

The Information Division was initially headed by T. W. L. MacDermot who gave imaginative and vigorous direction to a relatively new and unfamiliar, possibly distrusted, instrument of diplomacy. This "Old Information Division" never mustered at any time more than ten persons, all ranks. The creation of the C.I.S. and its relationship to the Information Division and to the Department as a whole was naturally to be of serious interest, mixed with some concern, to this Department. The duties and responsibilities of the Information Division were relatively restricted at the time. They included response to enquiries from the press and public, preparation of the Monthly Bulletin, press conference arrangements, production (not writing) of press releases, liaison with information agencies, cultural affairs, distribution abroad of circular despatches, W.I.B. releases and departmental reports. These functions largely related to liaison and distribution, and very little production was involved. However, there is evidence that a sense of the Department's vocation in information abroad was growing and a feeling that the Department had a central responsibility for controlling the kind of information provided to foreign peoples and also for carrying out, abroad, the work of distributing information except at a few posts where the use of "specialists" might be warranted.