Republic to the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros shall be set forth in a special protocol.

PART IV. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article XIX. This Convention shall apply to technical co-operation personnel who are serving in the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros at the date of its entry into force.

Article XX. This Convention and its annexes are concluded for a period of five years and may be renewed by tacit agreement unless denounced by one of the Contracting Parties. Notification of denunciation shall be given through the diplomatic channel at least six months in advance.

The two Contracting Parties shall notify each other of the completion of the procedures required under their constitutions to give effec to this Convention, which shall enter into force on the date of the last notification.

Either Contracting Party may at any time request the amendment of one or more of the provisions of this Convention and the start of negotiations for that purpose.

DONE at Paris on 10 November 1978 (in two original copies).

For the Government of the French Republic:

[Signed]

ROBERT GALLEY
Minister of Co-operation

For the Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros:

[Signed]

ALI MROUDJAE
Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Co-operation and Foreign Trade

ANNEX CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE XVI OF THE CONVENTION CONCERNING PERSONNEL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE FRENCH REPUBLIC TO THE ISLAMIC FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF THE COMOROS

Article I. Pursuant to the provisions set forth in article XVI of the Convention concerning personnel assistance provided by the French Republic, the Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros undertakes to pay to the French Government, as from 1 January 1980, as a contribution to all the costs set forth in article XVI, paragraph 1, a fixed monthly grant amounting to the CFA franc equivalent of 100 French francs, for each person concerned, throughout the period of secondment, including the statutory administrative leave following the completed tour of duty. The amount of this grant may be revised by joint agreement at the request of either Government.

Article II. In the case of personnel seconded for service with certain para-statal industrial and commercial bodies having budgetary autonomy, provision may be made for a special contribution, the amount of which shall be determined by means of an exchange of letters.

Article III. A statement of monies due, drawn up on the basis of personnel serving or on statutory leave as at 1 January, shall be issued by the Government of the French Republic and shall cover the period from 1 January to 30 November.

The amount specified in that statement shall be paid by the Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros before 1 December.

The statement of monies due issued for the month of December shall reflect any adjustments to take into account the actual number of personnel between 1 January and 30 November.

Payment in respect of the statement of monies due for the month of December shall be made before 31 March of the following year.

DONE at Paris on 10 November 1978 (in two original copies).

For the Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros:

[Signed]

ALI MROUDJAE
Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Co-operation and Foreign Trade

For the Government of the French Republic:

[Signed]

ROBERT GALLEY
Minister of Co-operation

ANNEX TO THE CONVENTION CONCERNING PERSONNEL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE FRENCH REPUBLIC FOR THE OPERATION OF THE PUBLIC SERVICES OF THE ISLAMIC FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF THE COMOROS CONCERNING JUDICIAL PERSONNEL SECONDED FOR SERVICE WITH THE ISLAMIC FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF THE COMOROS

Article I. The purpose of this annex is to determine, in accordance with the provisions of article I of the Convention concerning personnel assistance provided by the Government of the French Republic to the Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros, the specific arrangements for co-operation between the French Republic and the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros with regard to judicial personnel seconded for service with the latter State.

The provisions of the above-mentioned Convention shall be applicable to such judicial personnel in so far as this annex does not derogate from them.

Article II. The Government of the French Republic undertakes to assist the Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros, on request, in the professional training of candidates for judicial functions and in the advanced training of judicial personnel.

Article III. Judicial personnel seconded to the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros shall continue to be governed by the statutory provisions applicable to them, without prejudice to the provisions of this Agreement.

Judicial personnel seconded to the Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros shall enjoy the independence, advantages, guarantees, privileges, honours and prerogatives to which members of the judicial profession of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros are entitled.

The latter State shall protect judicial personnel from any threats, offensive behaviour, insults, defamation and attacks of any kind to which they may be subjected in or in connection with the performance of their functions and shall make good any damage arising therefrom.

Judicial personnel may not be challenged in any way regarding decisions in which they participate, utterances in court or acts relating to their functions, unless such utterances, acts or decisions constitute a breach of the duties of their office or of honour, tact or dignity. In the event of such breach, the penalties provided for in the General Convention concerning personnel assistance provided by the Government of the French Republic to the Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros shall be applied to them.

Prior to taking up their duties, they shall take an oath in the manner prescribed for members of the judicial profession of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros.

Article IV. Judicial personnel seconded to the Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros may not be given a new appointment without their prior consent. Nevertheless, when the necessities of the service so require, they may be temporarily assigned to other functions with the consent of the French representation in the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros.

Article V. Correctional or criminal proceedings may be instituted against a judicial officer for offences committed outside the performance of his duties only on the recommendation of a commission composed of two judges designated by the Minister of Justice of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros and two judicial officers designated by the Government of the French Republic.

The commission so designated shall meet when convened by the Minister of Justice of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros. Opinions shall be conveyed, if appropriate, to the competent public prosecutor's office. It shall elect its own chairman.

Should proceedings be instituted, the Government of the French Republic shall be kept informed and the judicial officer against whom the proceedings are being taken shall be entitled to the special jurisdiction provided for in the applicable legislation of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros.

Article VI. The most senior of the highest-ranking judicial officers seconded to the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros shall, in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Convention concerning personnel assistance, draw up and transmit reports on the performance by the judicial personnel of their duties, in the manner and at the intervals prescribed in the regulations governing them in their original service.

Done at Paris, on 10 November 1978 (in two original copies).

For the Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros:

[Signed]

ALI MROUDJAE
Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Co-operation and Foreign Trade

For the Government of the French Republic:

[Signed]

ROBERT GALLEY Minister of Co-operation

- ANNEX TO THE CONVENTION CONCERNING PERSONNEL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE FRENCH REPUBLIC FOR THE OPERATION OF THE PUBLIC SERVICES OF THE ISLAMIC FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF THE COMOROS CONCERNING TEACHING PERSONNEL
- Article I. The list of requirements in respect of French teaching personnel at the primary, secondary and technical levels shall be transmitted to the Government of the French Republic before 1 February each year with a view to their being seconded in good time. The Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros must receive the reply of the French Government before 15 April.
- Article II. Such personnel shall be appointed by decision of the authorities of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros for a period of two school years which may be renewed by tacit agreement, in accordance with a list of posts determined by mutual agreement.
- Article III. The weekly hours of work required of the teaching personnel seconded by the Government of the French Republic for service with the Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros and the mode of applying them shall be those in force under Comorian regulations for personnel of the equivalent category.

The Government of the French Republic shall be kept informed by the Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros of any change in those regulations.

- Article IV. Teaching personnel seconded for service with the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros shall be granted the school holidays established by the relevant Comorian regulations. Annual leave shall, however, be no more than 75 consecutive days in the case of personnel performing administrative duties.
- Article V. With a view to the normal career development of teaching personnel, the Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros shall authorize the inspection of such personnel by educational inspectors and professional examinations for them in the manner laid down in the regulations in force in the French Republic.

The costs of such inspections shall be borne by the French Republic.

These inspections shall not replace those carried out by the Comorian authorities on all teaching staff in the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros.

DONE at Paris, on 10 November 1978 (in two original copies).

For the Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros:

[Signed]

ALI MROUDJAE
Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Co-operation and Foreign Trade

For the Government of the French Republic:

[Signed]

ROBERT GALLEY
Minister of Co-operation

- ANNEX TO THE CONVENTION CONCERNING PERSONNEL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE FRENCH REPUBLIC FOR THE OPERATION OF THE PUBLIC SERVICES OF THE ISLAMIC FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF THE COMOROS CONCERNING CERTAIN MILITARY PERSONNEL SECONDED TO THE ISLAMIC FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF THE COMOROS
- Article I. The purpose of this annex is to determine the special measures applicable to military personnel other than those referred to in the Agreement on co-operation in military matters.

The provisions of the General Convention shall be applicable to such personnel in so far as this annex does not derogate from them.

Article II. The military personnel seconded to the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros to serve in posts under its authority shall have the status of detached armed forces personnel for the normal tour of duty plus embarkation leave, annual leave and outward and return travel time.

At the request of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros, their period of detachment may be extended for a second tour of duty.

Article III. Military personnel detached for service under the authority of the Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros shall retain the rights and continue to be subject to the obligations of their staff regulations, as defined by the legislation and regulations in force in the French Republic, particularly as regards promotion, performance reports, discipline, wearing of uniform, right to medical treatment and hospitalization under the military medical service, pension contributions and pension rights.

In all these matters, the military personnel shall be subordinate to the armed forces attaché of the French Embassy.

- Article IV. In making appointments to posts within the framework of the General Convention, a count shall be taken of the statutory rules relating to rank so that none of the detached military personnel has under his command military personnel of higher rank or senior to him in the same rank.
- Article V. Personnel of the military medical service seconded for service with the Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros shall continue to be subject to inspection by the general officers of the armed forces medical service in so far as the obligations relating to their status as officers are concerned. The Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros shall be notified in advance of the arrival of such inspection missions.
- Article VI. For the purposes of the application of article X of the Convention concerning personnel assistance to personnel in the military medical service, the two Governments undertake to enforce the provisions of the French and Comorian codes of medical ethics.

Done at Paris, on 10 November 1978 (in two original copies).

For the Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros:

[Signed]

ALI MROUDJAE
Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Co-operation and Foreign Trade

For the Government of the French Republic:

[Signed]

ROBERT GALLEY
Minister of Co-operation

PROTOCOL CONCERNING CUSTOMS REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PERSONNEL

(Article XVIII of the Convention concerning personnel assistance provided by the French Republic for the operation of the public services of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros)

Article I. Technical assistance personnel may import their personal goods and effects free of all customs duties and indirect taxes, provided that such goods and effects are currently in use and are imported within a six-month period. They may re-export them on the same duty-free and tax-exempt basis upon their final departure.

- Article II. They may import or purchase locally, on the same duty-free basis and under the same exemption from indirect taxes, the following new equipment:
- -An air conditioner,
- --- A radio.
- Article III. They shall be authorized to import, under the regulations for temporary entry, one vehicle per household for personal use under the conditions required by the customs legislation in force in the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros.
- Article IV. Sale of the appliances and the vehicle mentioned in articles II and III above to persons other than technical assistant personnel shall incur the statutory duties and taxes.
- Article V. The provisions of this Protocol shall enter into force under the same conditions as the Convention concerning personnel assistance provided by the French Republic for the operation of the public services of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros.

DONE at Paris, on 10 November 1978 (in two original copies).

For the Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros:

[Signed]

ALI MROUDJAE
Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Co-operation and Foreign Trade

For the Government of the French Republic:

[Signed]

ROBERT GALLEY Minister of Co-operation

SPECIAL PROTOCOL CONCERNING THE TAX RÉGIME FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PERSONNEL

- (Article XVIII of the Convention concerning personnel assistance provided by the French Republic for the operation of the public services of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros)
- Article 1. Technical assistance personnel seconded by the Government of the French Republic for service with the Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros shall be liable for general income tax as it is currently defined by Comorian legislation. Amendments to the provisions of the preceding paragraph may be made by exchanges of letters between the two Governments in the event of a change in the Comorian legislation in force on the date of signature of this Protocol. If new taxes are created by the Comorian Government, the exchange of letters shall also specify those taxes for which technical assistance personnel may be liable.
- Article II. With respect to the general income tax, the taxable gross amount earned by each official during the previous calendar year shall be reported to the Comorian Government by the French Government before 28 February of the following year. The personnel concerned shall have one month from that date to submit their declaration of income to the Comorian tax authorities.
- Article III. After exclusion of all family benefits and deduction of the mandatory withholdings or payments required of the individual concerned in respect of retirement or social security benefits, this taxable gross amount shall consist of:
- —The gross annual base renumeration according to grade earned by the official during the period of actual stay in the Comoros;
- —All remuneration for the leave period.

Article IV. As an exception to Comorian ordinary tax law, the base deduction for each dependent child shall be increased to 250,000 CFA francs for the first child, plus 50,000 CFA francs for each additional child.

The provisions of the preceding paragraph may be re-examined by mutual agreement in the event of any amendments to the Comorian tax law in force on the date of signature of this Agreement.

Article V. The provisions of this Protocol shall enter into force under the same conditions as the Convention concerning personnel assistance provided by the French Republic for the operation of the public services of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros.

DONE at Paris, on 10 November 1978 (in two original copies).

For the Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros:

[Signed]

ALI MROUDJAE
Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Co-operation and Foreign Trade

For the Government of the French Republic:

[Signed]

ROBERT GALLEY Minister of Co-operation