

has never been rescinded and the direction, motivation, scope and effectiveness of information abroad have been the product of departmental, rather than wider governmental decisions.

Immediately after the amalgamation of the C.I.S. with the Department in 1947 a conscious process began of cutting this relatively large organization down to departmental size in both personnel and financial resources. The reduced level of 1948 was to govern and persist for almost twenty years, despite reduced value of the currency, despite general departmental growth and despite increasing demands from the posts for more and better information activities. During this period there were periodic fluctuations from austerity to relative prosperity but the resource profile for information work remained remarkably constant.

During most of this period the information work settled into established routine and little opportunity was offered for imagination or innovation. However, a good deal of solid spade work was put in in the effort to keep posts informed and to offer them at least standard fare in the way of factual material and features. At most posts there were no trained information officers but a junior officer with some interest in information or cultural affairs had some tools to work with and, if he or she had flair, could manage to produce a local information