

already marketing becomes increasingly vague, it seems essential to create stronger organic links between the STA system and the foreign trade divisions. An effective group for interaction would consist of commercial counsellors who have technical ability and scientific counsellors who have a clear understanding of the stakes involved in external trade. It does not appear necessary to leave that to occur only when the personnel happen to be so inclined. Recruitment should be done for that specific purpose.

Because of Canadian practices we cannot consider setting up an independent body on the Swedish model, but we could base ourselves on the British example: the interdepartmental group through which the user departments channel their requests and indicate their areas of interest to the STAs may produce directives that are not as clear as those the STAs would like to receive, but it is unquestionably a useful tool of communication for those who will use it. Admittedly, it operates in Britain under the Department of Trade and Industry, but there is nothing to suggest that the mechanism cannot be adapted to function under the External Affairs Department, which in this specific field of science and technology tends to make decisions by default or too much from the standpoint of political expediency.

The suggestions arising from this study could be summarized as follows:

- It is important to conduct a survey of the user circles in an attempt to determine not so much their opinions on the STA systems in Canada and other countries but rather their needs, particularly those needs for which they would consider asking for government help.
- The home base would be most appropriately set up under the External Affairs Department, with an organic relationship (but not amalgamation) with the units responsible for foreign trade.
- The home base should be given enough professional people (one officer per post, as in the British system) in a sufficient variety of fields, and those people should be exempted from the rotation system (at least for assignments in the areas of science and technology).
- The authority of the External Affairs Department should be clarified - and tempered - by establishing a governing and monitoring body somewhat like the British interdepartmental group.
- It is essential to set up a system for liaison with the provinces and the main users (industrial associations, for instance). That system should make it possible for those users to intervene on an advisory basis in the setting of priorities, for example, and should enable the home base to obtain their help in disseminating information and, in a more general way, in developing an interface between the system and the user circles.

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(sgd)
Brigitte Schroeder-Gudehus