
Federal-Provincial Relations

for External Affairs by H. B. Robinson. The latter in turn became chairman of the ICER. He was to be joined on the committee by other new members as a result of changes in senior government appointments announced at year's end.

As a result of the advances in recent years in transportation and communications, Canada's provinces have become increasingly interested in the international aspect of matters for which they have domestic responsibility. This development led in 1967 to the establishment by the Department of External Affairs of a Federal-Provincial Co-ordination Division responsible for setting up procedures to protect the international interests of the provinces while at the same time respecting the principle of exclusive federal responsibility for the conduct of Canada's international relations.

In carrying out its functions the division seeks to co-ordinate the activities of other departmental divisions, of Canadian posts abroad, and of other federal departments and agencies to ensure that Canada's international actions fully reflect this country's federal character. It strives also to maintain regular and close liaison with provincial officials in order to keep informed of provincial aims and policies relating to the international questions which concern them. The division seeks as well to develop more effective means for continuing consultation with the provinces on the many aspects of international activities which concern both them and the Federal Government.

The Department has continued to expand the range of services it provides to the provinces. It makes available to them the Department's telecommunications network as well as the facilities of Canadian posts abroad. It maintains a system for the regular distribution to the provinces of general information and documentation on the international aspects of questions of provincial concern. It assists in arranging the numerous visits of provincial ministers and officials abroad and of foreign officials to the provinces. It facilitates contacts of the provinces with foreign governments relating to fields which lie within the responsibility of the provinces and it ensures provincial representation on Canadian delegations to