

under some handicap during the past year, but many of these problems have now been straightened out.

30. One of the major problems confronting the Department has been the lack of space. It was now hoped that by the end of the year the Department of Finance would have moved from the East Block and with the exception of the Prime Minister's Office and the Privy Council Office, all of the East Block would be available to the Department of External Affairs. We would also require the space of four and one-half floors which we now use in the New Post Office.

AFTERNOON SESSION — INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS — THE CANADIAN POSITION

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*Canadian Responsibilities as a Member of the Security Council*

40. Mr. Pearson reminded the meeting that until now Canada had often been able to avoid taking sides on international questions which were not of direct concern to this country. However, our election to the Security Council changed this situation and would increase our problems. We would be faced with unfamiliar and somewhat remote problems such as the situation in Indonesia. He pointed out that because the Canadian Government would now be faced with the necessity of making decisions on such matters, reports from representatives abroad would be even more necessary and important than in the past.

41. Several Heads of Mission present suggested that advance notice might be sent to them advising of matters on which reports would be useful. They felt if they could be more generally informed concerning problems under discussion in the Department and be given some indication of the general line of thought developing in the Department, they would be in a better position to send in useful and pertinent reports.

42. There was some discussion of the various ways in which this could be accomplished. Mr. Reid said that some consideration might be given to establishing a Policy Committee, the reports of which could be sent to missions abroad. It was pointed out, however, that it would not always be desirable to send out details on matters of policy still under consideration by the Government. Mr. Wrong said that there was considerable merit in the British system of reporting, which specified whether the matter was under consideration on the official level or on the ministerial level.

43. An expansion of the minutes of the weekly meeting of Heads of Division was suggested as one improvement which might be made in keeping Heads of Mission posted on developments in Ottawa. It was also suggested that there should be a wider circulation of important despatches and memoranda. Mr. Pearson pointed out that the inauguration of a circular document series in January of this year provided for a wider and more systematic distribution of such material. There was, however, still room for considerable improvement and he suggested that all Divisions should keep in mind the needs of posts abroad and be alert to see that adequate circulation was given to reports or despatches on subjects with which they were dealing. Mr. Reid said that if periodic commentaries similar to those prepared in the London and