

program of value to the post and the country. This was a highly individual matter and some posts did little or nothing in this area. Where specialized information officers were located a much more structured and sometimes very successful information activity was generated and pursued.

Interdepartmental coordination of information activities was a responsibility of the Department. This duty was performed, often with dogged determination rather than conviction as to its need, with very doubtful success. The sessions of the interdepartmental committee on information abroad tended to be sporadic meetings without significant agendas where each department or agency was content to recite its recent activities but where no critical judgments of policy or programs were sought or vouchsafed. Attendance was inclined to be spotty and representation tended to be lower in rank as time went on. The feeling was sometimes explicit that these meetings were a waste of time and that an exchange of documentation could have accomplished anything in the proceedings of the meetings. The real business of relating the business of one agency to that of another was accomplished by a series of bilateral contacts where a sense of reality, issue by issue, was present. Certainly the Department of External Affairs had very active and purposeful liaison individually with the CBC International