

provide a partial answer is that of providing a reasonable level of consular services in locations where a regular consular post is not warranted. Honorary consuls represent another kind of solution to this problem. The protecting power arrangement is appropriate only in those situations where Canada has been compelled to withdraw a diplomatic mission. The practice of continuing to rely on the British to provide consular services for Canadians in areas where there is no Canadian representation, despite their repeatedly expressed desire to be rid of this burden, seems neither politic nor prudent, particularly when there is another alternative.

The other alternative is to enter into an arrangement for reciprocal services, where we would provide consular services for another country in certain areas in exchange for their doing the same for us in areas where we have no representation. Such arrangements are specifically sanctioned in Article 8 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, and have been entered into by certain pairs or groups of countries--e.g. Switzerland and Austria; and the Scandinavian countries.

This type of cooperation is a viable alternative to the appointing of honorary consuls, and in some locations, might be preferable because of the better local standing which a career consul generally has in comparison to an honorary consul. In areas where evacuation might conceivably be required a career consul or an embassy officer who is also a consular officer could take actions which an honorary consul could not.

The Canadian Government has discussed intermittently over the last few years with the Australian Government (which has been served with the same kind of notice by the British as has Canada) the possibility of an exchange of consular services. There would be difficulties, no doubt, but they are not insuperable if one accepts the proposition that the services which another government would provide may not in every respect be the equivalent of the services available at Canadian posts.

An agreement with Australia for reciprocal consular services need not be world wide in the initial instance. It could be limited to half a dozen posts on each side initially, and enlarged after a period of experience. It might prove desirable to enter into such arrangements with more than one country: Australia is not likely to be of much help to us in francophone Africa, for instance. In any event, it would seem desirable to proceed with negotiating arrangements of this kind rather than continuing to presume upon British help.