

Its successful development may be seen as a major step forward by the Department in the field of public affairs activities abroad.

Also during 1973, the Information Division continued, at a somewhat enhanced level, continuing information activities aimed at providing posts abroad with the capacity to respond to increased interest in Canada.

The publications of the Division in English and French included *Reference Papers, Reprints, Statements and Speeches*, the new departmental bimonthly journal *International Perspectives*, and a variety of booklets and folders on special topics. *Canada Weekly* and *Facts on Canada* were produced in several languages other than Canada's two official tongues. In collaboration with the National Film Board, a substantial program was pursued for the production and distribution of foreign-language versions of films and a second program was initiated for the production of new films specially suited to foreign distribution. Posts were further supported by the provision of photostories and illustrated articles on Canadian subjects for publication in post magazines or for placement in local journals. In co-operation with Information Canada/Expositions, travelling exhibits and displays were provided for solo showings or for use in conjunction with trade fairs and general exhibitions. Finally, arrangements were made for visits to Canada by increased numbers of prominent journalists and media crews and for selected Canadian speakers of established reputation to travel abroad to increase understanding of particular developments in Canada.

## World Exhibitions Program

### The 1974 World Exposition on the Environment, Spokane

In September 1973, Canada contracted with the Expo 74 authorities to participate in the Spokane Expo 74, State of Washington, U.S.A. It invited the governments of British Columbia and Alberta to amalgamate their proposed presentations into a joint venture centred on the smaller of the two islands on the Spokane River that make up the site of the exposition. The Federal Government's contribution was to transform the island, an abandoned factory-site, into an evergreen park that would be "gifted" to the people of Spokane at the conclusion of the exposition. British Columbia would build a provincial pavilion at the entrance to the park and Alberta would plan an open-air amphitheatre in the parkland setting of the island, principally for amateur performers from Canada.

By the end of 1973, work was well under way to make this unique federal-provincial project a reality.

### UN Conference/Exposition on Human Settlements

The United Nations Conference/Exposition on Human Settlements, to be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, from May 31 to June 11, 1976, grew out of the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm. The environmental problems of human settlements,

both urban and rural, identified during the Stockholm preparatory process and at the conference, urgently required immediate action at the international as well as national levels.

Awareness of what Stockholm defined as "an accelerating crisis" emphasized the need for more centralized planning and an increased interest in international co-operation. In order to enable both developed and developing nations to find solutions to their growing collective and individual problems in human settlements, Canada proposed at Stockholm a "Conference/Exposition" to deal specifically with the quality of the environment in human settlements.

The proposal was approved and Canada's offer to act as host to the event was accepted by the twenty-sixth United Nations General Assembly in the autumn of 1972.

The national responsibility of the host country covers the organizations and administration of all aspects of the event over and above those that would have been the responsibility of the United Nations if the event had been held at UN headquarters. The British Columbia government and the City of Vancouver are also fully involved in this function, and a host committee, with representation from the three levels of government, meets periodically in Vancouver. A variety of sub-committees have been formed to advise on various aspects of the "hosting" of the Conference/Exposition.