

2. Cultural Affairs and UNESCO¹

As in previous years, the Department was responsible for co-ordinating Canadian participation in the work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. With the co-operation of federal and provincial agencies and non-governmental organizations through Canada, arrangements were made for representation at various international meetings sponsored by UNESCO, and for Canadian participation in UNESCO technical assistance projects; material was prepared for a number of UNESCO publications, and contributions were made to a variety of special studies.

The Department continues to have the main responsibility for the Canadian Government Overseas Awards plan. During 1955, the fourth year in which the plan has been in effect, fellowships and scholarships for study in France and the Netherlands were awarded to 28 Canadians selected by the Royal Society of Canada.

Donations of Canadian books continued to be made to libraries in a number of countries and additions were made to the limited list of major foreign libraries which may receive copies of Canadian Government publications on request.

The Department co-operated with the Exhibition Branch of the Department of Trade and Commerce, the National Gallery, and other government and voluntary agencies in planning and arranging exhibitions and displays abroad of a general or cultural nature. During the year assistance was given toward Canadian participation in various international fairs, and in an international children's art and essay exhibition in India; Canadian paintings were shown in Brazil, Ceylon, and India, and exhibitions depicting Canadian life and economic developments were held in Berlin and Bochum, Germany; a collection of Canadiana was assembled for display in Paris; in December a collection of Eskimo carvings was sent to Western Europe for display in the principal cities during the next two years.

3. General Information

That interest in Canada continues to grow in other countries is evidenced by the volume of requests for information received by our posts and by the increasing number of articles on various aspects of Canadian affairs which appeared in the foreign press during the year under review. A number of newspapers and periodicals in the United States, Europe, and elsewhere produced special issues or supplements on Canada during the year, with the assistance of the Department at Ottawa and the posts concerned. Among them were *Das Parlament* (Bonn), *The Gazette* (Lausanne), and *The New York Herald-Tribune*.

The largest number of requests for information and publications from outside Canada came from teachers and students at all levels of education, and wide use is apparently being made of departmental publications to supplement school texts on Canada. The number of such requests originating in the United States alone was over 35,000 in 1955.

Help in arranging itineraries and interviews, and in procuring documentation and illustrations, was provided for numerous journalists, writ-

¹ For the NATO programme of fellowships and scholarships see Chapter III, section 5.