

by creating, late in 1944, a small Information Division within the Department. The opening gun in the campaign to achieve this was fired by Mr. R. G. (Gordon) Robertson in a memorandum, May 26, 1941,⁽²⁾ to the Under-Secretary, Mr. Norman Robertson. At the time Gordon Robertson was a sort of Chef-de-Cabinet in the office of the Under-Secretary. This memorandum served to elicit the interest and comments of a number of senior officers of the Department and set in train the thinking which impelled the Department to stake a claim in the territory of information abroad and to provide an organizational base from which to work. The memorandum starts from two points: 1) that the W.I.B. was not satisfactorily meeting the information and cultural requirements called for by posts (the specific case in point involved representations about film and radio material from T. C. Davis, High Commissioner to Australia) and, 2) that it was fair to assume that W.I.B. would disappear at the end of the war and that External had best think about the machinery the Department would then need to carry on some level of informational and cultural work abroad. An extract from the R. G. Robertson memorandum follows:

It is becoming increasingly clear that it is going to be necessary, especially after the war, to enter into what are euphemistically called 'cultural relations' to a degree that is impossible with our present organization. The fate of the W.I.B. after the war will determine in part the nature and extent of the Departmental organization that is established, but whether it