

Now, in the changing circumstances of the "war of ideas" we have devoted a good deal of thought to ways in which our consultation with C.B.C.I.S. might be made still more effective. We are now on the point of establishing a small section in the department which will have as its first responsibility the provision of policy guidance to the C.B.C.I.S. This section will be known as the Political Co-ordination Section and will be specifically charged with keeping C.B.C. informed of developments which should be reflected in their broadcasts. We believe that, by having a section to which the International Service can turn for guidance at short notice, the existing relationship will be improved and strengthened. Although an additional strain will thus be placed on our resources of personnel, which, as members of the committee are aware, are hardly adequate to meet our increasing commitments, we consider the establishment of such a section to be justified.

There are also other means by which C.B.C.I.S. policies are co-ordinated with those of the department and the government as a whole. These include the advisory committee of C.B.C.I.S., the chairman of which is Mr. Dunton, and includes senior officers of the Department of External Affairs and the Department of Trade and Commerce as members. There is also the interdepartmental committee on Canadian Information Abroad, the chairman of which is the head of the Information Division of the department and the membership of which includes the Department of Trade and Commerce, the Department of Citizenship and Immigration, the National Film Board, the Bank of Canada, the Exhibition Commission and the C.B.C.I.S. when matters likely to be of interest to the short-wave service are being discussed.

I have dealt in such detail with this matter of consultation so that members of the committee will know how we have approached the problem and how our relationship with C.B.C.I.S. has developed to meet the changing circumstances we have to face.

Members of the committee will remember that when Mr. Pearson was speaking to the committee last Thursday he agreed with a suggestion that was put forward by one of the members of the committee that it would be a very good thing for Mr. Désy to come and appear before you so that he could answer questions on the C.B.C.I.S. and any further questions you may have on the relationship that exists between the department of External Affairs and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's International Service and on the general question of the policy guidance which we give to the C.B.C.I.S. on their broadcasts. I have spoken to Mr. Désy and he would be very glad to place himself at the convenience of members of the committee whenever you may desire to hear him.

Mr. MACDOUGALL: I wonder if it would be possible, Mr. Chairman, for Mr. Wilgress to answer two questions. Possibly he may not be able to answer either of them.

The CHAIRMAN: Before we proceed, would you be ready to answer those questions, Mr. Wilgress, or would you rather have them answered by Mr. Désy?

The WITNESS: I shall be glad to answer any questions, but naturally questions which should more appropriately be addressed to Mr. Désy should be deferred till he appears before you.

Mr. MACDOUGALL: The first was in connection with a newspaper article last night that stated that Mr. Malenkov was in all probability replacing Mr. Molotov as No. 2 man in the Soviet regime. I was wondering if Mr. Wilgress would be prepared to make a statement as to whether, in his opinion or not, such a change would be beneficial or detrimental to the free world.