

ministries of culture - or their equivalent - and the Department of External Affairs. As yet, there is no formal Council of Ministers of Culture, although it is expected that one may be formed in the not-too-distant future. In some of these fields, there are additional organizations with which consultations must take place, such as the Assembly of Arts Administrators which is composed of the heads of the arts councils across the country. As far as the environment is concerned, the situation is more complicated and unstructured at the moment. While some of the responsibility for consultation and coordination resides with the provincial ministries, depending on how environmental matters are handled in particular provinces. At present, however, there is no single inter-governmental organization through which consultation and coordination can be channelled. Although this entire structure is in a rather embryonic state of development at present, active consultation and coordination between the Department of External Affairs and the various provincial institutions concerned with Canada's cultural projections abroad is mandatory if Canada is to evolve a dynamic program of cultural relations with the rest of the world in the future.

Just as consultation and coordination on a sustained and systematic basis is required with the appropriate provincial authorities, so such consultation and coordination is required with the municipal authorities, even though a theoretical case could be made for the fact that this essential element of external cultural policy is covered in a constitutional sense through interaction with the provinces. The very fact that the municipalities are becoming progressively more active in international cultural affairs, coupled with the fact that they are very much affected by such affairs, means that it would be a drastic mistake to exclude them from planning future developments in this field.

#### Relations with the Cultural Community

Countries like France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Sweden, Italy and Great Britain which are extremely successful in the external field know how essential it is to have effective relations between the federal authority charged with responsibility over external cultural affairs and the cultural community. A detailed analysis of the programs of these countries reveals the integral involvement of academics, artists, architects, scientists, designers, craftsmen, athletes, media specialists and the like in the planning and execution of programs designated for international audiences. There is daily contact between these individuals - and the organizations they represent - and the central planning authority. Obviously, these countries have learned from long experience that effective consultation and coordination here is of critical importance in the realization of a dynamic program of international cultural relations.

In Canada, relations between the cultural community or the private sector and the Department of External Affairs have been slow to materialize. This fact, among others, accounts for Canada's relative inability to take full advantage of the limitless opportunities which exist in this field. Over the past decade, insufficient attention has been rendered to the global aspects of Canadian culture. One measure of this is the lack of consideration devoted to these aspects at conferences and seminars over the last few decades. Another measure of this is the incredible paucity of books, articles, reports, studies and information on this subject. This problem is aggravated by the fact that there is a natural hiatus between foreign and domestic policy at the best of times, since the former is externally focused.