

and maintain contact with the experts of other countries, thus aiding and supplementing the work of the central staff from the Department of External Affairs. I sometimes think that it is the fate of a diplomat in the modern world to have to know not much about anything but a little about everything, from nuclear physics and comparative theology to the breeding habits of the sockeye salmon and Alaska fur seal. We are fortunate in Washington in being able to summon to our aid, when we get too involved in technical questions, better informed persons who can come easily down from Ottawa.

The main reasons for the great increase in the work of Canadian representatives in Washington since 1959 are the greater international stature of Canada, the disheartening complexities of the world situation, and the larger part which governments everywhere are called on to take in matters that many would be pleased to leave to private enterprise if it were feasible.

Another reason has been the establishment of new international bodies. There has, indeed, been such a proliferation of new international agencies since the war that it is hard to avoid getting lost in a dance of the alphabet. Ordinary people can understand, or can be taught to understand, the United Nations, and what its main organs, the General Assembly, the Security Council, and the Economic and Social Council do, or at least could do if the expectations of 1945 were to be fulfilled. But what of ICAO and UNESCO and WHO and ITO and ITU, to refer to some of the more important?

There are now operating in Washington several such bodies on which all or some of the Canadian representation is provided by members of the Embassy. These include the Far Eastern Commission, charged with the formulation of policies for Japan; the International Emergency Food Council, charged with proposing the allocation in accordance with needs of food stuffs in short supply; UERRA, now in process of liquidation; the Food and Agriculture Organization, charged with long-term planning to raise standards of nutrition and production throughout the world; the International Bank and the International Monetary Fund, which have just come into active operation; and also other bodies of lesser scope than those which I have named. The task of representing Canada on these bodies and their committees, in which nearly every officer of the Embassy takes some part, is consuming in time, energy and manpower.

These duties of representation on international bodies are special duties arising from the circumstance that Washington has become a great international center. They are added to the normal duties of the Embassy, which are complicated enough in themselves. A Canadian businessman said to me recently that he could understand what the commercial department of the Embassy did, but couldn't see the use of the rest of it. A Toronto friend also remarked to me not long ago that he did not understand why Canada had to have any Embassy in Washington. I doubt that these comments are typical, but it might be of some interest if I were to give you a brief summary of what a diplomatic mission in general, and the Canadian Embassy in Washington in particular, is supposed to do.

Its most time - and paper - consuming responsibility is that of keeping the Canadian Government informed of events and developments which are of concern or interest to it, and particularly of the background and probable future trends. In Washington this duty, of course, is to supplement, not to duplicate, the ample news from the United States appearing in the press.

To give some examples, it is obviously of great interest to the Canadian Government to learn promptly and accurately, and if possible in advance of public pronouncements, about the plans for assisting in reconstruction abroad in these days of dollar stringency throughout the world. That is a matter to which I and several members of the staff are currently devoting a good deal of attention.

To illustrate again, the affairs of Canada and the United States are so interrelated that a great many actions of the Government of the United