

international. These interests may be political, economic, commercial, cultural or other but their promotion should call for priority action, ahead of background information activities. But if the support and promotion of current Canadian external policies are the priority tasks of information officers, they must be made aware of these policies quickly and in sufficient depth.

6. One of the chief weaknesses of the information service of this Department for many years has been that the Information Division and, hence, the information officers abroad, have existed and worked in relative isolation from the mainstream of departmental activity. Despite recurrent reviews of activities and earnest efforts to achieve something more purposeful and significant, the job performed by the Information Division has changed remarkably little since 1947 when the Canadian Information Service, successor to the Wartime Information Board, was absorbed into External Affairs. The object of taking in the C.I.S. (as I can attest from personal memory) was, in important part, to gear the dissemination of information abroad into the broad movement of Canadian foreign policy, to harness this instrument to planned and recognized international objectives of the Government. At the time of the amalgamation it was felt necessary to correct dissonance, actual or potential, between the official Government voice through External Affairs and the separate, not always closely attuned voice of the C.I.S. in foreign countries. This desirable but negative objective was attained to the extent