

informally at the working level. When there is an overlap between an arriving and a departing officer, the latter may usefully introduce his replacement to local officials at suitable social occasions.

Relation to
Canadian
Diplomatic
Representatives

1.10 a. Consular officers are agents of the Government of Canada appointed to perform administrative and consular functions in foreign countries in order to promote and protect the interests of the Canadian Government and to protect and assist Canadian citizens. As such, the Head of a consular post who is admitted to the exercise of his functions by the appropriate authorities of the foreign country (frequently the Foreign Ministry) is to be distinguished from the Head of a diplomatic mission who is an accredited representative of the Sovereign to the Chief of State of a foreign country. By long tradition, consular officers have a wide sphere of independent responsibility in the exercise of their functions within their consular districts. The Head of the diplomatic mission, on the other hand, is the senior Canadian representative in the foreign country with general responsibility for the conduct of official business throughout the whole of its territory. Subject to the direction of the Department, the Head of the diplomatic mission is vested with overriding authority over consular officers within the same country. Consular officers should look to the Head of the diplomatic mission for guidance and support in carrying out their duties and should cooperate closely with the diplomatic mission on all matters involving questions of policy. In particular, they should seek advance guidance from the Head of the diplomatic mission or from the Department on any matter which may have broad policy implications.

1.11 - 1.12 - Spares

Relation to
Authorities of
the Receiving
State

1.13 Consular officers have direct relations with the local authorities and, therefore, may deal directly with the authorities within their consular district concerning matters within the scope of their functions. If the problem to be dealt with requires the attention of the national authorities, consular officers should deal with the central government through the Canadian diplomatic representative, except when the consular office forms part of a diplomatic mission and the above procedure has been modified in accordance with practices approved by the Head of mission. In countries where there is no diplomatic representative, the senior consular officer may address the central government directly.

Post Record
Book

1.14 Officers performing consular duties should ensure that items of a consular nature are inserted in the Post Record Book at the post.