

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Bureau of Consular Affairs

INTRODUCTION

This report is intended to be used as a discussion paper and, as such, will not conform with the traditional format of recommendations, summaries and conclusions. Information pertinent to the review of the organization structure and functional responsibilities was gathered through interviews with all employees except those engaged in secretarial and stenographic duties.

The retirement of the Head of Section, Assistance to Canadians Abroad, which took place after commencement of the study resulted in subsequent operational changes instituted by the Director. The need for some of these changes had been identified prior to the retirement and will appear later in the report even though some action has been initiated.

ROLE OF THE BUREAU

The Bureau is charged with providing a staff service to facilitate the activities of all posts abroad. The two divisions of the Bureau, Consular Policy and Research and Consular Operations, appear to be, from an organization standpoint, compatible with and complementary to one another while providing vastly different services which we will refer to as "Staff" and "Line" respectively.

To bring this staff-line role into focus perhaps it would be expedient to define consular responsibilities. Broadly speaking the consular functions,