

going on in the world. They are exposed to a stream of half-truths and distortions from their own press and radio and it is most desirable that the facts should be available to them. Thus it is important that the C.B.C.I.S. should provide a good deal of straight news and also a certain amount of commentary and opinion on the news. It has been found that listeners to these broadcasts not only want to hear about events but want to know what opinion in the free world may be about these events.

The department, therefore, believes that a good deal of emphasis should be given to news and commentaries. Without in any way slanting the news or distorting it, it is possible to counter much of what is said about us behind the iron curtain. In this way Soviet charges against the West can be answered and Soviet policies can be put in the proper perspective. It is not considered desirable to imitate the polemic tone of the Soviet and satellite radios. It is ideas and not individuals that should be attacked.

It has been indicated that some members of the committee are interested in the methods followed to ensure that there is adequate consultation between the department and the C.B.C.I.S. From the beginning it has been the practice of senior officers of C.B.C.I.S. to visit Ottawa frequently for consultation with senior officers of the department. Officers of the department have been seconded for periods of duty with C.B.C.I.S. In this way those concerned with policy at C.B.C.I.S. have been helped to familiarize themselves with the main policy objectives we in the department follow.

About a year ago a senior member of our foreign service, Mr. Jean Désy, was appointed to the post of Director General of C.B.C.I.S. and in this capacity he has been able to bring the benefits of his long and close familiarity with Canadian foreign policy directly to bear on the technical problems of broadcasting. An officer of this department also was appointed to form a full-time liaison link. This officer spends part of each week in Montreal and through him constant consultation regarding policy takes place both in Ottawa and in Montreal. He carries with him to Montreal selected policy papers and reports from our posts abroad and brings to Ottawa scripts of foreign language broadcasts for comment and criticism in the Department. Some of these scripts are sent to our posts abroad to obtain the views of Canadian representatives in the areas concerned. This officer is in a position to interpret and explain verbally to the C.B.C.I.S. the emphasis which should be placed on the policy papers, memoranda and other relevant material supplied by the Department. For its part, C.B.C.I.S. has a policy co-ordination unit in Montreal and recently has established a new unit for the preparation of commentary material to make more effective use of the information supplied by the Department. C.B.C.I.S. also now has a full-time news correspondent established in Ottawa whose office is linked directly with C.B.C.I.S. by teletype. Although this officer is not associated directly with the formation of policy, he is in touch with the Department of External Affairs and with other government departments in Ottawa and helps to ensure that C.B.C.I.S. has full access to policy statements as soon as they are made public.

It has been our practice for some time to have External Affairs officers who are going abroad and many of those returning from service in other countries spend some time at C.B.C.I.S. in Montreal for the purpose of exchanging views and experiences.

The heads of political and geographical divisions in the department and the heads of our missions abroad, as a part of their duties, devote attention to the needs of C.B.C.I.S. and, although they cannot be expected constantly to take the initiative, they do from time to time suggest lines of approach which C.B.C.I.S. might follow, or make program suggestions which are forwarded to Montreal with our comments.