

be responsible for the disposition of all Government films other than those for which specialized departmental distribution has been authorized.”

3. After reading this excerpt from the Act, Mr. McLean stated that if the Department wished to control the distribution of films abroad, the Act would have to be amended and his only course would be to take the matter up with his Minister.

4. Since it was evident that nothing could be gained by pursuing the discussion along these lines, it was agreed by both parties to put aside the question of control and to confine the discussion to a consideration of ways in which collaboration might perhaps be more closely effected. The discussion was to some extent irrelevant, since in the absence of a decision on control, it was conducted in a vacuum. However, one proposal emerged which seemed to suggest a partial solution of the problem, viz: that an Advisory Committee be established.

5. It was suggested that this Advisory Committee be composed of representatives of the Department and the Film Board, with the Department ensured of “an adequate voice”. It was suggested that the Department should name two members to the Committee and the Film Board from two to four as might seem appropriate, having regard to the fact that voting on disputed issues would not be by numbers but by Departments.

6. Mr. Anderson asked whether, in that event, the Department would have the determining voice as to whether a certain film should be distributed abroad. To this Mr. McLean replied that he could not permit himself to be directed by such a committee, but that should a dispute arise, it would be “referred upward”; the views of the Department would be taken into consideration and, if Mr. McLean felt that the Department’s view was mistaken, it would be a matter for discussion between himself and the Under-Secretary. He did not think, however, that such disputes would be likely to occur very often.

7. It was then suggested that the Advisory Committee might discharge the following functions:

(a) to screen completed films and, if desirable, recommend the withholding or altering of a film before international distribution took place.

(b) in the light of information on forthcoming productions for the domestic field, to make suggestions which might improve films for international distribution.

(c) to advise on the distribution of films to the various post libraries of the Department.

(d) to make recommendations for the production of foreign versions of NFB films.

(e) to contribute suggestions in conformity with policies of the Department.

8. In respect of distribution abroad, Mr. McLean felt that the Film Board should appoint its own international distribution officers to Paris, Bombay and Sydney (including Indonesia and Malaya), as well as maintain its present officers in London, New York, Chicago and Mexico City. Such officers would be directly responsible in matters of local discipline to the Head of Post but would be paid by NFB and would communicate direct with NFB on all film matters, sending copies to the Department. Some doubt was expressed by Mr. [G.C.] McInnes as to