

World Exhibitions Program

Press Office

The International Bureau of Exhibitions (BIE) registered an Australian proposal for an international universal exposition in 1988 to commemorate the bicentennial of the discovery of Australia. Patrick Reid, Director General of the Department's Bureau of Public Affairs, was elected unanimously to the presidency of the BIE for a two-year term.

The operational side of the World Exhibitions Program remained quiet, pending receipt of official invitations to participate in an international universal exposition scheduled for the Los Angeles area in 1981, and in a special international exhibition on energy to be held in Knoxville, Tennessee, in 1982. Invitations from the United States Government requesting Canada's participation in the two exhibitions were expected early in 1978.

The Head of the Press Office serves as the Minister's and the Department's official spokesman and made public the official position on foreign-policy questions. Besides answering questions from journalists and handling the Department's day-to-day press relations, he arranges general press conferences for the Minister at home and abroad and specialized briefings on complex subjects. The Press Office issues press releases on behalf of the Department and the Minister containing the formal announcements of the Department, texts of statements and speeches by the Minister, policy statements on international affairs and the like.

The Press Office gives assistance to Canadian journalists going abroad on assignments, and makes arrangements for journalists accompanying the Minister when he travels to foreign countries or attended international conferences. Similarly, it helps, together with other divisions in the Department, to organize programs for press parties accompanying foreign leaders on official visits to Canada; this includes accreditation and arranging for attendance at major events and setting up meetings with federal and provincial officials.

The Press Office also prepares press scans from a cross-section of selected major Canadian newspapers and electronic media summarizing domestic and international news and issues of relevance to the Department.