

Although the Canadian Government would protest against the imposition of cruel and unusual treatment or punishment, there could be no assurance in some countries that such representations would be effective, particularly if you receive treatment similar to that received by nationals of the country concerned.

You can enrich your trip and make it safer by taking time, before leaving Canada, to familiarize yourself with the customs, laws and general characteristics of the countries you will visit. Write to their diplomatic or consular Mission in Canada, consult travel agencies and your local library.

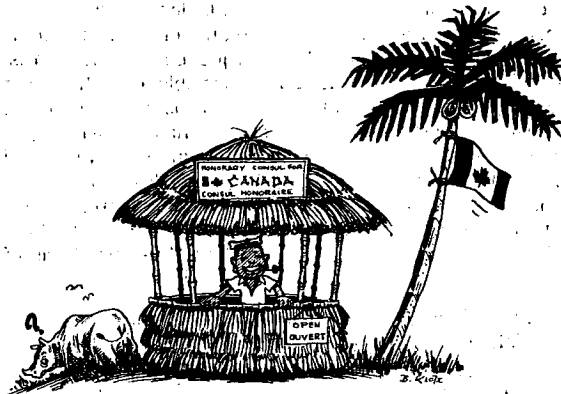
### Illegal Drugs and Narcotics

Very severe penalties are being imposed in most countries on persons convicted of possessing, smuggling or trafficking in drugs. As part of a major international effort to curtail the use and transportation of drugs, heavy fines and/or long prison sentences are now the rule, notwithstanding the facts that in many countries drugs are readily available, inexpensive and openly used. In late 1984 over 100 Canadians of all ages were being held in foreign jails for drug-related offences, either awaiting trial or serving lengthy sentences including life imprisonment. **In some countries possession of even small amounts carries the death penalty.**

Exercise extreme caution if asked to transport any parcel, however small, across a border. Remember that narcotic drug traffickers try to use respectable, innocent-looking tourists to carry drugs for them through customs inspection lines. Persons who innocently commit such offences can be held in jail, often in extremely distressing conditions, for long periods while awaiting trial. Because drug offences are particularly repugnant to some countries the suspected drug offender, regardless of nationality, may be last to be brought to trial! **In Canada, the minimum penalty for importing narcotics is a seven-year prison sentence.**

If you are hitch-hiking or take a hitch-hiker on board you should, for your own protection, **separate and cross borders individually.** Though you may not be carrying any contraband or illegal drugs it is dangerous to assume your companion is also innocent. If anything illegal is discovered by border officials, all occupants of a vehicle will likely be considered as suspects; establishing your innocence may not be possible.

### Consular Assistance for Travelling Canadians



Travellers often run into obstacles or problems when abroad, and usually they can work out adequate solutions by themselves, or with the help of travel agencies, banks, or local government services. But if you find yourself in serious difficulty or distress, perhaps due to sickness, accident, arrest, or loss of funds, don't hesitate to seek assistance from the nearest Canadian mission. However **Canadian officials cannot provide you with legal advice or interfere in the course of local justice.** In no circumstances is a Canadian mission authorized to post bail or pay fines;