

category of major activity were: \$203.4 million for relations with foreign governments; \$14.3 million for consular services to Canadians abroad; \$40.1 million for information and cultural relations; \$43.6 million for general administration; and \$149 million for the provision of support services to other departments and agencies having representatives abroad, notably Industry, Trade and Commerce and CIDA. During the year, an additional \$17.6 million was transferred to the Department for consolidation of immigration foreign operations into the Department of External Affairs.

Operating and maintenance expenditures (\$313.9 million) enabled the Department to carry out its responsibilities for the management and co-ordination of operations both at home and abroad; included under this heading were expenditures for salaries, wages and other personnel costs, rentals of properties abroad, travel and communications and a wide range of costs associated with the conduct of foreign operations.

Grants and contributions (\$111.2 million) were, for the most part, non-discretionary payments arising from Canada's membership in a number of international organizations (UN, NATO, OECD, Commonwealth, Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation, etc.).

#### Physical resources

The provision of the Department's overseas real estate is entrusted to a physical resources branch. The branch also has responsibility for a long-range capital program approved by the Treasury Board in 1978 and funded at a level of over \$26 million annually; the object of the program is to increase Crown ownership of office and living accommodation abroad to secure more economical and satisfactory accommodation. A recent evaluation of the realty inventory places its value at \$500 million.

During 1981 the physical resources branch completed construction of a chancery in Mexico, while major renovations to the Paris chancery neared completion. Interior design and renovation work continued on the cultural centre at Canada House in London, and construction began on a chancery in Belgrade and staff quarters in Port of Spain. Work on the cultural centre in New York was completed. The branch also continued with negotiations and design for major chancery projects in Riyadh, Peking, and Washington. Minor alteration projects were carried out at several missions at a cost of \$1.6 million and a property maintenance program of \$8.5 million was implemented during the year.

Acquisition of properties related to post openings in Amman, Munich and Perth, Australia was initiated. Purchases of a chancery in Abidjan and an official residence in Dallas were finalized while projects in progress included acquisition of official residences in Abidjan, Athens, Buenos Aires and Brussels, staff quarters in Bangkok, The Hague and Singapore and a chancery in Rio de Janeiro. With the addition of four staff quarters, the last phase of a joint venture to provide 13 staff quarters in