

that contradiction in the expression of Canadian policy abroad was largely eliminated but there has surely been less success in the positive purpose of utilizing the instrument of public information abroad for the advancement of policy. The Report of the Glassco Commission as it refers to the information function of this Department, although generally superficial and devoted to relatively peripheral matters, does recognize this major problem briefly:

"The employment of information officers abroad, however, can only achieve its purpose if they are given the support from Ottawa needed in their work. Full-time information officers in major posts are being frustrated by the lack of a continuous and timely flow of background information concerning Canadian affairs. Equally frustrating are the lack of notice of government moves likely to attract attention abroad, and the dearth of any general directives concerning Canadian aims. In these circumstances, the information officers are left to devise their own interpretations and to cope as best they can, in an impromptu manner, with external reactions to Canadian actions and statements."

The press, over the years, has been aware of the inadequacy of Canadian overseas information and has expressed dissatisfaction. However, press criticism has been less than systematic and thorough and, at its best, has identified defects that do indeed exist but which are far from being central. These comments largely concentrate on the lack of information specialists at a few posts - probably a quite valid observation - but carry the implication that demonstrated journalistic or public relations expertise is widely required at posts abroad and that extensive specialization in this field is called for - a conclusion that does not stand up to close examination. Criticisms that have been made by the travelling Canadian public - whether official or private - tend to relate