

In this quarter the Bulletin as now published might find little support. Instead, criticism would attach to the potential of the Bulletin, if it were improved and reinvigorated.

Both criticisms would have merit, but the second is not so easily solved as the first. The Department, as its senior personnel are aware, has a responsibility to explain its activities to the public.

The killing of the Bulletin in itself could be defended on technical grounds. A decision not to replace it, particularly given the paucity of material available to Canadians and others in this field, would be more difficult to explain in light of that obligation.

By whatever yardstick, as a sophisticated nation, a DAC nation, as a middle power, as a NATO member, Canada is unique among its peers in its near-total lack of an informed non-government periodical press of the sort which in most other countries provides thoughtful examination of external policy concerns.

Even though a government publication can never fully duplicate, for a variety of obvious and proper reasons, the capacity of the private press to provoke debate and stimulate thought, the Canadian situation none the less imposes an additional moral obligation upon the Department.