

affairs people, ambassadors and foreign service officers who spend a considerable period of time abroad. I am not going to mention names, but I heard a remark of a good Halifax journalist, who has travelled rather extensively, and he said that one particular ambassador was rather out of touch with the Canadian outlook and the Canadian attitude. My question is: does the department require that those serving long-term appointments abroad should come back to Canada from time to time during their service?

Mr. ROBERTSON: The normal rotation scheme includes rotation at home and service abroad. I am not quite sure what the proportion is, but it is normally two tours abroad and one tour at home, varying with climate and other conditions in the post. That rule is not statutory the way it used to be in the United States, but it is pretty rigorously observed. You have some exceptions. You have people who have, for health or family reasons, fallen out of this rotation or routine. They may be much longer on their posts than others, but in general, certainly up to the rank of the head of mission I would say that spells of service at home are related pretty close to spells of service abroad.

When you get to the more senior posts, that kind of rotation between Ottawa and posts abroad is sometimes rather harder to arrange. I think in fact we have made some quite interesting progress in that particular field. In the last few years quite a number of people have been ambassadors or high commissioners abroad, coming back to the department to serve sometimes as heads of divisions or assistant under-secretaries or in special advisory posts in the department. You cannot do that mechanically or automatically, but we have the principle of rotation.

Mr. Gill came back as assistant under-secretary from having been high commissioner to South Africa, and after that high commissioner to Ghana. Mr. Ritchie came back from being minister at Washington, Mr. Ignatieff was accredited as deputy high commissioner to the United Kingdom and ambassador to Yugoslavia. That does not cover all the cases. You have some of that kind of vocation which does not fit requirements of the service well, and they probably come into the station of which you speak.

Mr. MCCLEAVE: Would Mr. Robertson and the department consider that for those who serve beyond the term of three years abroad there would be some kind of requirement that that service be interrupted even for a short time, to bring them back to Canada to be imbued and infused and enthused about the Canadian scene?

Mr. ROBERTSON: This covers part of Mr. Vivian's question also. We now have what I think is quite a good and generous scheme for home leave for the officer and his family. It is given at the end of about three and a half years, though it may be a little longer if it is awkward to arrange a replacement—then it may be from three and a half to four years. They come back to Canada for extended home leave with their travelling expenses paid. That home leave arrangement will take them back to their own home town in Canada, not just to Ottawa.

When they are back, a good many of them are pretty glad to fit in with the arrangements of the Canadian institute for international affairs, which has taken some initiative in organizing lectures. Where an ambassador or high commissioner is home on leave he can give, under their auspices, a series of talks. This takes them around the country and they will then see little more of Canada than otherwise they would. Also, this enables them to talk to small groups privately about the work of their mission in the department. I think that has been developing a good deal in the last few years, and I think it is