

XII. Protocol

AS in past years, the duties of the Protocol Division included, primarily, arrangements for the exchange of diplomatic and consular representatives between Canada and other countries, and the administration of the privileges and immunities prescribed for such representatives by international law and practice.

Letters of Credence, Commissions and Exequaturs

Letters of credence for Canadian diplomatic envoys accredited to foreign Heads of State were prepared and submitted to His Majesty the King for signature. The commissions of Canadian consuls and the exequaturs of foreign consuls appointed in Canada were prepared for the signature of His Excellency the Governor General. The division received and scrutinized the credentials of foreign and Commonwealth representatives arriving in Canada and sought His Majesty's approval of the nomination of foreign envoys accredited to Canada. It prepared credentials and attended to the other necessary formalities in connection with the sending of special delegations to represent Canada at international conferences and at state occasions abroad.

Arrangements were made by the Protocol Division for the reception, by His Excellency the Governor General and by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, of newly-arrived diplomatic envoys, for the ceremonies attendant upon the presentation of their letters of credence, and, in the case of foreign consuls, for provisional recognition by the Government of Canada, and for the subsequent issue of exequaturs and gazetting of their appointments.

Foreign diplomatic and consular representatives posted to Canada, as usual made their first contact with the Department through the Protocol Division, which serves as a general channel of communication between them and the Department, as well as a source of information on Canadian regulations and procedure, protocol practice in Ottawa and questions of precedence.

Privileges and Immunities

There were some occasions when the Department had to intervene with other Canadian authorities to ensure the extension of privileges and immunities to foreign envoys and members of their families and suites. These include inviolability of person and property,