

The Department's active recruiting programme continued during 1965. In addition to Foreign Service and Administrative Officers, ten Junior Executive Officers were accepted. After the usual period of training and probation, they will become External Affairs Officers, specializing in the administrative, consular and information work of the Department at home and abroad. In the administrative-staff classes, the number inducted rose from 116 in 1963 to 214 in 1964, with 210 being recruited in the first ten months of 1965.

Consular and Passport Activities

Consular Division

As in past years, the increasing number of Canadians travelling abroad or in temporary residence overseas has been reflected in the form and scope of the responsibilities which are administered by the Consular Division of the Department. These responsibilities are well illustrated by the general consular services performed by posts abroad: issuing and renewing passports; issuing emergency certificates; renewing identity certificates; granting diplomatic and courtesy visas; issuing immigrant and non-immigrant visas at posts where the Canadian Immigration Service is not represented; providing advice and assistance on matters concerning citizenship and immigration; registering births of children born to Canadian parents abroad; granting extensions of Canadian citizenship; registering Canadian citizens abroad; providing relief and repatriation for Canadians temporarily distressed or disabled; protecting Canadian interests in matters of estates, claims, etc.; assisting Canadian ships and aircraft and their crews; performing notarial acts, including authentication of legal and other documents; assisting in locating missing persons; and generally protecting the rights and interests of Canadians abroad.

Canadian citizens travelling abroad have their journeys facilitated by the fact that Canada has reciprocal multi-entry visa and visa-waiver agreements with many countries. This procedure allows Canadian citizens to enter a country with which such agreement is established for a period of up to three months without visas or to obtain, without charge, multi-entry visas valid for 12 months when their intended visit would extend for a longer period. These or similar privileges are enjoyed by Canadian citizens who travel to Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey. Agreements are also in effect which allow Canadians to receive multi-entry visas, free of charge, for entry into Iran and at half the normal fee for entry into Venezuela. Visas or entry permits are not required by Canadians who visit the United States, Ireland or Commonwealth countries.

A Canadian Government delegation attended the twentieth International Red Cross Conference in Vienna this year from October 2 to 9. The material and commentary for the delegation were compiled by the Consular Division. Canada continued to take a strong stand in support of the humanitarian services performed by the Red Cross.

Passport Division

Demand by the Canadian public for passport services, including the provision of certificates of identity to eligible stateless persons, continued to increase during 1965.