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PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Press Office

The Press Office is responsible for relations between the Department and the press, radio and television. It assists the communications media in reporting on Canadian foreign policy and current developments in international affairs, and helps keep the Department informed of news stories and events that could affect its work. The Press Office gives regular briefings to the press and answers questions on important international developments. It facilitates the work of Canadian journalists travelling abroad, including those accompanying the Secretary of State for External Affairs or other representatives of the Government attending conferences. The Press Office arranges for the distribution of press releases, policy statements and speech texts on international affairs, and assists in the preparation of press conferences for the Secretary of State for External Affairs and for distinguished foreign visitors to Ottawa.

The Press Office keeps Canadian posts abroad informed on major news events in Canada and Government policy announcements. Policy statements are sent in English to 62 posts by wire and 24 by air mail, and in French to 22 posts by wire and six by air mail. A nightly bulletin of Canadian news, prepared in English by Canadian Press and in French by Radio Canada, also goes out to posts by wire and air mail. The Press Office provides assistance to posts abroad in dealing with the press in their areas, particularly to Washington, New York, London and Paris, which have press officers as members of the staff.

Information Division

Operations Outside Canada

The main responsibility for the projection of Canada abroad rests with the Information Division, which assists posts abroad through the provision of a wide range of information materials and encourages them to take advantage of opportunities to disseminate information on Canada. Through the Interdepartmental Committee on Information Abroad, the Division seeks also to co-ordinate the information activities of all government departments with interests abroad.

Publications and Photographs

In addition to the periodical publications the *Canadian Weekly Bulletin* and the monthly *External Affairs*, and such non-periodical publications as treaties, state papers and diplomatic lists, the Department produces each year general information publications designed to acquaint the people of other countries better with Canada. *Facts on Canada*, a booklet for school use, was available abroad in 1969 in English, French, Spanish, German, Italian, Dutch, Japanese, Portuguese, Serbo-Croatian, Czech, Russian and Danish. Reprints in English, Dutch and Spanish were in hand, and a Polish version was in production, with reprints in other languages at the planning stage.