

(e) Consultation with Academia

There is concern as to whether Canada takes full advantage of the expertise available from learned institutions and university professors. This issue will be handled by interviews with U.N. Affairs officers and university professors. Persons interviewed will be asked on their views of the practicality of seeking more advice from professors. They will also be asked to identify the advantages and disadvantages, including resource implications, of formalizing a mechanism for more consultation. As well, a brief investigation of the consultative role of professors in other countries will be carried out. Specifically, the United States, Britain and possibly one or two other western nations will be approached. Again, the intention would be to interview these countries' U.N. delegations in New York. The study would then be able to draw some conclusions as to what might be an appropriate and feasible approach for the U.N. Affairs program.

(f) Promoting Public Understanding

The issue of promoting public understanding of the U.N. will be addressed by interviewing U.N. Affairs managers, Public Affairs officers, representatives of the media, officers of the United Nations Association of Canada, university professors, and recognized experts in the field. As well, Members of Parliament would be interviewed if possible. Also, the issue will be addressed by reviewing recent media coverage of the U.N. to determine what slant or bias is presented to the public. Persons interviewed will be asked for their views on public awareness of Canada's involvement with the U.N., and how to promote better or more favourable understanding. Again, U.N. delegations from selected western nations may also be asked how they promote a more favourable understanding.

(g) Role of Provincial Governments

The issue of provincial involvement will be addressed through a set of interviews with United Nations Affairs officers, federal-provincial experts, representatives of provincial governments and some university professors. Persons interviewed will be asked for their views on this issue. The aim of the study is to determine the different expectations of the parties and the extent of the problem. As well, the study is intended to provide an indication of the extent of conflict of loyalties facing U.N. Affairs if it tried to serve both federal and provincial interests.