

to virtually all countries of the world now exceeds one million annually, and there has been a correspondingly sharp increase in the number of those who call upon Canadian posts for help of one kind or another. In 1972, this represented a very substantial rise in operational demands on consular services at home and abroad. At certain periods, the operational headquarters resembled an emergency centre dealing with urgent telegrams despatched by missions. These messages might relate, for example, to a motor accident in Algeria, a drowning in Cameroon, the theft of funds in Kuwait, a loss of documents in India, an airline crash in Japan, a suicide in Brazil, a fraud charge in Belgium, the cancelling of chartered flights, or to the steadily increasing stream of arrests around the world on charges of drug possession or trafficking.

Handling these appeals is only the first step in an often fast-moving chain of events. Depending on the nature of the case, long-distance telephone calls have to be made to worried parents, to relatives and friends, or to lawyers; contact may also be called for with airlines, banks, employers, undertakers, other Federal Government departments, provincial government departments or social and welfare agencies. Some cases are dealt with simply by approaching relatives or friends who despatch the funds needed to continue a trip or to return to Canada, and then advising the post concerned; others, however, particularly those involving illness, death or arrest, often involve protracted communications with persons in Canada and with posts abroad.

In addition to handling problems of this type, the Department continued in 1972 to co-ordinate and refine the development of contingency plans for the evacuation of resident and visiting Canadians on a large scale, should this become necessary due to local troubles of a sufficiently grave nature. To that end, the Department and its missions maintain an up-dated registry of Canadians living in foreign countries, in order that they may be quickly reached in the event of an emergency.

The Consular Bureau was also called upon during the year to deal with an increasing number of general enquiries, the majority of which concerned requirements for travel abroad, and continuous liaison was main-

tained with Manpower and Immigration regarding the issuance of visas of concern to the Department.

Cultural Affairs

The Department continued to pursue Canada's external policy objectives in the diversified field of culture along guidelines designed to ensure that priorities abroad reflect national priorities and policies, maintaining and developing its various programs in such a way as to reflect the growth of cultural activities in this country during the past two decades and to present an image of Canada likely to enhance its reputation and contribute to the development of tourism, immigration, industry and commerce. The geographical focus of these programs was further extended to world areas specifically designated in the Government's foreign policy review.

To that end, four sections have been set up to deal with the Department's areas of concern: Cultural Programs and Agreements, coordinating Canada's cultural activities abroad and their dissemination; Arts and Letters; Education, which covers the various educational programs of the OECD and UNESCO, youth programs, etc; and UNESCO, to coordinate the elaboration of Canada's longer term policies in this area.

Cultural programs and agreements

The Cultural Programs and Agreements Section is responsible for the smooth operation of cultural agreements and cultural exchange programs with other countries. To date, Canada has signed agreements of this kind with France, Belgium and the U.S.S.R. Stemming from these is a growing variety of programs in the fields of university exchanges (scholarships, professors, lecturers, etc.), exchanges of persons (teachers, researchers, trainees, personalities, etc.), and artistic exchanges (tours, exhibitions, Canadian Weeks, literary events, etc.).

This section is also responsible for setting up and implementing programs with other countries with which Canada has close relations, although there are no actual cultural agreements. Three important events highlighted the Department's cultural activity in 1972: the prep-