

### Awareness Program

The Consular Awareness Program continued throughout the year, focusing mainly on increasing the distribution of the travellers' booklet "Bon Voyage, but...". The response of the Canadian travel industry was encouraging. Members of the Bureau of Consular Affairs and directors of the regional passport offices undertook speaking engagements and press interviews. At the year's end, two new initiatives were under way, the preparation of televised public service announcements concerning passport and consular affairs and a seminar on consular services for members of the Canadian travel industry and travel media.

### Passport Office

The Passport Office provides passport services to Canadian citizens and issues certificates of identity and United Nations refugee-convention travel documents to legally-landed aliens now living in Canada. In 1979, there were regional passport offices in Calgary, Edmonton, Halifax, Hamilton, Montreal, Quebec, St. John's, Saskatoon, Toronto, Vancouver and Winnipeg.

In 1978, the total number of passports issued increased to 754,116, 2.1 percent over the figure for 1977. Of that total, 42,631 passports were issued at Canadian diplomatic missions abroad. Of the balance, 326,476 passports were issued from Ottawa while the regional passport offices issued 385,009.

The number of certificates of identity and refugee travel documents issued was 1,708, 47.9 percent below that of the previous year. It is believed that this is due to a drop in the number of refugees coming into Canada compared to the period 1975-77, and to the effect of the reduction from five years to three in the waiting period required to obtain Canadian citizenship.

The number of valid passports in current use as at December 1978 was estimated at 3,262,000.

The regional passport offices lend support to headquarters information activities on passports and consular services, on conditions in troubled parts of the world, on the whereabouts and well-being of relatives travelling abroad and to transfer funds to those in distress.

### Foreign Claims Commission

During 1978, the Secretary of State for External Affairs received periodic reports and recommendations from the Foreign Claims Commission on eligibility or non-eligibility of Canadian citizens for awards out of Foreign Claims Funds relating to Poland and Czechoslovakia. The Commission is an independent body, set up under the Inquiries Act to examine such claims and recommend on them to the