

SPEAKERS' PROGRAMME - 1980/81

Each year, the Department of External Affairs, under its Academic Relations Programme, draws up a list of officers who are prepared to give talks or participate in seminars at the invitation of universities, community groups, clubs, associations and organizations interested in international affairs. We therefore encourage you to think of Canadian diplomats when you require an expert in the areas of departmental activity outlined in this booklet. You may view this as returning to Canadian universities dividends on the training received from them. Since speakers talk best about topics with which they have worked for years, the booklet is arranged by subject, to help you select the most appropriate speaker. The list need not be regarded as exclusive in terms of topics or individuals. Special requests are always welcome.

While the formal type of lecture is not excluded, a preference is expressed for the informal type of gathering, such as seminars and working groups consisting of approximately 25-50 persons. Such gatherings are generally found to be more satisfying to the participants and to yield better results. Although our speakers are not expected to perform as spokesmen in the official sense, they will refer to government policies, comment on subjects of Canadian interest and analyse world affairs drawing on their professional backgrounds. The speakers would be prepared to answer questions during ensuing discussions. Unless prior consent from the Department has been obtained, these talks may not be reported or attributed in the media. In this way, it is hoped that a more frank and effective dialogue can be developed.

Requests for speakers should be directed to the Academic Relations Division; if possible, several weeks in advance. Travelling expenses required to implement the program are normally met by the Department. In most cases it would be desirable to make arrangements for the speaker to visit several centres or universities on a circuit, as this would represent a more economical use of resources and might help to meet requests more equitably. At times we cannot meet the original commitment; however this is exceptional and we always strive to provide a substitute.