

wherever Canadian interests are involved or are likely to be affected. This work of reporting goes on day after day, indeed day and night. Telegrams, despatches and personal reports flow in to the East Block from our offices abroad and from our contacts with other Governments through their offices in Ottawa and elsewhere. Ambassadors, Ministers and High Commissioners come back from their posts and tell us what they have seen, what they have heard, what they have learned, from their own observations on the spot. At the same time, the process of analyzing, interpreting and consolidating goes on in the twelve divisions which make up the Department of External Affairs.

On the basis of these reports made by the Department, the Minister and the Government make their decisions and develop the policies which govern Canada's relations with other countries. For this reason the task of reporting is probably the most important work of the Department. For it is these reports which are the material from which Canada's foreign policy is made.

The other major task of our diplomats is to carry out the decisions taken by the Government and to advance Canadian interests in our relations with other countries in accordance with policies approved by the Government.

Thus, much of the time and energy of our officers is taken up with negotiating with other Governments under instructions from the Minister or the Cabinet. Negotiations between Governments are normally carried on by diplomats. For the most part, negotiations between countries are very like the negotiations which go on before a deal is closed in private business. It is true that sometimes there is rather more formality. But sometimes there is a good deal less.

Diplomatic negotiations have to do with a wide range of subjects from the important to the trivial. Many of us believe that the North Atlantic Treaty may mean the difference between peace and war in our generation. Canadian public men have rightly been given a large measure of credit for laying the groundwork of that historic pact. What is less known is that Canadian diplomats had a great deal to do with bringing the Treaty to the point of signature. Before it was finally agreed and signed with due solemnity in April of last year, there were many long weeks of negotiations between representatives of the western nations. Canadian diplomats worked and sweated for many hundreds of hours with their colleagues from Britain, the United States and the other countries of the Alliance, before a text was produced which met the desires and necessities of all. The North Atlantic community has emerged as the most significant achievement of western foreign policy in recent years. But there will still be many more weary hours of discussion, proposal and counter proposal, draft and redraft, of negotiation in fact between diplomats, before the work of North Atlantic organization is complete.

Diplomatic negotiations may be concerned with much less important and exciting things than multilateral treaties and alliances. They may be merely bilateral, that is, seeking agreement between only two nations. For example, not many months ago, negotiations with the United States Government resulted in a new agreement between the two Governments concerning civil aviation. In this case, the conclusion of the agreement does not seem to have terminated the negotiations! Or again, negotiations

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