

- First, leaving the existing situation intact, but concentrating on a few refinements in selected areas;
- Second, turning the responsibility over to some other federal department or agency - such as the Secretary of State or the Canada Council - or to some combination of departments and agencies;
- Third, creating a new administrative agency, possibly along the lines of the Swedish Institute, the British Council, the International Communications agency, or the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst;
- Fourth, revising the administrative structure in order to make it more efficient, responsive and forceful.

Few are enamoured of the first option, either inside or outside the Department of External Affairs. Outside the Department, there is concern over the inadequacy of Canada's international cultural relations at present; the need for more effective coordination; and the subordination of cultural matters to political ends. Inside the Department, concern is often expressed over the tendency for the cultural community in general and the other funding agencies in particular to expect the Department to carry the full burden for Canada's international cultural relations, particularly when the Department's existing financial and administrative resources are already strained to the utmost. Given these legitimate concerns, it would be a mistake to assume that Canada's relations in this important field can be advanced by making only a few remedial changes in the existing situation.

Some believe that it would be better to turn responsibility over to some other federal department or agency or some combination of these. Of the many different possibilities, the Secretary of State and the Canada Council are the most logical, since most of the others - such as the National Museums Corporation, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, the National Film Board, the Canadian International Development Agency and the like - are far too specialized to take on such an onerous responsibility. In fact, on closer examination, it does not make sense for the Secretary of State or the Canada Council to assume the responsibility either. As far as the Secretary of State is concerned, its responsibilities are internal rather than external, and it is highly unlikely that it would give Canada's external cultural relations the attention they would need and deserve, even though some opportunity would exist for greater coordination between the domestic and international components of Canadian cultural policy. Moreover, shifting responsibility to the Secretary of State would have profound political implications for the whole structure of the Federal Government in terms of Canada's external relations. On the other hand, the Canada Council does have some international authority by virtue of its Act. However, its responsibility is limited to the arts and does not extend into other important sectors of cultural life. Finally, it would always be possible to transfer responsibility to a number of government departments and agencies - such as the arts to the Canada Council, science to the National Research Council and sports to the National Sport and Recreation Administration Centre but this would weaken Canada's international cultural relations to the point of making them ineffectual. Moreover, the coordinational problems would be even more difficult than they are at present.

There are many who favour the establishment of a new, independent agency similar to the Swedish Institute, the British Council, the International Communications Agency, the Japan Cultural foundation or the Deutscher Akademischer