

of such items as Olympic identity-cards and the distribution after the Games of Olympic diplomas.

Political issues and related public-information problems arising out of the Games were dealt with by various bureaux within the Department. As the Games drew nearer, the work-load became so great that almost the whole Department was involved. Among the problems encountered were the question of the participation of Taiwan, the withdrawal of certain African and Caribbean teams, and political demonstrations and defections. In spite of these problems, the Games — the major international event in Canada during 1976 — achieved the success desired for these historic athletic competitions.

Press Office

Day-to-day relations between the media of information and the Department are the responsibility of the Press Office, whose primary function is to help journalists in the Parliamentary Press Gallery and throughout the country report on Canadian foreign policy and current international developments.

The Press Office provides the Department's official view on foreign-policy questions, answers journalists' enquiries, arranges briefings and is responsible — in conjunction with the Minister's spokesman — for press relations with the Minister.

The Press Office helps Canadian journalists travelling abroad on reporting assignments or accompanying the Minister on visits or to attend international conferences. It also arranges press conferences and briefings for the Minister in Ottawa.

Press releases, speech texts and policy statements on international affairs are issued by the Press Office on behalf of the Department and the Minister.

World Exhibitions Program

Canada concluded its participation in the International Ocean Exposition (Expo 75) Okinawa, Japan, with the celebration of Canada's National Day on January 14, carrying

through to the close of the exposition on January 18.

The continuation of the World Exhibitions Program is contingent upon the outcome of plans originating in the United States for an international universal exhibition in the Los Angeles area in 1981, and for an international special exhibition on energy in Knoxville, Tennessee, in 1982. Both events have been registered by the International Bureau of Exhibitions and invitations from the Government of the United States for Canada to participate in the exhibitions are expected during 1977.