

size or to seek to influence domestic policies on transportation, banking and communications. For some reason, however, recognition by the Federal Government of legitimate provincial concerns in the area of foreign policy was slow to develop. Presumably the distinction can be explained by the fact that foreign policy is somehow different, that other nations expect Canada's position in the councils of the world to be firm. Reaching decisions in the crucible of federal-provincial conferences is somehow unpalatable because other nations might get the impression that the Canadian government is not completely in command of the ship of state. To a certain extent, the myths surrounding the conduct of foreign policy as they relate to the federal government should be dispelled. In this respect, the creation of the Federal-Provincial Co-ordination Division in the Department of External Affairs is a welcome sign because it gives recognition to the fact that there is a federal-provincial perspective on external affairs.

What do provinces do in the area of international affairs? What are some of the areas of provincial concern? What are the problem areas? An inventory of provincial activities in the realm of international affairs leaves one with a better understanding of the scope of provincial interests. While the activities detailed below are restricted to those of the Province of Alberta, those of other provinces do not differ markedly in either kind or degree.

#### Activities abroad

Alberta maintains offices in London, Tokyo and Los Angeles. The largest overseas office is Alberta House in London. Several provincial departments have representatives stationed there, to deal with international and intergovernmental affairs, business development and tourism, and advanced education and manpower. Alberta House, far from competing with the Canadian High Commission, complements its activities. From the perspective of the provincial government, Alberta House is the province's main link with Europe. It handles numerous inquiries about emigration, travel, trade and business opportunities in Alberta. Specific and detailed information can be given by individuals thoroughly familiar with the province, its economy and climate. At the same time, assessment of European trade opportunities can be made by staff totally familiar with the province's economic goals and aspirations. The type of information sought is useful to the provincial

government in developing its policies and priorities. The offices in Tokyo and Los Angeles have smaller staffs and their activities are concerned primarily with developing and improving trade relations. Numerous routine inquiries about the province are also dealt with. In summary, the overseas operations provide an important vehicle whereby information can be given or acquired on trade, tourism or other matters of interest to the province.

In the past three years, Premier Lougheed has made three official visits to different parts of the world — Japan in 1973, Europe in 1975 and the United States in 1976. It is worth while noting that these missions were planned in conjunction with the Department of External Affairs and the Canadian embassies in the countries visited. There was a high degree of co-operation between the federal and provincial governments. While each mission had a different purpose, two factors were common to all of them — observing and explaining. The Alberta government could observe for itself, at first hand, policies developed in other countries. Topics of discussion ranged from North Sea oil development to labour relations in Germany; from trade opportunities in Japan to energy concerns of the Northwest United States, from the development of social policies in France to the industrial development of coal gas in Germany. In each case the information obtained related to provincial policy concerns.

#### Other purpose

The other purpose of these missions was to explain Alberta's policies, plans and aspirations to a number of audiences on a wide range of issues, from trade to foreign ownership of land. The Premier could also explain the realities of decision-making within the federation, with respect to energy pricing for example. While in Europe, Mr. Lougheed gave his support to Prime Minister Trudeau's desire to forge a "contractual link" with the European Economic Community. Seen in this light, the various missions that have been undertaken by the province enrich Canadian foreign policy. The net effect has been not to undermine Canada's position in world affairs but to enhance it. Improved trade relations, scientific exchanges and capital investment have often been a direct result of these missions.

Through Culture Alberta, the province has developed a modest program of foreign assistance. Culture Alberta provides grants that supplement funds raised by non-governmental organizations involved in international aid work. These

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