

responsible for: the negotiation of consular conventions or understandings relating to consular and nationality matters; the monitoring of relevant legislative developments; the provision of information on, and assessments of, conditions of interest to members of the Canadian public intending to travel or reside outside Canada; liaison with other Canadian government departments and the Canadian travel industry; the management of consular training and evaluation programs; the collection and analysis of consular reports and statistics; and the preparation of consular directives and other guidance.

Political and civil unrest, natural disasters, and some local conflicts around the globe posed threats of varying degrees to the safety of Canadians travelling or residing in affected areas; of particular note were Lebanon, Guatemala, Gambia and Poland. In addition to meeting the requirements for collection and prompt distribution of up-to-date information on these events and subsequent developments, headquarters, as well as posts responsible, kept under continuous review contingency plans for emergency assistance to Canadians and updated information on Canadians registered in these areas as well as elsewhere.

Honorary consuls for Canada were appointed in Nicosia (Cyprus), Bombay (India) and Barcelona (Spain) bringing to 15 the number of consulates headed by honorary consuls. Under the direction of the Canadian head of post accredited to the country concerned, honorary consuls provide emergency consular assistance and other services to Canadians.

Transfer of offenders

Under an existing treaty with the USA, 12 Canadians serving sentences in American prisons were returned to Canada, at their request, so that they might complete their sentences in Canada in the interests of their rehabilitation and to be closer to their communities, families and friends; similarly, five American prisoners were returned to American penal institutions. The treaty with Mexico remained in force but there were no transfers of inmates between the two countries during 1981. The treaty with Peru remained in force and one Canadian prisoner was transferred to Canada. No Peruvians were transferred to Peru. An Exchange of offenders treaty, signed with Bolivia on March 6, 1980, is awaiting ratification.

Canada participated in Council of Europe discussions on negotiating a multilateral agreement with member states. Exploratory discussions are planned with other countries where the mutual interests of Canada and the state concerned suggest that a treaty might be negotiated.

Consular conventions and understandings

The process of consultations and negotiations was pursued with those countries with which Canada has specific interests in concluding bilateral conventions or understandings to facilitate consular relations for the protection of Canadian citizens. Emphasis was placed on the dual