

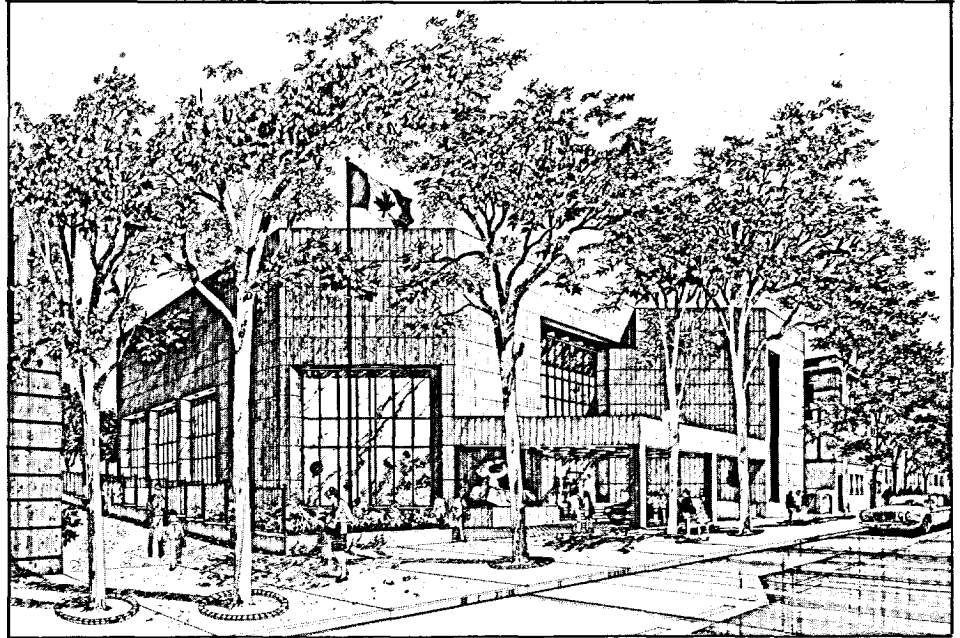
# NEW CANADIAN CHANCERIES ABROAD

## Highlighting: Belgrade, Yugoslavia

Six Canadian chanceries abroad are either in the design stage or under construction and one, in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, has just been completed and opened. The next one to be opened will be in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in the fall of 84.

The plans for the new Canadian Embassy in Washington D.C. were unveiled on May 9, and received praise and approval. The neo-classical building with modern overtones (designed by architect Arthur Erickson) was described by George White, architect of the Capitol, as "an excellent building, monumental but not intrusive". Located at the foot of Capitol Hill, it is the only foreign embassy to be given a spot in the "grand route" linking the Capitol and the White House. It is scheduled to be opened in 1986.

The new Canadian Embassy in Belgrade, Yugoslavia has just opened. Designed by Montreal architects Ouellet and Reeves, it has several interesting, unusual features — a 150 meter square atrium with overhead skylight in the middle of the building, balconies on the first and second floors that overlook the atrium, a swimming pool, two saunas and a rooftop terrace. The front entrance contains works of art by Montreal artist Pierre Granche who has incorporated elements of old European architecture into his designs plus, from the front door one



*New Canadian Embassy in Belgrade, Yugoslavia*

looks directly into the atrium with its outdoor seating, foliage and a three-storey high ceramic mural by Montreal artist Maurice Savoie depicting the St. Lawrence River.

The main floor contains the immigration section, staff lounge and multi-purpose room. The trade, consular and administration

sections are on the first floor and the political section is on the second floor. Presently there are 25 Canadians and 28 locally engaged staff there.

The Embassy is located at 75 Kneza Milosa Street in the heart of Belgrade, just across from the American Embassy.

## COMMUNITY CO-ORDINATORS AT POSTS

Moving is our way of life. Yet, as often as we do it, it still is and always will be, disruptive and stressful. Before leaving there are innumerable concerns and questions — housing, education, medical facilities, availability of produce, language, activities for children, possibilities for employment. Then upon arrival, inevitably other unanticipated problems arise.

Briefings before leaving can answer some of our questions, but for others, what really is required is direct contact with someone at the post. Upon arrival also, it is extremely important to be personally met, shown around and introduced to the community. Historically this personal contact was provided (at least in part) on a voluntary basis, but the *Royal Commission on Conditions of Foreign Service* found that "reliance on an informal, volunteer network was an inconsistent and unsatisfactory approach to a continuing, expanding problem." So, an experimental Community Liaison Office, with 1 paid co-ordinator, was established in Paris in 1982. It has proven to be so successful that the program is going to be greatly ex-

panded to include many other posts.

A draft paper on Community Co-ordinators has already been written and presented to the FSCA. It is now being revised and hopefully the program will be in operation by this summer to welcome new families. The exact nature and functioning of this position will be decided at the posts. It will depend on the number and variety of activities deemed necessary there and the number of spouses who are interested in the position.

The program may include such activities as: writing families before they arrive at the post, welcoming them upon arrival, showing them around, assisting them with any particular concerns, planning activities for Canadian families, setting up an embassy library, updating the post report, researching other information that may be needed, producing a monthly newsletter, co-ordinating food orders, plus any other activities that may be required at that particular post.

Should you be abroad, or going abroad and interested in working as a Community Co-ordinator, get in touch with the administrative officer at your post.

## WORDS OF WISDOM FROM COLUMBO'S CANADIAN QUOTATIONS

Combine the unknown with the variable and the imponderables and you have it — the Canadian Arctic.

*(Traditional saying)*

British Columbia. "If I had known what it was like, I wouldn't have been content with a mere visit. I'd have been born here."

*(Stephen Leacock. My Discovery of the West, 1937)*

Edmonton is as big as Chicago, but it isn't all built up yet.

*(Quoted by Lena Newman in an Historical Almanac)*

NEW YORK IS BIG BUT THIS IS BIGGAR.  
*(a road sign outside Biggar, Saskatchewan)*

"If some countries have too much history, we have too much geography."

*(W.L. Mackenzie, House of Commons Debates, June 18, 1936)*