

After the war ended, external services continued to expand. High commissioners were accredited to India and Pakistan and eventually to the other new members of the Commonwealth. Diplomatic relations were expanded in the French-speaking world, especially the newly-independent French-language states of Africa. During and after the Second World War Canada joined a general trend towards elevating its legations to the status of embassies.

Membership and strong interest in the United Nations entailed the establishment of missions at the New York and Geneva headquarters of the UN, and representation at the UN Specialized Agencies. A Canadian mission was established at North Atlantic Treaty Organization headquarters, and at the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. Representation in additional countries throughout the world and at the growing number of international organizations continued into the Sixties and Seventies with one interruption: in 1969 seven posts abroad were closed on grounds of economy. Subsequently, the growth continued.

Consular service

After initiating its trade promotion and diplomatic services, Canada established a consular service which has the prime function of protecting and assisting Canadians travelling or working abroad. The first Canadian consulates were opened in 1940 and 1941, in Greenland and in the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, essentially as a wartime measure, to monitor developments in the critical sea approaches to the northern coasts of North America. Consular offices were opened in New York in 1943, in Portland (Maine) in 1945, in Caracas in 1946, in São Paulo and Chicago in 1947, in Frankfurt, Boston, Detroit and San Francisco in 1948, in Bordeaux and Marseilles in 1965 and in many other major cities since. Unlike some other countries, Canada did not appoint honorary consuls abroad (with limited-consular functions) until more recent years.

World-wide representation

At the beginning of 1984 Canada had embassies in 63 foreign countries, high commissions in 19 Commonwealth countries, consulates in 27 leading cities abroad and honorary consuls in 24 more, and 12 missions at international organizations. The heads of 43 of these posts represent Canada in 85 countries additional to the one in which they are stationed. This "multiple accreditation" enables Canada to have relations with 167 countries (see Appendix I for details). Foreign and Commonwealth representation in Ottawa parallels that of Canadian representation abroad.