

The installation of modern equipment in certain missions abroad means that we can now maintain a rapid flow of information and can consult with them in a manner which has been impossible heretofore. Our communications division estimates that it will be another year before our expanded system is operating at full efficiency.

In discussing the estimates for our communications, I should point out first that because of unavoidable delays in the installation of Telex (a form of communication similar to teletype in which the subscriber rents terminal equipment only and pays for use of circuit time in much the same way as for a long distance telephone call) abroad which has only recently been completed, there has been little, if any, change in the pattern of expenditures for telegrams.

Our estimate for cables for the fiscal year 1956-57 in departmental administration was \$150,000. To the end of January 1957 the sum of \$164,000 had been expended and by the end of the fiscal year we had spent a total of \$213,000. This increase in telegraph charges was mainly caused by increased consultation with our missions abroad brought about by events in Egypt and Hungary. For 1957-58 we have estimated \$114,168 for cables. but in view of the continued heavy volume of telegraphic communications, we now estimate that this year's cable account will be more than \$200,000.

Since our last report on departmental communications, we have been able to obtain the use of trans-Atlantic Telex facilities which became effective only in December of last year. This should serve to reduce overall telegraph charges but, again, insufficient time has elapsed to enable us to provide a reasonable forecast.

At the end of the 1955-56 fiscal year it was necessary, due to delays in deliveries of communications equipment, to request a re-vote of \$300,000. Of this amount we have now expended all but \$74,000 which will, due to further delays in delivery, have to be provided in 1958-59.

For Ottawa and abroad in 1957-58 we are asking for \$112,000 for the acquisition of new communications equipment to supplement and continue the expansion of our communications network.

You may recall that the departmental grant to the National Research Council for technical assistance in the field of communications security last year totalled \$279,000. Due to increased demands on the National Research Council by this and other government departments it has been estimated that this department's share of costs will this year amount to \$335,000. The nature of this subject is such that members of the committee will appreciate that it would not be in the public interest to go into greater detail.

As was forecast in last year's statement, the use and adoption of modern communications equipment and methods has produced significant economies in typing and duplicating telegrams. It has, in addition, made possible the distribution of copies of telegrams by diplomatic bag and mail from London to posts abroad, thereby reducing the volume of material carried by air across the Atlantic.

#### *Informational activities*

The information work of the department has the essential and definite aim of promoting our interests abroad. The monies requested for this purpose serve to make Canada better known and appreciated in other countries and to explain, where this is desirable, our policies and attitudes. These operations are planned and carried out in close consultation with the other agencies of government concerned, so as to avoid duplication and to promote the most effective use of available resources.