

I mentioned it to him, agreed en principe, but observed that if in practice a reasonable quantitative balance of material was not achieved there could be trouble.

The text-plus-abstract formula could save both time and printing costs. But whether or not it were found acceptable, the loose-leaf system would, as I see it, permit a steady flow of material to our posts and elsewhere. Telegrams containing the text, or summaries, of important foreign policy statements would continue to be sent to the posts as they are now, with the printed loose-leaf versions following by bag or airmail.

The question of whether the record should be produced monthly, bi-monthly or quarterly would thus disappear. Production would, so to speak, be continuous.

It has been suggested that logically Information Canada should be responsible for producing the new record. But to most minds, Information Canada's poor track record weighs heavily against that thought. There is general agreement that if it's going to be done, External should take the job on. But which Division? Arthur Andrew was certain it should be the responsibility of Historical. Arthur Blanchette wasn't quite so sure. He and almost everyone else, with the notable exception of Allan Roger, thought it should go to Information.

However, like good diplomats, Allan and Arthur believe in compromise. Allan thinks his division has enough on its plate without taking on more. But apparently he's willing to contribute from his division's budget some part of the production costs if Historical accepts the job.