

As far as formal agreements are concerned, as of 1978, Canada had signed cultural agreements with Brazil (1944), Italy (1954), France (1965), Belgium (1968), the Federal Republic of Germany (1975), Mexico (1976), and Japan (1976). In general, these agreements cover a host of exchange programs, including scientific research, experimentation, training, scholarships and tours of artistic activities. In addition, there is a General Exchanges Agreement with the USSR (1971) which covers cultural and academic programs as well as scientific exchanges. Finally, Canada also conducts large exchange programs with about 20 other countries - most notably the United States, Great Britain and several continental European countries - which are governed by informal understandings rather than by any formal diplomatic instrument. These informal arrangements permit greater flexibility than is provided under formal agreements.

While the Department of External Affairs has primarily responsibility for Canada's international relations in the cultural field, it does not have sole responsibility. In actual fact, responsibility is diffused across a number of departments and agencies at the federal level, including the Secretary of State, the Canada Council, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, the Department of Health and Welfare, the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, the Canadian International Development Agency, the National Research Council, the Science Council, the International Development Research Council, the National Film Board, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, the National Museums Corporation, the National Arts Centre and many more. A brief description of some of the international activities of these departments and agencies follows. It is provided to illustrate the structural dimensions and characteristics of the framework for Canada's international cultural relations and should not be construed as a comprehensive compendium of federal involvement in the field.

In the execution of its mandate to promote cultural development in Canada as well as to articulate a cultural policy for the country, the Secretary of State gets deeply immersed in matters of external concern. As a result, like the other federal departments and agencies, it works in close cooperation with the Department of External Affairs. In fact, close collaboration between the two is essential if they are to knit together the external and internal dimensions of Canadian cultural policy to form a coherent whole. While the Secretary of State does not have direct authority in the international field, by virtue of the fact that it is deeply involved in the arts, the mass media, multiculturalism, citizenship, education and youth, and reports to Parliament on behalf of a number of federal agencies - such as the National Film Board, the Canada Council, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, the National Museums and the National Arts Centre - the Secretary of State is obviously a key figure in the evolving framework for Canada's cultural projections abroad.

Like the Department of External Affairs, the Canada Council is empowered by its Act to discharge certain responsibilities in the international field, including the exchange of information with other countries respecting the arts, and arrangement for representation and interpretation of Canadian arts in other countries as well as the arts of other countries in Canada. In the execution of these responsibilities, the Council works in close cooperation with the Department of External Affairs on matters of mutual concern to the effective development of the arts. This cooperation is by no means limited to advice and consultation on inter-