

Republic of Germany, the United States, but also from a host of other countries. At the same time, some 25 Canadian academics, scientists and public officials went abroad to talk about matters Canadian.

Supplying posts with texts and background material on topical issues and more mundane matters is another responsibility of the information program. In 1981, 1,602 enquiries from posts were answered. In addition, 19 press and 22 information kits were prepared; numerous texts were written for 12 post publications, departmental brochures and international exhibits; and briefing notes were prepared on the Constitution, energy and investment. In addition, daily summaries of federal-provincial and economic news were sent to posts by telex or facsimile for the use of foreign service officers in their information and other duties; extracts from the House of Commons question period were often also transmitted on a priority basis. Special efforts were made to transmit important documents like the federal budget. Among special projects was page-creation for Telidon terminals, which are being installed at several Canadian missions.

Audio-visual material also supports the Department's information and cultural affairs activities abroad. Film libraries at 90 missions received more than 2,800 National Film Board and private sector films in 1981 for general and prestige screenings. The film The Canadian Federation/La fédération canadienne, which was commissioned from the National Film Board, was produced in English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Spanish and Portuguese. Also completed was Canada Today/Canada d'Aujourd'hui, a 30-minute film on Canada and its people. Videotape and audio cassettes of television public affairs programs and public events were sent to posts to keep information officers and foreign journalists abreast of Canadian political developments (for example, a videotape of the Supreme Court ruling on the government's constitutional patriation proposal). Photographs on a myriad of topics and events were sent to posts for use in post and foreign periodicals and newspapers and by television. Among material provided were transparency and photo sets on Canadian art and Canadian cities, as well as coverage of visits to Canada by such prominent foreign leaders as President Ronald Reagan and Chancellor Helmut Schmidt.

A variety of publications, brochures, folders and fact sheets were also produced for foreign distribution. (Response Sheets, for example, cover 19 topics and exist in ten languages.) Canada Weekly and Hebdo Canada are the principal vehicles for Canadian news going abroad; these weekly publications are also produced bi-weekly in Spanish and Portuguese. The total readership for these four publications alone is over two million. Some 200 documents of one kind or another were produced and another 80 or so revised. Twelve Canadian missions produce regular publications (some of which are printed in Canada) that reach more than 200,000 readers in Australia, Belgium, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, francophone Africa, the United Kingdom, Mexico, the United States, Japan and at the European Community headquarters in Brussels.