

Several thousand requests for information were received from relatives about the welfare of Canadians believed to be travelling or living in Guatemala after earthquakes caused widespread damage there in February, and the safety of more than 800 Canadians was confirmed. Similar services were provided after earthquakes in Italy and China later in the year. Crisis-management groups were formed to deal with incidents in Lebanon and at Uganda's Entebbe Airport in which Canadians were held hostage.

To meet the increasing demand for consular services abroad, two new honorary consuls were appointed in 1976, in Guadalajara and Acapulco, Mexico. There are honorary consuls also in Malaga, Spain, and Reykjavik, Iceland. The need for such services in other parts of the world is being examined. Consideration is also being given to Canadian consular requirements in countries where Canada has no diplomatic or consular representation and where consular services to Canadians are at present provided by British consular representatives.

The Bureau has continued to develop training programs for consular staff at home and abroad. During 1976, some 150 persons undertook an intensive training course before being posted abroad.

The new Canadian Citizenship Act was given royal assent in July 1976 and, as administration of the act abroad is an important aspect of consular work at many posts, the Bureau co-operated with the Citizenship Branch of the Department of the Secretary of State in preparing new instructions and guidelines for the administration of the act at posts abroad.

During 1976, examination was continued of the obligations resulting from Canada's accession to the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, and of the arrangements to be made with the relevant authorities at the federal and provincial levels for the interpretation and implementation of the convention.

As part of the Department's Consular Awareness Program, an advertising campaign was undertaken to warn travellers of university

age of potential pitfalls, and an "awareness campaign" was begun in foreign-language newspapers for Canadian citizens who might be considered dual nationals in the countries of their origins. Bureau officers participated in television and radio programs to increase "consular awareness". Efforts were also made to improve contacts with travel-agency associations and travel editors, as well as airlines, in order to ensure that changes in regulations and entry requirements of foreign countries were quickly brought to the attention of the travel industry in Canada.

Legal assistance to Canadians

Settlement of claims

The Bureau of Legal Affairs deals with Canadian claims against other states. The claims may be those of individual citizens or Canadian corporate and governmental bodies that arise from losses due to such causes as expropriation of property, breach of contract, bodily injury or death. The advice and assistance the Department gives to claimants is determined by the applicable international law of state responsibility and by the unique circumstances of each claim or class of claim.

In some cases, the Department has used its good offices to contact appropriate foreign authorities to urge the expeditious and just settlement of a claim, to obtain information useful to a claimant, or to protect property rights. For example, in the past year the Department has continued its attempts to assist Canadians who have property interests in northern Cyprus that were affected by the fighting in 1974 and by the subsequent separation of Greek and Turkish Cypriots.

Other claims have either been espoused by the Government or been the subject of direct discussions with another state. The Government of the People's Republic of China has continued its study of Canadian claims submitted to it last year. Further work was completed on claims in the Canada-Cuba claims program in preparation for another, and perhaps final, negotiating session before a formal agreement is signed. Yugoslav authorities have continued to supply information