

relative of each of your members (in case anything untoward happens while you are in the country in question) may be required.

Do not be surprised if there are questions that have to be answered about whether or not any of your members have criminal records. Indeed, a few countries may still require that there is an RCMP security check of all of those who will cross their borders to work or perform. (If the latter is necessary, your members will be asked to submit to a finger-printing procedure. You may request that all such records are destroyed on the completion of your tour.)

You will almost certainly be asked to supply a number of passport-style photographs of each of the applicants. As some countries require that three or four photographs be submitted, the cost of providing the photographs, particularly if you are visiting several countries in the course of the same tour, must be included in your budget.

Some countries will request that you pay a fee for each visa issued. If you are only visiting one country, the cost may not be a major consideration. If, on the other hand, you represent a large organization visiting several countries you will have allow for this expense. In all cases, as you are going on a cultural mission, and particularly if you are visiting a country with which Canada has signed a cultural exchange agreement, you should try to obtain an exemption from all such charges.

Physically getting the visas into the passports can be an exercise made considerably more complicated by the geography of Canada, especially if your organization does not happen to be based in Ottawa or in a city with a concentration of foreign consulates.

As even a simple tourist visa can often take more than one day to process, you must allow for your passports being in the hands of each embassy or consulate for at least three days in order to obtain the visas you require. Once again, if you are only visiting one country this is manageable. If, however, you are undertaking a more comprehensive tour and your organization's base is located

at a distance from the embassies or consulates that will issue the necessary visas, you have a logistical problem on your hands.

If, wherever your home base is (unless you are lucky enough to be based in Ottawa itself), it proves more practical for you to obtain your visas directly from the appropriate embassies in Ottawa, you are going to have to get your passports and application forms there in the first place, and then ship them from one embassy to another in the second. Unless you know someone in Ottawa whom you can trust to shuffle your passports from one embassy to another, you may have to bear the cost of having a member of your staff in the federal capital for the time it takes to get these formalities completed.

The further away you work from a centre of diplomatic activity, the more time it will take you to get all the visa authorization you need. Do not leave this matter to the last minute.

INOCULATIONS

Valid certificates of vaccination meeting the requirements of the countries that you are going to visit are also essential if you want to avoid delays and perhaps even quarantine on your arrival (if you happen to arrive from, or have passed through, a so-called infected zone).

To find out what certificates are required you should check with the nearest office of Health and Welfare Canada. You should let them know both the countries that you are going to visit and the countries in which you are going to disembark, however briefly, in passage. They will inform you of both current requirements and recommendations and where you can obtain the necessary inoculations.

Once the vaccinations have taken place you will be given an International Certificate of Vaccination booklet. It is important to remember, however, that the validity of some certificates does not commence imme-