

impression that the Department is casual or inept in this regard. There is no doubt that the operation would be delicate and not without perils and therefore would impose a considerable burden of responsibility on the press officer. The job not only demands an experienced officer with access to up-to-date factual information over a broad range and intimate knowledge of policy direction and development but an officer enjoying the confidence and support of Minister and Deputy Minister and vested with authority and discretion. There is no doubt that a decision to approve and systematize this function will result in press recognition of an anonymous departmental "spokesman" or porte-parole. A recent intervention in the House by a single Member of Parliament revealed at least this Member's disapproval of a Department of Government permitting a spokesman to issue certain types of information. A judgment on how widespread such a reaction might be is not for me to make but I have no evidence that any general feeling exists on the subject. Certainly most Foreign Ministries with whose operations I am acquainted have long had and continue to cherish the tradition and operation of an official spokesman. It is quite unreasonable to suppose that any Foreign Minister can find time to answer all enquiries and provide all information sought by the press. Certainly a Minister must make all announcements of Government policy but he cannot be expected