

Corporate Review Update

NO 4 - JANUARY 1991

EXTRA! EXTRA!

This is a special edition of the UPDATE to bring you news from the world of the Office of Protocol. Many of you in the Pearson Building will have seen the construction underway on the ground floor of the A Tower and this mini-edition is to let you know what has been happening, and what will be happening behind those expanded walls.

THE VISITS AND CONFERENCES DIVISION (XDV)

Imagine that you are a protocol officer responsible for an important visiting delegation. You have travelled with the group to another province as part of a cross-Canada tour enroute to Vancouver. Now imagine that the morning you are to depart for the final leg of the trip you wake to discover that the airline company that you are flying with that day has folded. How do you get the group to Vancouver on time? (See NO PROBLEM on page 3.)

This was a day in the life of the group that works behind those glass doors on the main floor of the A Tower. There is a world of meeting other peoples' needs and making sure that every detail is taken care of, every itinerary carefully planned, every schedule met and every visit and trip is a success. It also frequently means coping with the unexpected.

BIGGER, BETTER

One of the results of the Corporate Review is that since September 1, an expanded Visits and Conferences Division has been up and running as part of the Office of Protocol. In fact, the office has doubled its staff and doubled its space. This is good news for staff in geographic divisions that deal with visits to and from Canada as part of their job.

This new team now provides full logistic and administrative support for visits of all three Ministers as well as the Governor General and the Prime Minister's Office on request. Previously they were only able to handle the visits needs of Mr. Clark and the Governor General. They also cover visits of incoming Heads of State, Heads of Government and officials of Ministries of foreign affairs and international trade. With their new staff, expanded space and hi-tech computer support, they offer service which supports and reflects the quality and professionalism of the Department as a whole.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

If you work in a geographic branch you will want to get to know this Unit well. With their expanded resources they are prepared to deliver whatever program you may want for a visit in or out of Canada. They hope to be able to provide whatever assistance and service you need to arrange a State Official or working visit of a high level visitor to Canada, or a visit out of Canada. This includes a plan eventually also to assume full responsibility for logistical support for Canadian participation in Summits outside of Canada. For the missions, the expanded staff in the unit will allow them to send out a logistics officer in advance of ministerial and Governor General visits who can assist in the planning and be responsible for the logistics during the visit.

For the desk officer in a geographic branch who has been tasked with arranging a visit, this means that the Unit will now take on all the responsibility for arranging the administrative and logistic support for the visit and allow you to concentrate your time and energies on other tasks related to the substantive aspects of the visit. The Unit is there to support you.

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