

The latter activities might well have an important influence on the length of their stay abroad.

In only a very small percentage of these cases has there been any complaint on the part of the person concerned or the next-of-kin. Unfortunately, as I pointed out earlier, it is these few instances which come to public attention and criticism. I welcome such criticism if it concerns errors of omission or commission on our part.

The Government and my Department attach very great importance to the protection of Canadian interests abroad and to the quality of assistance available to Canadians travelling or residing abroad. We shall continue to exert our best efforts to maintain and improve the excellent consular service they already enjoy.