

From those consultations engaged in by my own Department, and from examination within the Department of the reasons which, from our own standpoint, make closer relations desirable, we have drawn some conclusions. We should like to continue the type of exchange which this present seminar represents. There is an increasingly varied range of discussion about international affairs sponsored by universities, learned societies and organizations such as the Canadian Institute of International Affairs. The Department of External Affairs derives benefit now from having officers attend a number of such meetings at the invitation of the sponsors. If sponsors of such meetings wish, from time to time, to arrange discussions, more or less under the conditions characterizing this present seminar, involving officials and those with similar interests from the universities and elsewhere, we shall be glad to consider co-operative arrangements within the limits of our own resources.

I have examined other means of developing exchanges in what I hope could be a mutually-profitable manner. I should like to have some officers from the Department of External Affairs freed from normal operational responsibilities at home or abroad to spend a year examining, in a more reflective way, the best ways of achieving Canadian objectives in areas in which they already have knowledge and experience. I think that a "sabbatical" year of this type would be a good deal more profitable if the officer concerned were to leave Ottawa and live on a university campus. The resources for formal research there, added to the opportunity for continuing discussions with faculty members and informal involvement in university life with a different environment of thought, would certainly stimulate the examination in depth of Canadian objectives and techniques which I should like to encourage. At the same time, through such exchanges an experienced foreign service officer can make his contribution to a better understanding of world affairs and Canadian involvement in them.

I believe also that, to enable the Department of External Affairs to keep up with a steadily-increasing volume of study and with changing methods of research in international relations and area studies, it would be desirable to have academic specialists speak to groups in the Department and perhaps to add their contribution to the training and orientation given new foreign service officers before they undertake their first assignments abroad.

We have been examining other projects, but this is not the occasion for a general review of relations between the Department of External Affairs and the universities. I wanted primarily to ensure that you would see this seminar not as an isolated occurrence involving a relatively small number of individuals discussing a complex subject in a couple of days but as part of a process. With the continuing friendly co-operation of the organizations we have recently consulted and others, we hope to ensure that, over a period of time, we shall develop those wide and varied contacts on which real communication about matters of common interest depends.

The proceedings of this seminar are not to be made public. I would ask your permission, however, Mr. Chairman, to bring these introductory comments to public attention.

I hope too that the academic participants in this seminar will, in due course, write about their experience here as a means of fostering wider discussion. The deliberations taking place over this weekend are not secret. It is true that,