

Discussion of the role which individuals can and must play in the development of Canadian foreign policy leads naturally into consideration of the rather special position occupied by members of the academic community.

University professors traditionally, and university students more recently, have taken an active part in the Canadian foreign-policy debate. Many members of the university community have made thoughtful and valuable contributions to the development of our external relations. It is recognized, of course, that the university community and those charged with day-to-day responsibilities have a different approach and outlook on foreign policy. In my view, however, the formulation of foreign-policy ideas by both government and academics must be carried out with two points in mind: first, that foreign policy is a complex and continuous process and, second, that Canada is not alone in the world. The views and positions of other independent countries must be taken into account in the formulation of our policies. These two points are not always given sufficient importance.

Canada cannot afford a dialogue of the deaf, or even of the hard-of-hearing, between the Government and the university community on foreign policy. We must encourage an interaction of the two -- each with its own role and contribution.

In an effort to foster increased contact of a positive kind, we established an Academic Relations Section within the Department of External Affairs earlier this year. The Section has been examining various means by which co-operation between the universities and the Government can be extended.

The activities of the Section are aimed at development and expansion of a stimulating and mutually-beneficial environment in which the universities will be able to make a positive contribution to our efforts to maintain and develop further a foreign policy which serves the interests of Canada and the world. We have already taken steps to have more Departmental officers available for discussions of foreign policy with university audiences, and we hope that the universities will increasingly give us the benefit of their growing expertise in international relations and area studies.

Another proposal, at present under consideration, is the suggestion that experienced foreign service officers be periodically released for temporary attachment to universities, perhaps along the lines of university sabbatical arrangements. This would have the double advantage of making the officer's experience in the practical conduct of Canadian foreign policy available to faculty and students, while exposing him to the ferment of ideas found on university campuses and giving him time to do research and reading away from the pressure of day-to-day problems.

Our policy is not intended to stifle criticism. Nor do we want university students and professors to pull their punches.

On the contrary, we hope that even more ideas will be suggested by the universities as an increasing contribution to Canadian foreign policy.

After four years as Secretary of State for External Affairs, I am convinced that the interplay of government and individual in the development and conduct of Canadian foreign policy has been constructive and, on the whole,