

confirmed by the Department at the time, at least the duty and vocation of the Canadian Government for public information abroad was generally accepted by mid-1948. In Circular Document B. 109 of June 21, 1948,⁽²⁾ a memorandum was sent to all Canadian posts abroad under the title of "Relationships of Information Division with Missions." The introduction to this memorandum gives the key to the approach the Department, and presumably the Government, was taking towards the work of public information abroad. In confident, almost dogmatic tones, it states:

All responsible governments sincerely committed to international co-operation firmly believe that the provision of authentic public information to other countries is an integral and essential aspect of the conduct of foreign affairs. There is also a growing realization that there is a similar responsibility on governments to provide fuller information within each country on foreign policy and international affairs. Fundamentally, the reasons are straightforward enough. The speed of modern communications and of technological developments have created the physical conditions whereby the world has become a neighbourhood. Foreign affairs today are not the exclusive province of government, but are of direct, immediate and vital concern to the man and woman in the street. In democratic states the influence of public opinion on policy is continuous and ultimately decisive. To act wisely public opinion must be in possession of the facts. In the last resort international relationships depend upon mutual understanding and comprehension not merely at the official level--but at the grass roots.

To facilitate a better understanding of Canadian policies and of Canadian affairs is one