

IV Services to Canadians

Academic Relations

A major responsibility of the Bureau of Public Affairs is to coordinate and promote relations between the Department and members of Canada's academic community as well as organizations interested in the study and discussion of international relations and in the long-term formulation of Canadian foreign policy. The objective is to establish and develop lines of communication between officials responsible for implementing foreign policy and scholars who are concerned with the many aspects of policy analysis and international relations.

In practice, this means promoting a two-way exchange of ideas between government and the academic community; in some instances, it has involved sending foreign service officers into the academic world, while in others the academics have made their expertise available to the Department.

Foreign service visitors

One form of exchange has been the introduction of foreign service visitors, senior departmental officers seconded to Canadian universities. Under this program, the officers are freed from departmental duties for a full academic year and join a university faculty or department. They devote their time to research, teaching, writing, and holding seminars and consultations on international relations under arrangements worked out with the host university. At the outset, two foreign service visitors were designated, but in 1972 the number was increased to three. In 1973, only two senior officers of the Department could be appointed, one to Dalhousie University and the other to the University of Montreal. Three are being appointed in 1974, and it is planned to increase this number to five in 1975.

Departmental speakers' program

This program represents another form of liaison between government and the academic community. Foreign service officers are made available to address university audiences and other groups, to attend conferences on foreign policy and to participate in international affairs seminars. In 1973, over 60 officers accepted one or more invitations to visit universities and other centres of learning throughout Canada for that purpose.

Invitations to the Department

In order that academics may give those in government the benefit of their analysis of foreign policy problems, the Department invites professors to Ottawa to give talks and to direct joint seminars. Topics range from current foreign policy issues to aspects of international relations theory. There have been discussions on such subjects as: foreign affairs and Parliament; predicting foreign policy trends; the approach to development and changing patterns of policy-making; Quebec policy subsequent to the election of October 29; and strategy in multilateral negotiations on international trade. Also included are such topics as the environment, international economics, technology and energy. In 1973, ten such seminars were held in Ottawa.

The Department is also considering introducing a type of seminar that would offer academics the opportunity to spend a week or two working within a departmental division. On a longer-term basis, this idea is already being implemented. To maintain closer ties with the academic community and obtain the services of experts, the Department engages certain professors on a temporary basis for special research projects. In 1972-73, for example, the Department retained the services of a political scientist from the Montreal campus of the University of Quebec for a special assignment with its Policy Analysis Group, and a law professor was similarly attached to the Legal Bureau. In 1973-74, a political scientist from Carleton University joined the Policy Analysis Group for one year. During the academic year 1972-73, a specialist in East Asian Affairs, Professor William