

too little in explaining to Canadians what the department does and the contribution we make abroad. Is this not a responsibility the department might undertake to some degree?

Mr. ROBERTSON: I think it is a question of departmental policy and probably one to which the minister would wish to address himself on his return. In the meantime, I would say that the department has been steadily enlarging and improving qualitatively its information services, both in Canada and abroad. I think we made a real effort to get our annual report out early for the complete calendar year, not for the usual past fiscal year as is the general requirement in Ottawa. We tried to get it out in a form which I think is more readable than it used to be, and I think it is reaching wider reference circulation.

We also publish monthly the *External Affairs* bulletin, which gives a pretty balanced and authoritative account of the main activities in Canada, and which compares favourably, I think, with almost any other country. We do a fuller and more prompt job in getting out our annual volume on the work of the United Nations.

Mr. SMITH (*Calgary South*): I agree with you. My concern is that your circulation is to a fairly select group of people. I was going to call them intellectuals, but I thought I would include members of parliament in the group. My concern also is that it is too limited in its scope.

Mr. ROBERTSON: It is limited. The distribution list is checked to see that it goes to people who are interested in continuing to receive it. You can spend an awful lot of money for very uncertain return with a policy of large handouts. It is a question of balance and judgment. Maybe we could do a little more. I am only making the point that I think over the years we are steadily doing more, and I think the quality of the work of the information division is of quite a high order.

Mr. SMITH (*Calgary South*): I would like to support that. It is of a very high order, and I am not criticizing what you do, but are there not some methods by which you could disseminate information at less cost to more people?

Mr. STINSON: In that connection, I am not belittling the work of that department of the government, but I would just like to say that the bulletin which the department puts out I consider to be excellent, and I know this is a view that many other people have also. I would also like to say that I think there should be greater effort exercised in respect of the volume of distribution of the bulletin, the report on the U.N. and the annual report of the department. Unlike my friend Mr. Smith, I do not think these things should be distributed in a massive way.

Mr. SMITH (*Calgary South*): I was not suggesting that, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. STINSON: I am sorry if I misinterpreted you. I think the thing should go to people who have an interest in the work of the department, and perhaps only to those people and institutions specifically requesting that it be sent to them. I think that to a large extent people who get these things should pay for them. I rather expect that this is the policy of the department at the moment in respect of all three publications.

Mr. VIVIAN: This is not a question; it is more a bone, if I may express it that way, and no answer is needed. I did raise this matter when the minister was present. I would like to have the matter of representation abroad looked into by the administration. Would the administration of the department give further consideration to the reorientation of F.S.O.'s coming back from abroad to the Canadian scene outside Ottawa? My reason for suggesting it is that in conversation with several persons who have been posted to New York and