The negotiation of treaties and international agreements is an important aspect of the work of the Department. Above, signing the Franco-Canadian Cultural Entente, the first cultural agreement between France and Canada, (left to right) are: The French Ambassador to Canada, His Excellency François Leduc; the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin; and Mr. Marcel Cadieux, Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Before an embassy can attempt to fulfil any of these responsibilities, of course, it must be set up and kept running smoothly: this is the function of the administrative officer and his staff. While the tasks of administration are essentially the same in our missions abroad as they are in government operations in Canada, the problems will often be quite different. (There can hardly be many office buildings in Canada that have to be protected against water buffalo scratching their backs against the foundations!)