

The press relations wing of the Department is inevitably thrown into action on the occasion of V.I.P. visits to Ottawa. Opportunity must be given to the foreign and Canadian pressmen to cover such visits, to describe the programme as it unrolls and, usually, to meet, hear and question the visitor. The people concerned with the substantive programme of visits are the Government Hospitality Committee and the Protocol Division of this Department. As neither body counts a pressman or press unit in its ranks, the Department must provide the means to look after legitimate press interests. When a press office exists in the Department, it is, of course, primarily responsible and has in fact normally organized the necessary planning and operations. On all too frequent occasions, particularly Royal visits, the problem of setting up press arrangements on an ambitious scale has been thrown in the lap of this Department at a late date and without provision for the necessary human resources. Even when a press office has been in operation, it has not been possible for it to provide the required people to carry out the operation and a good deal of desperate, last-minute, ad hoc borrowing of staff has been called for. The year 1967 will see a considerable increase in the number of V.I.P.'s, no doubt including Heads of State, and the weight of press arrangements will be felt especially heavily. (Expo' 67 calls for very special arrangements and must be