

CHAPTER III

The date of February 5, 1947, marks the first official recognition in Canada that the functions of its foreign office, the Department of External Affairs, included a responsibility, the major responsibility on behalf of Government, to engage in public information activities abroad. The Order in Council of that date also constituted an implicit acknowledgement by the Department that one of the functions of diplomacy was to communicate with the publics of other countries as well as with their governments. No such explicit acknowledgement was made but the record shows repeated statements that Information abroad was "necessary" and that it constituted part of the apparatus with which to conduct international relations and support foreign policy.

The W.I.B. had, indeed, undertaken vigorous efforts to make Canada better known among allies and neutrals, even though its major thrust was to keep Canadians informed about the conduct of the war, the Canadian war effort and, later, plans for the peace. C.I.S., the successor as a central government office of information, had been given terms of reference pointing it more