

Let me explain what I mean by reporting. I mean the collection and interpretation of information about what other governments in the world are doing, or what they are likely to do, which may have some effect, good or bad, on Canada, on Canadians. I mean letting the Government know, promptly and accurately, about events in other countries - happenings - the knowledge and appreciation of which will enable our Government to make intelligent and informed decisions. Let me give one or two topical examples. What is taking place today in China? How will these events likely affect Canada, the safety and the freedom of action of Canadian missions in that far country, the prospects of Canadian trade the extension of Canadian aviation in the Far East? What attitude are the British, the Americans, the Indians taking toward the new Communist regime?

In a matter such as this difficult and complex Chinese question, the Department has a number of sources to tap, our Embassy in Nanking and the news and views of our remaining officers there and in the Consulate General in Shanghai; Canada House in London and our Washington Embassy; our High Commissioners in New Delhi and Karachi and our offices in other countries having interests and experience in the Far East. We have, too, the advantage of direct contact in Ottawa with the representatives of many of the countries principally concerned.

All of this information, from these various sources, is gathered and analyzed in the Department in Ottawa. For what purpose? So that our Minister and the Government may, in the light of such information and advice, make decisions, adopt policies. What should Canadian shippers do about the Nationalist blockade of the Yangtse? Should Canadian representatives in China deal with the Communist authorities, do business with them? Would recognition of the new regime by Canada and other friendly powers strengthen the Soviet bloc? Would it hasten and heighten the surge of Russian imperialism into all of South East Asia, or would the long deferment of recognition isolate us from the Chinese people, exclude from China all genuine democratic influences? Where is the balance of advantage from the Canadian point of view? What does our information indicate as the right policy in the national interest?

One could give many other examples from the continuous flow of reports which come in to the Department. What is the nature of the military assistance which the United States is likely to give to North Atlantic countries? Under what conditions, financial and otherwise, will such aid be made available? How will this affect Canada, our dollar position, our joint undertakings with the United States for North American defence? Will the United States Services be able to make purchases of military supplies from Canadian factories? How can the Canadian interest, the Canadian situation in these circumstances best be put to the United States administration, to Congressional leaders? What arrangements are being made by Britain to obtain agricultural products from soft currency countries? What does this mean for the Canadian food contracts in terms of Canadian agricultural and commercial policies? Or again, what effect upon Canada's overseas trade is to be expected from the closer integration of European economies of which we now hear so much? What form is such integration likely to take? What are the views in London? In Paris? In Belgium and Holland?

Upon these and many other questions the Government expect to receive, and do receive, up-to-date reports and advice,

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