

# Foreign representation in Canada: protocol

The number of countries having diplomatic relations with Canada now stands at 132: there are 69 resident ambassadors, 18 resident high commissioners, 32 non-resident ambassadors and 13 non-resident high commissioners. In addition, there are the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), which is located in Montreal, with representatives from 39 member states and a large secretariat, the delegation of the European Economic Commission, the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Labour Office and the United Nations audio-visual information centre on human settlements, recently established in Vancouver. The total number of consular and other diplomatic offices outside Ottawa is now 315, a slight decrease, owing in part to adjustments in the consular territories of the accrediting countries.

## Protocol

During 1977 the Office of the Chief of Protocol maintained contact with the missions, providing services and advice in accordance with Canada's obligations under international conventions and Canadian laws and regulations. Such matters as the protection of foreign embassy and consular personnel, and ceremonial arrangements involving the diplomatic corps and Government hospitality to foreign visitors, were the responsibility of the Office. It was also responsible for overseeing the privileges and immunities of 759 diplomatic personnel, some of whom were resident outside Canada, 624 individuals and their families attached to consulates, and 641 foreign administrative and support staff and their families. There were also 215 private servants working for foreign representatives. At the ICAO headquarters in Montreal, besides the 39 representatives of the member states, there were 108 senior officials, whose status was similar to that of the diplomats, and an administrative and support staff of 299 persons.

The Office continued to help newly-arrived foreign personnel to understand Canadian customs and the Canadian laws and regulations they would be expected to observe, and to intervene to prevent misunderstandings between members of the diplomatic community and Canadian citizens from having an adverse effect on the work of foreign missions, while protecting the interests of Canadians.

The Office was also responsible for welcoming foreign visitors and for offering them Government hospitality. In 1977, the Department's services organized 359 receptions and co-ordinated arrangements for 120 visits to Canada. These included state or official visits by: the heads of state of Belgium, Gabon, Mauritania and Tanzania; the heads of government of Britain, Denmark, Grenada, Guyana, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Singapore and Western Samoa; and the ministers of foreign affairs of Barbados, Britain, China, France, Japan, Mexico, Niger and Sudan. Arrangements were also co-ordinated for official travel abroad by the Prime Minister to Britain, France, Iceland and Washington, and by the Secretary of State for External Affairs to Brazil, Britain, Colombia, Egypt, Greece, Israel, Mexico, Peru, Spain and Yugoslavia.