

## Archives

Departmental records are now open for research up to the end of the Second World War. As for more recent papers, procedures are being developed for increasing the controlled access thereto, whenever possible, to provide historians, researchers and the larger public with accurate and authoritative historical accounts of Canada's foreign policy and its role in international affairs.

Oral history projects consisting of interviews with former ministers and senior officials influential in the formulation and conduct of Canadian foreign policy, were carried out in 1972 for the third consecutive year. The participation of academics is envisaged, as well as of journalists interested in the background aspects of Canada's current external relations, as interviewers in this program.

## Consular Activity

The rapid expansion of Canadian investment abroad, the increase in foreign aid, both private and public, and the tremendous upsurge in the number of Canadians travelling outside Canada, had strongly emphasized by 1972 the need to enlarge and improve the Department's capacity to provide consular assistance in fulfilling its role of protecting Canadians and Canadian interests abroad. To that end, a complete restructuring of consular facilities was undertaken, which brought about, in November, the establishment of the Bureau of Consular Affairs comprising two divisions concerned with policy and research as well as consular operations.

Procedural guidelines were laid down for the implementation of consular policies both in Ottawa and at more than 70 Canadian missions throughout the world. Canadian offices abroad were provided with improved "instruments of their trade", to enable them to deal quickly and effectively with the multitude of situations in which travelling Canadians might seek their assistance. These consisted of new manuals of instruction, periodic directives and an abundance of other material from different government departments on whose behalf assistance is rendered to Canadians.

## Research and training

To determine the volume and diversity of the demands made on our posts abroad, and to establish the varying trends in travel patterns to different geographical areas as well as seasonal fluctuations, a statistical analysis system was set up. This system is being reviewed and refined to ensure that the type of data gathered will provide a ready reference for determining future requirements in the consular field.

One result of the Bureau's research activity in 1972 was the production of the booklet: *Information for Canadians Travelling Abroad* (now published annually), following consultations within the Department and with other Departments such as Industry, Trade and Commerce, National Revenue, Agriculture and National Health and Welfare. This bilingual booklet provides information to Canadians concerning passports, visa and vaccination requirements, local laws and regulations abroad, consular assistance, currency and travellers cheques, health insurance, mail, motor-ing, and the location of Canadian posts. A copy is distributed with each passport issued either in Canada or abroad, and it is used in responding to enquiries. The Bureau also shared in the preparation of the bilingual folder *On Your Own*, issued by National Health and Welfare.

In the interest of improved personnel training, the Bureau established a Consular Training Section. This section has developed a comprehensive training program and, since December, 1972, has conducted intensive training classes on all aspects of consular activity both in Ottawa and abroad. As well as instruction by Bureau officers in their particular fields of consular expertise, the classes include lectures by members of other departments on whose behalf External Affairs officers perform duties, such as Manpower and Immigration, the Secretary of State (Citizenship Branch) and Transport.

## Operational demands

The Bureau's operational services are responsible for helping individual citizens who seek assistance from Canadian missions. The number of Canadians travelling