

## PRESS RELATIONS

Responsibility for relations between the Department and the press, radio and television rests with the *Press Office*. It assists the communications media in reporting on Canadian foreign policy and current developments in international affairs, and helps keep the Department informed of news stories and events that may affect its work. The Press Office gives periodic briefings to the press and answers questions regarding Canadian foreign policy, the work of the Department and on important international developments. It facilitates the work of Canadian journalists travelling abroad, including those accompanying the Secretary of State for External Affairs or other representatives of the Government attending conferences. The Press Office arranges for the distribution of press releases, policy statements and speech texts on international affairs, and assists in the preparation of press conferences for the Secretary of State for External Affairs and for distinguished foreign visitors to Ottawa.

The Press Office keeps Canadian posts abroad informed on major news events in Canada and Government policy announcements. Policy statements are sent in English to 69 posts by telegram, 18 by air-mail and two by courier-bag, and in French to 23 posts by telegram and six by air-mail. A nightly bulletin of Canadian news, prepared in English by the Canadian Press and in French by Radio Canada, also goes to posts by telegram and air mail. The Press Office provides assistance to posts in dealing with the press in their areas, particularly those in Washington, New York, London and Paris, which have press officers as members of the staff.