Thus the present science attachés perform a dual function. On the one hand, as liaison officers they function as a direct link between the National Research Council and the scientific community of the country to which they are accredited. On the other hand, as attachés they function as an inter-governmental link to facilitate the development of national policy and action in the international field of science.

In addition to the scientific attachés in London and Washington, a similar post was created in the Canadian Embassy in Paris. The Paris attaché is also accredited to the Canadian delegations to NATO and OECD and assists these delegations in their scientific and technological activities.