

environment which will have some effect on the nature of the demand for consular services. First, there is the age pattern: The 1979 population of senior citizens of 2,204,000 (9.3% of 23,671,000) will likely reach 2,990,000 by 1991 (11.2% of 26,640,000). The 20-29 year olds, now 4,346,000 (18.4% of the population) will probably fall to 4,310,000 or 16.2% of the population. These changes may cause some shifts in the types of consular problems with which the Department will have to deal.

A second demographic development, owing partly to the changes with effect from 1967 in the immigration laws and partly to the high priority given to family reunification since the Immigration Act which came into force in 1978, has been the rapid increase in the proportion of Canada's population whose background and culture are very different from those of the earlier settlers. Consular matters tend to be very personal affairs for the consular clients and pose a challenge to the consular officer to develop an understanding of those of his clients whose culture is different from his own.

Economic conditions will be a very significant element in the general environment in Canada affecting the scale and nature of consular activities in the 1980s. Escalating costs of fuel seem certain to keep pushing up the costs of travel over the next few years, and this, combined with any continuing weakness of the Canadian dollar vis-à-vis foreign currencies, will probably cut back--or at least stabilize--the amount of travel abroad for the next two to five years as well as altering the makeup of the travelling public and the pattern of their destinations. Preliminary estimates from the Canadian Government Office of Tourism already indicate a decline in 1979 and 1980 from 1978 in the number of people travelling outside Canada and some changes in destination.

In the longer perspective one may anticipate that the increase in production of non-conventional fuels will stabilize the cost of travel to some extent and that increased foreign investment in Canada will have the effect of strengthening the Canadian dollar. By the mid 1980s, therefore, these two circumstances could well stimulate a resumption of the steady rise in Canadian travel abroad that was evident in the late 60s and early 70s. Any current easing in the demand for certain types of consular services may be of relatively short duration.

Another trend likely to develop further in the 1980s is the increase in services being offered to the travelling public by the private sector. In the atmosphere of keen competition, travel agencies may be expected to offer a wider range of services, some of which should reduce their