

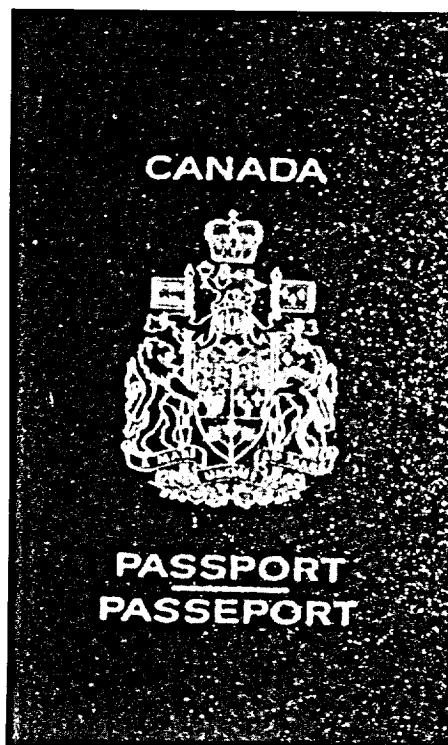
CHAPTER 7 PROTECTION OF PRIVATE INTERESTS

Highlights

- Requests for assistance handled by Consular Services abroad numbered 610,000 in 1989/90.
- Immigration visas issued during the year reached 186,788, an increase of 18.2 per cent over the previous year.
- Canada accepted 13,462 government-sponsored and 21,212 privately sponsored refugees in 1989/90.
- Over 1.1 million passports were issued in Canada and abroad during the year, a 9 per cent increase over the previous year.

A. CONSULAR SERVICES

The Department has a mandate to protect and assist Canadians who live and travel abroad and to respond promptly to requests for help in situations of distress. This consular function is one to which the government attaches a high priority and is provided in all Canadian missions abroad, both embassies and consulates. As well, it is provided by some 50 honorary consuls and a dozen Australian missions, in accordance with the Canada-Australia Consular Sharing Agreement.



Over 1.1 million Canadian passports were issued in the past year, an increase of 9 per cent over the previous year.

During the year under review, over 610,000 services were provided to Canadians, ranging from responding to routine enquiries to answering appeals for help that tested the resourcefulness of consular staff. In the course of duties, consular staff might help a student who has lost a passport, travel to an outlying village to assist a young Canadian traveller arrested for drug possession, help a distraught parent whose former spouse has abducted their child or arrange for the burial of a Canadian who has died abroad.