

meeting led to the establishment of a working group of federal and provincial officials charged with developing mechanisms for closer federal-provincial co-operation in matters involving international education. Work then proceeded on the establishment and mandate of the joint working group. There was also considerable activity directed towards the international marketing of educational services.

In 1981, the Department helped to arrange visits for a number of provincial delegations travelling outside Canada. These included the trip of Premier Buchanan of Nova Scotia to London; Premier Lougheed of Alberta to Washington and New York; Premier Hatfield of New Brunswick to Europe; Premier Blakeney of Saskatchewan to Los Angeles and San Francisco; Premier Lyon of Manitoba to Europe and New York City; Premier Bennett of British Columbia to the Orient and France; and Premier Davis of Ontario to Australia and New Zealand. In addition, numerous visits outside Canada were organized for ministers from all provinces, as well as the regular visits to the provinces by foreign diplomats accredited to Canada. The Department also assisted in arranging numerous visits of foreign delegations to meet with provincial ministers and officials.

Executive information

An executive information service is responsible for the provision of comprehensive foreign policy information to senior departmental management, to posts and to other departments and agencies of the federal government that have an interest in Canada's external relations. The service discharged its responsibility by the circulation of daily summaries of important communications between the Department in Ottawa and posts and by the regular publication of bulletins and selected documents dealing with a variety of foreign policy matters.

Communications, information, storage and retrieval systems

All government departments with programs abroad continued to seek a more efficient information base to facilitate their daily business. This thirst for information, which was reflected in a 14.7 per cent increase in traffic volumes over those of the previous 12 months, is a tribute to the ability of the system to service the requirement. However, the Report of the Task Force on Canadian Representation in the United States highlights the need for new and improved communications systems to existing services so that the primary function of representatives abroad might better be served. To meet these needs the Department pursued an extension of the existing secure facsimile network to all US consulates and the establishment of pilot projects in secure communicating word processors.

Radio teletype was installed in Warsaw and Ankara in direct response to the Polish crisis. Further network reconfiguration was researched to ensure maintenance of efficiency and cost effectiveness. Significant progress was made in meeting post requirements for telephone service by the installation of technologically advanced Canadian telephone