

Also attached for reference purposes are the following:

- (1) Notes on Mr. McLean's remarks concerning some of the points I mentioned in our interview of June 27th.†
- (2) Documents relating to recent difficulties we experienced in connection with Canada's participation in European film festivals.†
- (3) Copy of P.C. 472, of February 5, 1947.†

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DEA/2755-40

Extrait du procès-verbal de la réunion

Extract from Minutes of Meeting

[Ottawa], October 4, 1949

REPORT OF A MEETING BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NATIONAL FILM BOARD
AND THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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After an exchange of courtesies, Mr. Anderson opened the meeting by stating that the Department had read with the greatest interest and care the brief submitted by the National Film Board (attached with comments by Mr. Bellemare).† He felt that the document made a friendly and intelligent appraisal of the situation and opened the way for progress at the working level. At the same time, since he was representing the Under-Secretary at this meeting, he thought it proper at the outset to restate Mr. Heeney's basic position.⁵ This could be defined as follows: the conduct of Canada's external relations is the responsibility of the Department of External Affairs; Canadian information abroad in all its aspects is an integral part of the conduct of Canada's external relations; therefore the Department must exercise control over the distribution of Canadian films abroad.

2. Mr. McLean in reply stated that, while he was prepared to accept collaboration and co-ordination, he was not prepared to accept direction or control. He stated that he had a definite obligation under the National Film Act of 1939, which he must discharge. He read out the relevant section of the Act, which runs as follows:

14. "(1) There shall be a Central Government Film Distribution Service.

(2) The Director of the Bureau shall be the Director of the Central Government Film Distribution Service and he shall, subject to the other provisions of this Act governing distribution, take all possible steps to secure quality, economy and efficiency in the operation and development of such service.

(3) All Government films shall be distributed by the Central Government Film Distribution Service, except in cases of commercial or specialized departmental distribution approved by the Commissioner, and the Bureau shall serve as repository for the storage and preservation of all Government film negatives and shall

⁵ Heeney avait déclaré son point de vue lors d'une réunion dans son bureau avec les officiers de l'Office national du film, le 7 septembre 1949.

Heeney had stated this position at a meeting in his office with officers of the National Film Board on September 7, 1949.