SERVICES TO CANADIANS

Academic Relations

Co-ordinating and promoting relations between the Department and members of Canada's academic community as well as organizations interested in the study and discussion of international relations and in the long-term formulation of Canadian foreign policy is the responsibility of the Bureau of Public Affairs. The objective is to establish and develop lines of communication between officials responsible for implementing foreign policy and scholars who are concerned with the many aspects of policy analysis.

In practice, this means promoting a two-way exchange of ideas between government and the academic community; in some instances, it has involved sending foreign service officers into the academic world, while in others the academics have made their expertise available to the Department. One form of exchange has been the introduction of foreign service visitors, senior departmental officers seconded to Canadian universities. Under this program, the officers are freed from departmental duties for a full academic year and join a university faculty or department. They devote their time to reading, research, teaching, writing, holding seminars and consultations in the field of international relations under arrangements worked out with the host university. At the outset, two foreign service visitors were designated each year, but in 1972 the number was increased to three-one each at the University of Montreal, York University and the University of British Columbia. Three others are being appointed in 1973, and it is planned to augment this number gradually.

The departmental speakers' program represents another form of liaison between government and the academic community. Foreign service officers are made available to address university audiences and other interested groups, to attend conferences on foreign policy and to participate in international affairs seminars. In 1972, over 60 officers accepted invitations to visit universities and other learning centres for that purpose.

Invitations to Ottawa

In order that academics may give those in government the benefit of their analysis of foreign policy problems, the Department invites professors to Ottawa to give talks and to direct joint seminars. Topics range from current foreign policy issues to aspects of international relations theory. There have been discussions on such subjects as foreign affairs and Parliament, predicting foreign policy trends, the approach to development, and changing patterns of policy-making. The areas of review also include such fields as the environment, international economics, technology and energy. In 1972, eight such seminars were held in Ottawa.

The Department is also considering the introduction of a type of seminar which would offer academics the opportunity to spend a week or two working within a