

6. The general position may be summed as follows: If the Department regards the distribution of films abroad as its responsibility and subject to its control, this can only be achieved by a discussion at the highest level with regard to an amendment of the National Film Act and the implementation of the programme suggested in the attached "Draft Agenda".†

7. An alternative proposal, which was *not* discussed at the meeting, but which is perhaps worth consideration, would be an amendment to the National Film Act transferring to the Department, the international distribution section of the National Film Board together with its staff and appropriation. This latter plan has definite advantages:

(i) It would bring international distribution under the control of the Department beyond all peradventure;

(ii) It would provide the Department with personnel who, after suitable training within the Department, could go abroad as films officers.

(iii) It would centralize, under one Department, personnel, budget, equipment, administration and policy.

(iv) It would enable Canada to conform to a pattern of international distribution already practised by the United Kingdom, the United States and France, and, which in their case, has proved to be the most effective.

8. This plan would involve the Department (though not the Government as a whole) in an additional expenditure of approximately \$150,000 per annum: \$90,000 for prints and \$60,000 for salaries, equipment, repairs, replacements and services.

9. In our estimation the adoption of one or other of these plans is the only way in which real control of film distribution abroad can be obtained for the Department.

10. It is perhaps worth noting that the present situation in the main libraries in Paris and Sydney—our two largest operations abroad—is such as to threaten the success of our entire film programme; and that, in our opinion, it can be resolved only by the adoption of one or other of these plans.

1072.

DEA/2755-40

*Note de la direction d'information
pour le sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*Memorandum from Information Division
to Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs*

[Ottawa], October 24, 1949

I attach for your information a report of a meeting between representatives of the National Film Board and of the Department of External Affairs, held in the Film Commissioner's office, on October 4, together with observations on the discussion which took place.

2. I also attach (a) a brief submitted by the National Film Board to the Department in reply to our "Draft Agenda" for a meeting;† (b) our "Draft Agenda" which,