

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

## A Job with the Civil Service

OTTAWA (CUP) — If the average student thinks life in the Department of External Affairs is a continual round of cocktail parties and trips to foreign lands, he is to a degree, correct. But if this is his main reason for joining the foreign service then he will not be welcome. In fact it is doubtful if he will be admitted.

While it is true that foreign service officers do hold receptions and travel, "life", according to one senior official, "is not all beer and pretzels, and we are not interested in the fellow who thinks a homburg, striped pants, and a furled umbrella make a foreign service officer".

But if the picture of a foreign service officer is not the portrait Hollywood has given us, then what is it?

External Affairs wants men—and women too—to handle one of the most demanding jobs in the Civil Service. They must be able to read, digest, and analyze

quickly, and have a capacity to write and speak clearly and effectively. They must be able to negotiate and to use discretion and judgment. As this official put it, "they must be able to move from A to B to C."

Work as a foreign service officer encompasses a great range of ideas and geographical areas. Change of jobs and locale is stimulating, and the degree of responsibility is heavy but satisfactory because it comes at the working level. There is a variety of it which cannot be treated in the regular manner of a company executive.

Candidates must have resided in Canada for at least 10 years. They can be graduates of any faculty as the department does not look for specialists, and recruits can expect to be sent to one of 66 posts in more than 50 countries for a period of one to three or more years.

But it's not easy to get into

the department. A candidate must pass an oral exam as well as the regular Civil Service examination. Once he passes this, he is on probation for one year, during which time he gets the opportunity to look into three major sections. These are: area (geographic), administration, and functional (particular subject). He also attends lectures given by senior officers and speakers from outside the department, and he may visit such places as the United Nations, Chalk River, and the National Film Board.

By the end of his first year he should have the feel of the department. His case is reviewed and if he stays — the majority do — he will be posted or take on a desk job until there is an opening.

There is an old story around Ottawa, "Tell them where you don't want to go, and they'll send you where you want to be." This chestnut has some truth insofar as a man may be sent to Latin America, even if he is interested in India; if there are no openings available at the time he is ready for posting.

But no matter where he is sent he is encouraged to learn the language of the country. Although he is not expected to be completely conversant in that tongue he must become mildly fluent.

To encourage the foreign service officer to learn a new language he is given a monthly \$25 allowance for a tutor, and he can continue this training abroad on an allowance of \$50. However, if he has been studying Spanish in Canada and is posted to Germany, he will drop Spanish, pick up German a few months prior to his departure and continue to learn it in Germany.

The length of any posting ranges from 2 to 3½ years depending upon the physical and political hardships encountered. The officer is rarely sent to another country immediately after his term, but comes home for a vacation and a period of reacquaintance with his own country. This is important, for he must not lose contact with the ways and thoughts of Canadians, or he will be unable to represent them abroad. Following this period he will be re-posted, usually to a different country. And the circle begins again.

The duties of a foreign service officer are many and in addition to cocktail parties include: — protection and advancement of our interests; — interpretation and development of foreign policy; — provision of general information about Canada; — negotiation and conclusion of treaties, collation and weighing of information and maintenance of relations and participation in international organizations.

He is well paid for this responsibility. A student who joins the department this spring will start anywhere from \$4,560 to \$5,880, depending on any previous experience related to the work or work in graduate studies. Not only does he receive a good starting salary but he is offered a superannuation plan, a health plan during his tour of duty.

He will rise through the ranks in relation to his performance in

(Continued on page 5)

## UNB FILM SOCIETY

by Robert Kerr

The UNB Film Society has advanced a long way from its meagre beginnings in 1952, but its aims remain the same. It endeavours to offer to avid film fans those pictures, chiefly American films no longer available commercially and foreign films, which they are unable to see in the downtown theatres. Art theatres bring these films to large cities, but small cities must go without them, unless they have a film society.

Each year an opportunity is given by the Film Society to compare two or more films by the same director (this year: Ingmar Bergman) and two or more films from a particular country (this year: Poland).

This season the Film Society is offering a better series of films than in any of the eight past ones. The chief reason for this is that Dr. Patricia Roberts, President of the Society, was able to attend the annual General Meeting of the Canadian Film Institute this spring, where she obtained the newest list of available films. Consequently, the executive was able to make its selection of films from this list and the suggestions of members unusually early. This enabled the Society to obtain every film it wanted, without resorting to second choices.

The Society finances its operations with the \$4.00 ticket subscriptions of its members. It

is a non-profit organization and cannot compete commercially for individual audiences by selling separate admissions for each presentation. While in the past it has been customary to admit non-members to individual screenings as the guests of members, this year a near-capacity membership is anticipated and the executive is asking that members check with them to be sure there is room before bringing a guest. The executive, which includes, besides Dr. Roberts, Allan Donaldson, Lauriat Lane, Anneke Deichmann, George Struntz and Robert Whalen, are also responsible for ticket sales.

The first presentation of the Film Society this year will be the controversial "Hiroshima Mon Amour". It will be shown this Sunday evening, Oct. 22, at 8:30 in the Chemistry Auditorium. Directed by Alain Resnais and starring Emmanuele Riva and Eiji Okada, this international picture was filmed in France and Japan in 1958-59. The highly emotional love story is set in present-day Japan, but through an effective flashback technique it introduces newsreel shots and realistic reconstructions of wartime France and Hiroshima before and after the bomb. In the face of present day fears, this film can have a very sobering effect. In the opinion of many critics, Mr. Resnais has in this, his first feature film, created a masterpiece of artistic cinema.

## FIRST TERM SCHEDULE

October 22

"HIROSHIMA MON AMOUR". Directed by Alain Resnais. (See details above)

November 12

"COME BACK AFRICA". Directed by Lionel Rogosin. Provides a moving insight into the oppressive and shocking conditions in the Sophiatown district of Johannesburg.

November 19

"THE SEVENTH SEAL". Directed and written by Ingmar Bergman. Set in medieval times, it is a vision of the human condition in any age.

December 3

"QUETICO, THE HUNTERS". This film is a full-length documentary of hunting among the African bushmen, and a survey of the early movies of Mauritz Stiller and Victor Sjöström.

December 17

"INTRUDER IN THE DUST". It uses murder and violence to give a parable of social problems in William Faulkner's Mississippi.

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