

This interchange, this two-way traffic, is vitally important in foreign affairs. There is no field in which a greater need exists for Government policy and public opinion to be in harmony. There is a demand for a united front on foreign policy.

The second impression that I have, as I reflect on these past few months, is of the variety and multiplicity of problems with which a modern foreign office must deal. In a few minutes, I propose to discuss some of the more important and the more serious of these problems. But before doing so, I desire to make one point about the way in which our international business is conducted, and the many forms which it takes.

The nerve centre of the Canadian diplomatic service is the Department of External Affairs in Ottawa. It controls the activity of a network of offices all over the world which represent and protect Canadian interest abroad, provide the Canadian Government with what is perhaps best described as political intelligence on conditions and trends in other countries, and conduct negotiations with other governments on specific problems. We now have sixty-three of these establishments, including Embassies, Legations, Consular offices, and permanent missions accredited to the United Nations and to NATO.

The men and women who are on the staff of these offices abroad are accustomed to variety. They may be sitting with Indian and Polish colleagues on an International Commission responsible for supervising the peace in Indochina. They may be negotiating an agreement with the Government of India or Pakistan or Ceylon or Burma, under the aid programme known as the Colombo Plan. They may be supplying the Government with news and interpretation of events in the Middle East, or attempting an assessment of Mr. Khrushchev's latest cocktail comment. They may be speaking as Canada's representatives in the Council of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, or in any of the scores of committees and agencies of the United Nations. Or they may be engaged in seeking new markets for Canadian goods in Africa or Asia or Latin America. And closer to home they may be serving as Canada's salesmen or advocates in what is one of our most challenging diplomatic tasks -- the field of our relations with the United States. I may say that there is in the United States today a growing current of awareness of Canada and its problems, and an increasing recognition of the direct impact on Canada of many American policies and actions. We are heartened by these signs -- there are many of them, but I have in mind particularly the recently announced intention of the United States Senate to conduct an enquiry into Canadian-United States relations.

I have made passing mention of only a few of the tasks which we require our foreign service to do. I make no apology for calling them to your attention, because these officials, and the tasks which they perform, are of vital importance to the welfare of our country. But, particularly, I wish to emphasize that we have,