

- ❖ We can contact, at your request, your relatives or friends and ask them to send you emergency funds.
- ❖ We can help you during emergencies such as natural disasters and civil and military uprisings.
- ❖ We can direct you to sources of information about local laws, regulations, cultural customs and how to obtain visas.
- ❖ We can assist with medical emergencies.
- ❖ If you are arrested, we can try to ensure equitable treatment under local laws. At your request, we can inform relatives and friends about your arrest and try to ensure that legal rights and processes are extended to you consistent with the standards of the host country. However, we cannot set aside local laws if you are charged with an offence, nor intervene in the judicial process of a foreign country. We cannot post bail, pay for a lawyer or pay your fines.
- ❖ If you wish, we can notify your next of kin regarding accidents or deaths and let them know whether, and how, they can help.

Check the listings at the end of this booklet for information about the Canadian missions in the countries you plan to visit.

Emergency Consular Services

Canadian missions offer 24-hour assistance. During non-office hours, an answering machine will take your message or your call will be directed to a consular officer in Ottawa, depending upon local arrangements. The machines are monitored by a duty officer. It is essential that you leave a clear and detailed message, including a telephone number where you can be reached. Duty officers worldwide as well as consular officers in Ottawa are remarkably successful at providing emergency assistance.

In an emergency, you can also make a collect call to Foreign Affairs in Ottawa at **(613) 996-8885**. Use the *Canada Direct* service if it is available.

In some areas where Canada doesn't have a fully established mission, you may obtain emergency consular assistance from the Australian or British missions. Though not equipped to provide you with the same range of services as fully established Canadian missions, they can assist you in an emergency.

Consular Assistance Around the Globe

A list identifying where you may seek consular assistance abroad is provided at the back of this book.

Please remember that addresses and telephone numbers may change. Should you fail to reach a mission through the number listed in this booklet, call the local operator for the new number.

PART THREE: WHILE TRAVELLING

Foreign Laws and Customs

When you're travelling in a foreign country, familiarize yourself with the way of life there. Respect that country's laws, religions, culture, class structure and economic conditions. Though you may not personally agree with some of their beliefs, remember that you are a visitor.

In many countries, appropriate attire — for both sexes — is very important. In some countries, laws govern what men and women can and cannot wear in public. Penalties for disobeying local laws can be quite severe.

Be especially respectful of temples, mosques, churches, synagogues and other religious sites. Many of these areas are off-limits to foreigners or people who are not members of that faith. Ask permission before taking photographs of religious artifacts or buildings.

Not everybody likes to have his or her picture taken. Local people may resent you for taking their photograph or they may demand money for the picture after it has been taken. Always ask first.