

Argentina and these countries sent their first ministers to Ottawa. Diplomatic representatives were sent to Chile in 1942, to Mexico and Peru in 1944 and to Cuba in 1945. The decision to open missions in Latin America was based not only on the development of intra-American trade but on the conviction that a closer understanding was necessary to the solution of common problems.

During the war Canada participated in the general trend towards the elevation of legations to embassies. In 1943 most of its large missions abroad were raised to the rank of embassies and certain new missions established after that time were given the rank of embassy from the beginning.

In contrast to many other countries, Canada developed its diplomatic service before establishing a consular corps. The first Canadian consulates were opened in 1940 and 1941 in Greenland and in St. Pierre and Miquelon in order to allow the Canadian government to keep in touch with developments in the critical sea approaches to the northern coasts of America. These were both temporary wartime offices, though the office in Godthaab did not close until 1946.

In 1943 a Consulate-General was opened in New York to co-ordinate and supervise the increasing Canadian interests in that area of the United States. A Vice-Consulate has since been opened in Portland, Maine, and a further extension of consular offices in the United States is expected within the next few years.

To-day the external service of Canada consists of the Department of External Affairs in Ottawa and the following establishments abroad:

- (a) Embassies in: Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, China, France, Greece, Mexico, Peru, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and United States of America;
- (b) Legations in: Cuba, The Netherlands, Norway, Denmark, Luxembourg;
- (c) High Commissioners' Offices in: Australia, Ireland, Newfoundland, New Zealand, South Africa and United Kingdom;
- (d) Consulates-General in: New York, Lisbon and Caracas;
- (e) Vice-Consulate in: Portland, Me.
- (f) Military Mission in: Berlin.

The Missions Abroad

Canada's missions abroad are an integral part of the Department. Heads of missions report to the Secretary of State for External Affairs and receive their instructions from him. The diplomatic staff consists of the ambassador or minister assisted by counsellors, first, second or third secretaries, as the case may be.

In some cases officers of other departments of the Canadian government -- commercial secretaries, military, naval, air or press attaches -- are attached to the missions. Though responsible to their own departmental head in Ottawa they work under the supervision and direction of the head of mission.

The work of a mission abroad is:

- (a) to conduct negotiations with the government to which it is accredited;
- (b) to keep the home government fully informed of political developments and significant matters in that country;