

Nominations of Canadian Ambassadors and High Commissioners are submitted to Cabinet by the Secretary of State for External Affairs and, after Cabinet approval, to the Governor General for his approval. When an Ambassador's appointment has been approved by the Governor General he receives a letter of credence signed by the Queen. High Commissioners similarly receive a letter of commission from the Queen, except when they are appointed to Commonwealth countries of which the Queen is also sovereign.

C. Recognition of Foreign Governments and  
Establishment or Severance of Diplomatic Relations

Recognition is in Canadian practice generally extended by a decision of the Secretary of State for External Affairs and occasionally by Cabinet.

Similarly with the establishment or severance of diplomatic relations, the practice for a long time has been not to consult or inform the Queen, but for the Secretary of State for External Affairs to exercise this prerogative, either on his own or with the approval of Cabinet.

D. Issuance of Passports

In Canadian practice the issuance of a passport is an exercise of the Royal Prerogative which has been entrusted to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. As noted above, however, the detailed regulations governing Canadian passports have been issued under the legislative authority of the External Affairs Act.

E. Acceptance of Foreign Ambassadors and  
Exequaturs for Consuls

In the case of Ambassadors whom foreign countries propose to appoint to Canada, the Department of External Affairs seeks the approval of Her Majesty through the office of the Governor General.

The Letters Patent authorize the Governor General to issue "exequaturs" (authority to act) to Consuls appointed to Canada. This he does on the advice of the Department of External Affairs.