

V. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONS AND TASK FORCES

The reports submitted to the Government by the Royal Commission on Government Organization, 1963 ("Glassco Commission"), the Task Force on Government Information, 1969 ("To Know and Be Known"), and the Task Force on the Consolidation of Personnel and Support Services Abroad, 1970 ("Pierce Commission"), made recommendations concerning one or more aspects of the role of the Department of External Affairs.

A. The Glassco Commission described the role of the Department as follows:

"The prime concern of the Department of External Affairs lies in the development of policy and the conduct of Canada's day-to-day dealing with other governments. The principal duties of the Department are to serve:

- . As the chief instrument for advising the government on matters relating to the conduct of Canada's external relations.
- . As an official channel of communication between the Canadian government and the governments of countries with which diplomatic relations are maintained." (vol. 4, p. 104)

Setting aside those recommendations of the Commission which related to the internal organization and administration of the Department, it recommended the following actions affecting the role of the Department in the Government:

"The operation of the passport office be assumed by the Department of Citizenship and Immigration as agent for the Department of External Affairs and consideration be given to the acceptance of passport applications in the principal cities of Canada". (vol. 4, p.143)

"At posts abroad, the Head of Post be made responsible for the supervision and co-ordination of all activities of civil departments and agencies of the Government of Canada." (vol. 4, p.143)

"Co-ordination of official scientific activities abroad should be a responsibility of the proposed Central Scientific Bureau, with the aid of the Department of External Affairs and the National Research Council". (vol. 4, p. 295)

"A strengthened Legal Division of the Department of External Affairs assume responsibility for co-ordinating the international legal work of departments and agencies and provide the expert assistance required on such matters as treaty negotiation". (vol. 2, p. 416)

The Commission's recommendation for the transfer of passport responsibilities to the Department of Citizenship and Immigration was not accepted by the Government. The other proposals were eventually acted upon in varying forms and to varying degrees.