

"In the case of western Europe, where reliable news is readily available, it is our policy that C.B.C.I.S. should help to develop, in NATO nations, a spirit of community and the appreciation of our common heritage and destiny, and should contribute to the growth of confidence in our common cause.

"In broadcasting to audiences behind the iron curtain, a definite aim is pursued; and here our policy may be said to be, in the simplest terms, to preserve peace and check the inroads of Soviet imperialism, in an attempt to bring the truth about the west and about Soviet imperialism to those people who, actively or passively, support aggressive Moscow-directed policies; and to strengthen the morale, faith and determination of the many friends of freedom and democracy who still live behind the iron curtain but whose voices have been silenced. In these days when a Soviet-inspired opinion 'peace campaign' is being conducted all over the world, our policy is also to stress our peaceful, unaggressive purpose while demonstrating at the same time our ability and determination to defend ourselves against aggression and to win a future war, which could only be started by the Soviet regime and its obedient satellite regimes.

"As I have stated before, it is part of our program to unmask the hypocrisy of communist 'democracy' in elections, trade union and labour camps, religion, etc., and the hypocrisy of Soviet 'peace propaganda', and also to keep alive, among the oppressed peoples of eastern Europe and the Soviet union, knowledge and appreciation of liberal democracy and the civilization and code of ethics of the west.

"In our broadcasts to eastern Europe we are careful to distinguish between, on the one hand, the Kremlin and the satellite regimes it controls, and, on the other hand, all the peoples of the Soviet union and the satellites, with whom we wish only friendly, co-operative relations based on mutual respect, and whole traditions we still honour. In other words, we attempt in these broadcasts to distinguish between the people and their governments.

"From this you will see that policy guidance is the responsibility of the Department of External Affairs but the execution of this policy in the main is the responsibility of C.B.C.I.S. They are the technicians, the specialists in the field of shortwave broadcasting who are best equipped to interpret a given line in terms of a shortwave broadcasting program."

That is the end of the quotation from the Minister's statement.

This, in the main, continues to be our basic policy in broadcasts to Europe. Recently added stress has been placed on broadcasts to the "captive" peoples—those ethnic groups which have only recently passed behind the iron curtain or those which have had a long history of cultural or national identity. Here we have had to avoid any appearance of encouraging revolts, which, I think members of the committee will agree, would only serve to make the plight of these peoples even more unfortunate. We do, however, wish to do what we can to keep alive their spirit and to let them know that we have not forgotten them. As members of the committee will appreciate, this policy presents a difficult and delicate problem for C.B.C.I.S. to solve in terms of day-to-day broadcasts.

I shall turn now to other aspects of the problem of how to make our broadcasts effective. One of the things that can be done in shortwave broadcasting is to give the news, especially about international affairs, and informed comment on current events. Indeed this is perhaps the most important contribution which shortwave broadcasting can make in the "war of ideas". One need only reflect for a moment on the complete absence of reliable news in a country where the press and radio are mere branches of the state propaganda machine to realize the value that attaches to unbiased news. People who live under these conditions have almost no other way of learning what is