

Assistance to Canadians Abroad

There was no conspicuous example of mass assistance to Canadians abroad such as that which characterized the evacuation from Hyderabad in 1948. The situation in China, however, was a source of considerable anxiety and precautions were taken for the protection and, if necessary, evacuation of Canadian citizens in that country. In fact, no large evacuation developed. The majority of Canadian citizens in China are missionaries and most of them preferred to remain at their posts.

The Department administers a vote of Parliament made annually for the relief and repatriation of distressed Canadians abroad. In this regard, arrangements were made for the reimbursement by Canada to the United Kingdom of advances made by United Kingdom consular officers to distressed British subjects, whose only claim to British status was through Canadian connection.

Border Questions

Public interest was aroused by difficulties encountered by certain Canadian citizens in entering the United States of America, either for temporary visits or for transit purposes. The number of such cases in relation to the general freedom of movement over the international boundary is exceedingly small. Some 30 million persons pass Canadian immigration inspectors every year. It was, however, considered desirable to discuss the questions involved fully and frankly with the United States authorities. A meeting took place for this purpose in Washington in December, as a result of which it is hoped that in future these incidents may be avoided or reduced to the minimum.