

MATTERS OF PROTOCOL

The first point of contact for foreign diplomats coming to serve in Canada is the *Protocol Division*.⁽¹⁾ Through its liaison with the representatives of other countries in Canada and the services it provides for them, the Division plays an essential role in facilitating the external relations of Canada.

The Accreditations Section of the Division arranges for the accreditation of all foreign heads of mission coming to Canada. It also has responsibility for the formalities relating to the appointment of Canadian heads of mission and Canadian consular officers abroad.

The records of the arrivals and departures of ambassadors and high commissioners during the first nine months of the year reveal that 19 heads of mission departed, while 23 arrived. One country, whose representative was already accredited to Canada, opened a resident embassy in Ottawa, as did three countries, including the People's Republic of China, that had previously had no representation in Canada. Another country raised the rank of its head of mission from *chargé d'affaires* to ambassador. Still another simultaneously accredited to Canada its ambassador resident in Washington.

The Privileges and Immunities and Documentation Section of the Division facilitates the work of foreign representatives by providing them with identity and other documents related to their entitlement to the privileges and immunities under international law that they require to carry out their functions. The Section provides advice and occasionally exercises its good offices toward seeking a solution to certain kinds of problem that might impede the work of foreign representatives in Canada.

It is worth noting that foreign representatives in Canada now number several thousand, each of whom requires documentation and is entitled to some degree of privilege and immunity.

The Visits and Hospitality Section of the Division serves both the Government Hospitality Committee and the Department. It is concerned with all arrangements for visits to Canada by foreign government dignitaries and heads of international organizations who are official guests of the Government of Canada. This includes the hospitality extended to them and their comfort and safety while in Canada.

The Section is also responsible for hospitality offered by the Minister to foreign ambassadors; the operation of the Government Guest House; the procurement of suitable gifts for presentation to foreign dignitaries at home and abroad by the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs; and the channelling to the Decorations Committee of proposals by foreign governments for the granting of awards to Canadians.

During 1971, the Government Hospitality Committee and the Visits and Hospitality Section, in co-operation with other government departments and

(1) With the exception of the Passport Office, which reports direct to one of the Assistant Under-Secretaries, the Protocol Division and the other units discussed from here to Page 99 report to the Under-Secretary.