SPEAKERS' PROGRAMME 1978/79

Each year, the Department of External Affairs, under its Academic Relations Programme, draws up a list of officers who are prepared to give talks or participate in seminars at the invitation of the universities. The Department would also welcome invitations for speakers from other groups, including community groups, clubs, associations and organizations interested in international affairs.

Following is the list for the current academic year. The list contains suggestions for topics and short biographical notes. Bilingual texts indicate topics which can be presented either in English or French. While the formal type of lecture is not excluded, we would like to express a preference for the informal type of gathering, such as the seminar or working group. Such gatherings are generally found to be more satisfying to the participants and to yield better results. Although our speakers are not expected to perform as spokesmen in the official sense, they will refer to government policies, comment on subjects of Canadian interest and analyse world affairs in a speculative way against their professional back-grounds. The speakers would be prepared to answer questions during ensuing discussions. Unless prior consent from the Department has been obtained, these talks are not to be reported or attributed in the media. In this way, it is hoped that a more frank and effective dialogue can be developed.

The ability of the Department to respond to invitations is subject to the availability of travel funds, pressure of work in Ottawa and prior commitments by speakers. Due to current budgetary constraints, it will not be possible to guarantee acceptance of invitations relating to a particular subject and individual. Wherever possible, however, every effort will be made to fill requests for speakers. In most cases, it would be desirable to make arrangements for the speaker to visit several centres or universities on a circuit, as this would represent a more economical use of resources and might help to meet requests on a fair basis.