

imprisonment for any term not exceeding five years (*Financial Administration Act*, Sections 92 and 93).

## **PROPRIETY IN RESPECT OF COMMERCIAL PRACTICES**

### **GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES**

On December 16, 1977 the President of the Treasury Board informed the House of Commons that the Prime Minister had instructed the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce to ensure that procedures and practices in their departments continue to be consistent with the policy established for crown corporations on propriety in commercial practices abroad. In furtherance of this policy, the following statement was issued by the deputy ministers of both departments to guide the activities of employees acting in support of Canadian commercial firms operating abroad:

“Officials of the Government of Canada or its agencies, in the process of conducting official business or promoting sales in foreign states will do all they can to inform Canadian businessmen of all factors that would influence their sales prospects but must not under any circumstances counsel or advise engaging in any corrupt or illegal practice.

Accordingly, in pursuing the interests of Canada abroad, officials must not directly or indirectly:

- (a) take action in Canada that is not in accordance with the laws of Canada, or take any action outside Canada that violates the laws of the foreign state concerned, or that if taken in Canada could contravene the Criminal Code of Canada;
- (b) render, accept or solicit or counsel the rendering, acceptance or soliciting of; any bribe or improper benefit;
- (c) apply improper influence.”