

of attorneys-general in October 1975, at which time the provinces were urged to adopt model provincial legislation on reciprocal enforcement of provincial custody orders. Since that time, five provinces have enacted the model legislation, and it is expected that the remainder will take similar action in the near future. When most or all of the provinces have the necessary legislation in force, it is expected that Canada will be in a position to conclude bilateral agreements with the foreign states most concerned or to accede to international conventions in these fields, in consultation with the appropriate federal and provincial authorities.

Passport Office

The Passport Office provides passport services to Canadian citizens. In addition, it issues certificates of identity and UN refugee-convention travel documents to legally-landed aliens currently living in Canada. Regional passport offices are located in Edmonton, Halifax, Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver, the major departure-points for destinations abroad.

In 1976, the number of passports issued increased by 12.3 per cent over 1975, to 653,164. Most of this increase occurred in the last quarter of 1976. Of the total, 38,224 passports were issued at posts abroad. The balance between regional offices and Ottawa levelled off after the postal strike in November 1975. Regional-office activity, which had shown an increase of 21 per cent in 1975, increased only 3 per cent, to 309,494, while Ottawa activity, which had decreased in 1975 by 6.4 per cent, increased by 25.1 per cent, to 305,446.

The number of certificates of identity and refugee travel documents issued reflected events outside Canada, in particular the influx of refugees from Vietnam. The issuance of these documents increased 108 per cent over the previous year, to 3,975.

The number of valid passports in current use in December was estimated to be approximately 2,858,000. There were at that time

13,157 valid certificates of identity and refugee travel documents in circulation.

Regional offices issued about 50 per cent of the total number of passports in Canada. They continued to promote public-information programs relating to passports and to assist with the Department's consular awareness program by means of talks to interested groups and radio and television messages. In addition, they provided travellers with information on conditions in troubled areas of the world and helped Canadians to determine the whereabouts and wellbeing of relatives travelling abroad and to make arrangements for sending funds to them if they were in distress.

On April 1, 1976, the fee for passports was increased \$2.00, to \$12.00, to meet increasing financial commitments.