

As part of its continuing efforts to provide front-line consular services to travelling and resident Canadians, Canada appointed honorary consuls in Nicosia (Cyprus), Mazatlan (Mexico), and in Barcelona (Spain), bringing the total number of honorary consuls to 15.

Consular consultations took place with Italian authorities in Ottawa and Rome and resolution of specific issues or treaty refinements were pursued with Hungary and Poland.

Standard consular assistance includes issuing passports, providing citizenship services and information as well as helping in more serious cases such as illness, death, criminal charges, child custody and financial distress.

CANADA'S IMAGE ABROAD

Through its 119 embassies, high commissions and consulates abroad, the Department is responsible for representing Canada and defending the interests of all Canadians from coast to coast. This involves consulting and taking account of the views of the provinces as well as regional, minority, business and non-governmental groups. It also involves continuing, diverse efforts to promote Canada's strengths and achievements in all fields.

In recent years, Canada has had some success in presenting itself as a country capable of producing high technology, epitomized in 1981 by the success of Telidon, the two-way television technology, as well as Canadarm, used as a manipulator on the US space shuttle Columbia. Public diplomacy also tries to convey the reality of Canadian society as bilingual, multi-cultural and humane with a flexible, federal system of government - a country still vibrant with opportunity for future development.

Invitations from prestigious foreign institutions and festivals for participation by Canadian exhibitions and performing arts companies have resulted from the Department's efforts to promote Canada's cultural achievements. Encouragement and facilitation of contacts between institutions in Canada and abroad have brought a growing number of applications for travel grants from all sections of the arts community. Exhibitions, writers and performing groups have toured in Europe, the United States, Latin America, Asia and Africa under the Department's auspices.

The Department welcomed the formation of an International Council for Canadian Studies by seven foreign associations and their Canadian counterpart and continues to encourage the development of Canadian studies in selected countries. Canada continued its active role in internationally sanctioned expositions by announcing its intention to take part in the Knoxville International Energy Exposition (Energy Expo 82) and sent out invitations to Expo 86, the world exposition on transportation and communications to take place in Vancouver.