

Press Office

developing sport in Canada. Besides assisting many Canadian teams in 1975 with their foreign travel arrangements, the division was involved in bringing two top Soviet hockey teams to play against National Hockey League teams in Canada and the United States, and in sending Canadian Olympic athletes to train in Cuba and to compete with their Cuban counterparts.

The more than 17,000 enquiries from the public answered by the Information Division during 1975 fell into two principal categories — questions from Canadians about international affairs and questions about Canada from persons abroad.

Relations between news organizations and the Department are the responsibility of the Press Office. It assists journalists — in the Parliamentary Press Gallery and throughout the country — in reporting on Canadian foreign policy and current international developments, handles their inquiries and arranges briefings on these subjects, serves as liaison between the news media and the Secretary of State for External Affairs, and acts as “spokesman” to provide formal departmental response. It facilitates the work of Canadian journalists travelling abroad on reporting assignments, including those accompanying the Secretary of State for External Affairs on visits to other countries or to attend international conferences; and it arranges press conferences for foreign officials visiting Ottawa.

The Press Office is also responsible for issuing the Department's press releases, speech texts and policy statements on international affairs, and it provides Canadian posts with texts of policy statements on international developments.