

(1) Statement by Mr. Wrong in a memorandum to Mr. MacDermot, dated March 22, 1946: "The primary responsibility for publicity abroad rests with External Affairs and is not shared with Trade and Commerce, since it is a part of the foreign policy of the Government. Responsibility for action in particular countries derives from the Secretary of State for External Affairs...". This memorandum bears, in Mr. N. Robertson's handwriting, the marginal comment: "I agree entirely".

(2) Statement by Mr. Pearson in his letter of August 4th, 1948, to General Vanier: "General agreement has been reached that non-theatrical distribution is the responsibility of the Department of External Affairs..., while theatrical distribution will continue to be the responsibility of the National Film Board."

(3) Marginal comment made by yourself on a memorandum from Information Division, dated March 29th: "It will be as well for us to accept battle soon on the main front, and ram it home that External Affairs, and not the National Film Board, is in charge of policy, i.e. *what* films are to be given non-theatrical distribution (and perhaps commercial as well) abroad, and where."

7. It is evident by now that the sense of conflict which exists between the Board and the Department derives, not from a disagreement on material organization that a meeting of officers must discuss and eliminate, but from a basic policy disagreement on the subject of responsibility for Canadian information abroad.

8. Under the circumstances, there appears to be no possibility for the Department to discharge its responsibility for Canadian information abroad in respect of films, until the Film Commissioner fully recognizes this responsibility in practice, or until the Department's over-riding control is confirmed at higher level.

9. In order to bring to an end this unsatisfactory situation, I suggest that a meeting be arranged between yourself and Mr. McLean, for the purpose of acquainting him with the Department's views on information abroad, including film distribution.³

10. Should the Film Commissioner agree to recognize in practice the Department's over-riding authority in the foreign film field, he might then be acquainted with the steps which we think it desirable for the Department to take in order to ensure, in future, its control of information through the medium of films. I am attaching a draft agenda† in which these steps are defined. A subsequent meeting of officers of the Department and the Board might iron out details in respect of staff requirements, disposition of material and planning of distribution which are involved.

11. Should the Film Commissioner withhold his agreement, I believe that further discussion of this problem with him would be useless, and I suggest that the Minister might be requested to take up the matter with Mr. Winters⁴ and place the Department's views before him.

³ Note marginale:/Marginal note:

Mr. Mayrand Mr. Anderson I w[oul]d be glad to meet with you, McLean and other rep[resentative] of the NFB as a first step *to see whether* a basis of agreement is possible. Next week—Thurs. at 3 pm? Aug. 30 A H[eeney]

⁴ Robert Winters, ministre de la reconstruction et de l'approvisionnement, responsable de l'Office national du film.

Robert Winters, Minister of Reconstruction and Supply, responsible for the National Film Board.