

some functions which in Canada are peripheral to the consular function but not properly part of it will be touched on.

THE CANADIAN ENVIRONMENT

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The Canadian environment which will affect the demand for consular services and how this demand will be met during the 1980s is not solely a matter of current and future economic conditions: there are historical and social factors to be considered as well.

The External Affairs Act of 1909 establishing the Department and the Order-in-Council of the same year assigning responsibility for consular matters to the Department did not define the consular function nor prescribe what a consular officer might or might not do. Subsequent legislation has not made good this omission. Canadian consular practice has tended, therefore, to follow international traditions, modified very considerably by Canadian attitudes. Since these attitudes affect not only the expectations of the public but also the approach to their work of consular officers abroad and departmental managers and personnel in Ottawa, they deserve brief mention.

First, there is the tradition of neighbourly help, going back to frontier times. Readiness to aid the traveller or the newcomer in any conceivable way comes easily to most people given consular responsibilities and is expected by Canadians who find a Canadian outpost abroad because that was the pattern in all parts of the country in the comparatively recent times of early settlement.

Secondly, there is the typically Canadian phenomenon of government providing in certain areas and conditions services which are later surrendered wholly or partly to the private sector. The classic patterns are transportation and communications, (e.g. Air Canada and the CBC)--areas which are of particular importance to the traveller. In view of this pattern, it comes naturally for Canadians abroad to turn to the agency of their own government--the consulate or diplomatic post--for help of any kind. It should come as easily to government to permit and encourage the private sector to take over some of the work of looking after the needs of Canadians abroad.

Demographic changes are another factor in the Canadian

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