
CHAPTER II - PERSONAL SAFETY

1. INTRODUCTION

Fortunately, Canada and Canadians abroad have not been prime targets in the past, but some Canadian diplomatic missions have experienced fire bombings and occupation of their premises. Incidents could involve Canadians directly.

Canadians could also become involved as innocent bystanders caught up in a terrorist incident against a third party. All Canadians can be targets in some high-risk areas abroad.

2. GENERAL SAFETY MEASURES

Security should be discussed with your family, not to frighten anyone, but simply to inform. For example, discuss what should be done in the event you or a family member is kidnapped.

Keep your family affairs (i.e., insurance policies, vital documents, etc.) in order. Keep your passports, visas, and immunization records current in a secure place. In addition to safeguarding photocopies of these documents, scan and send them to a personal e-mail.

Maintain a current list of emergency numbers beside each telephone. Be most discreet on the telephone in discussing information concerning your personal life including travel. Do not hand out business or home telephone numbers indiscriminately.

Do not go to the same restaurant or place of entertainment consistently as this establishes a pattern which will become obvious to any persons who may have you under surveillance. Occasionally, it may also be prudent to make reservations in the name of another member of your party.

Should you or your family receive any anonymous calls or threats, report them promptly to the Mission Security Officer.

Don't attend appointments with unknown persons.

When on foot, travel in pairs or in groups whenever possible.

Walk on brightly-lit, well-travelled streets as much as possible.

Avoid shortcuts through deserted parks, vacant lots and unlit alleys.

Avoid walking alone at night on a deserted street, but if you have to, walk briskly and do not dawdle or window-shop.

Be alert to your surroundings. Keep away from loiterers and street gangs.

Use well-lit bus stops and reputable taxi stands.

Endeavour to be as inconspicuous as possible when in public. Avoid crowds and civil disturbances. Public demonstrations tend to turn violent. If others initiate troublesome incidents, leave the scene as quickly as possible.