

mission is automatically involved in provision of information by replies to enquiries and public addresses and by extensive documentation, circulation of films and recordings. Information activity is augmented outside the mission by short-wave broadcasting and by commercial distribution of films and T.V. programmes. Finally, the publication abroad of Canadian information by press agencies or representatives in Canada or by foreign journalists visiting Canada almost certainly provides the bulk of news and information about Canada appearing in foreign countries. There are certain limitations on public information activities by diplomatic missions imposed by diplomatic propriety and political judgment. While an official information service reaches to the public and not directly to governments, it must be careful not to appear to appeal to the public of a foreign country over the head of or in defiance of the foreign government; and it is the more alert and politically integrated foreign services that run the greater danger of offending a host government. Certainly Canadian policies are not always in sympathy with the policies of other governments and, while information about Canadian policies should not be generally denied in such cases, the manner of presentation calls for considerable delicacy and scrupulous avoidance of public argument. Similarly, any public comment on disagreements with third-party governments represented in a foreign capital must be avoided or presented matter-of-factly and, if possible, indirectly. However, such occasions are infrequent and should not impose any general timidity to present and explain official Canadian views.