

d. Persons in Canada who write to a Consulate about the whereabouts of persons abroad, normally should be advised to direct their enquiry, to the National Enquiry Bureau of the Canadian Red Cross Society, 95 Wellesley Street East, Toronto, or (except in the case of a Sino-Soviet-bloc country), to the local police forces in the foreign country. They may also be informed of the names of major newspapers in the event that they would like to advertise for the missing person.

e. Persons in Canada who write to a Canadian Consulate in the United States about the whereabouts of a person in the United States may be advised to direct their enquiry to their local municipal police. The Canadian municipal police, on receipt of an enquiry, will get in touch with the United States municipal or state police at the last known address of the missing person, or with the R.C.M.P. Enquirers may be told that it is preferable to direct the enquiry to the United States police through the Canadian municipal police rather than through the Consulate since this ensures that the police will obtain from the enquirer all the information they need to carry out the search.

1.23 Communications or documents received, or information gained, by a consular officer or his staff in their official capacity, form part of the archives of the post and under international law are inviolate. Consular officials cannot be compelled to disclose such documents or information although, in certain circumstances, disclosure may be warranted and even desirable. Requests for interrogation or for disclosure of documents from the local governmental or welfare authorities or Courts of Justice should always be referred, together with the reasons for the request, to the Department for instructions. In the case of requests from the local police authorities, they should first be advised to seek the information through the RCMP at Ottawa. If this is not satisfactory to the local police authorities, their request together with the reasons therefor should be referred to the Department for decision. Where quick action is mandatory, a post may, in most exceptional cases, if circumstances warrant (for example, to apprehend a major criminal or a dope smuggler) release to the police authorities the particulars on file about an individual without approval of the Department, but should immediately inform the Department of the action taken. (See also 5.28 k).

Disclosure of  
Information or  
Production of  
Documents at  
the Request of  
Local Authorities or Courts  
of Justice