

the year, 175 appointments were made to the administrative staff of the Department; 140 resignations were tendered, leaving a net increase of 35 persons.

Following is a comparison of the departmental personnel strength on December 31, 1954, and December 31, 1955:

	1954	1955	Change
Officers (including Heads of Posts, Foreign Service Officers, Consular and Information Officers):			
Ottawa	112	136	+ 24
Abroad	165	162	- 3
Administrative Personnel:			
Ottawa	515	528	+ 13
Abroad	299	321	+ 22
Local staff	444	463	+ 19
Totals	1,535	1,610	+ 75

During the year three Canadian representatives abroad retired from the service: Major-General the Hon. L. R. LaFlèche, Canadian Ambassador in Argentina; Mr. E. Vaillancourt, Canadian Ambassador in Peru; and Hon. Ray Lawson, Canadian Consul-General in New York.

In order to survey the operation of the service abroad, a team from the Department visited posts in the Far East early in 1955, and gained first-hand knowledge of administrative and personnel problems, among others, at these posts.

During the calendar year 1955 the following properties were purchased: a residence for the Ambassador in Rio de Janeiro; chancery buildings in Brussels and Rome; a staff residence in Canberra; and two staff residences in Tokyo. New residences were leased in Cairo, Chicago, and Lima, and in New York for the Permanent Representative to the United Nations. New chancery accommodation was leased in Chicago. Construction projects for new chanceries for the Canadian Embassy in Paris and for the Embassy in The Hague, as well as an extension to the existing chancery in Tokyo, were in progress.

Furnishing schemes, in whole or in part, were undertaken for (a) official residences in Chicago, Karachi, Lima, Lisbon, New Delhi, Rio de Janeiro, Santiago, and Tokyo, (b) staff residences in Ankara, Beirut, Belgrade, Canberra, Rio de Janeiro, and Caracas.