

I. DESCRIPTIVE REFERENCES

The functions of the Department of External Affairs are described in the following way in the official reference work "The Organization of the Government of Canada" (1975):

"The main functions of the department are:

- (a) the supervision of relations between Canada and other countries, and of Canadian participation in international organizations;
- (b) the protection of Canadian interests abroad;
- (c) the collation and evaluation of information regarding developments likely to affect Canada's international relations;
- (d) correspondence with other governments and their representatives in Canada;
- (e) the negotiation and conclusion of treaties and other international agreements; and
- (f) the representation of Canada in foreign capitals and at international conferences."

A quite different way of describing the work of the Department is employed in the estimates submitted to Parliament where the activities of the Government are set out, by program and by objectives, for parliamentary financial approval. The External Affairs page of the "Blue Book" of Estimates for 1975/76 reads as follows:

"A - DEPARTMENT - CANADIAN INTERESTS ABROAD PROGRAM

OBJECTIVE

To promote in their international dimensions the national objectives of economic growth, sovereignty and independence, peace and security, the promotion of social justice, quality of life and a harmonious natural environment.

SUB-OBJECTIVES

- To seek acceptable solutions to international problems that affect Canadian interests and to promote conditions of peace, order and the rule of law in the international environment.
- To facilitate the expansion of economic, cultural, scientific and technological relations with other countries.
- To protect the rights and property of Canadians abroad.