

to several academic missions, of which two merit particular mention. First, a delegation of German state educational authorities visited several Canadian provinces to plan exchanges of high-school students and teachers. Second, representatives of the Association of Community Colleges of Canada visited a number of European and African countries to discuss international cooperation at the junior college level.

Given its unique nature, the Department of External Affairs must take care not only to build a strong Canadian academic presence abroad. It must also build a strong domestic base of support for these activities at home. This is a comparatively new dimension of the Department's overall responsibilities, but one that is growing rapidly in importance. As a result, in recent years, much effort has gone into the domestic side of the academic relations program and liaison work with other governmental and non-governmental organizations. These efforts are similar to those the Department expends on the artistic side to ensure that the artistic community is in touch with its efforts to promote Canada's artistic relations abroad.

The central purpose of the domestic academic relations program is to stimulate interest and intelligent debate about foreign policy matters within Canada. This is encouraged by the widespread use of departmental speakers, conferences and the dissemination of background information. In 1977, officers of the Department gave about 140 lectures and seminars. In addition, 15 special lectures were given by distinguished journalists, academics, and foreign officials to members of the Department. To activate interest in foreign policy in Canada's academic community, several foreign service officers were seconded as "visitors" to various Canadian universities. Under this program, foreign service officers are freed from Departmental duties for one academic year in order to teach, write, research and present lectures and seminars on various aspects of Canadian foreign policy and international relations. In 1977-78, officers were seconded from the Department to the universities of British Columbia, Laval, Dalhousie and Mount Allison.

Finally, the Department is becoming more and more conscious of the need to coordinate its activities with the provincial ministers of education and university affairs, the Council of Ministers of Education, and the various universities and community colleges throughout the country. Given Canadian constitutional arrangements, closer working arrangements are being forged daily between the Department and these essential institutions in the educational field. There is hardly a program, an agreement, or a mixed commission which is developed without strong participation from many quarters of the educational establishment. Although these negotiations take time and effort, the Federal Republic of Germany - which has a similar constitutional composition to Canada - has demonstrated repeatedly that the rewards of full consultation are well worth the effort.

Athletic Relations

Over the last decade, Canadian involvement in international sport has soared astronomically. Spurred on by the escalating interest within Canada in international hockey, soccer and track and field, as well as by the Olympic and Commonwealth Games, Canadians everywhere are taking an active interest in all types of world sport and athletic competitions. The responsibilities of the Department in this field have grown apace.