

abroad who are temporarily distressed or destitute, including financial aid on a recoverable basis; issuing and renewing passports and certificates of identity; granting diplomatic and courtesy visas; granting immigrant and non-immigrant visas except in countries where Canadian immigration offices are located; registering Canadian citizens who are residing abroad or born abroad; procuring or authenticating legal documents; and providing advice and assistance on citizenship and immigration questions.

Further progress has been made in facilitating travel of Canadian citizens abroad by the abolition of visa requirements. As a result of an exchange of notes, Japan and Canada agreed to abolish, on a reciprocal basis, non-immigrant visa fees effective July 1, 1955. Similar arrangements were made between Israel and Canada effective September 1, 1955. With the return of Austrian sovereignty, normal visa requirements for Austria are again in effect and the Austrian authorities are continuing to waive visa fees for Canadian citizens. This means that for entry to 4 countries (Austria, Israel, Finland and Japan) Canadians are granted visas without fees. In addition, agreements have been concluded under which Canadians may enter the following 12 countries without the necessity of obtaining visas: Belgium, Denmark, France (including Algeria and Tunisia), the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland. Visas are also not required for visits to Greece.

The Passport Office issued 79,228 passports and renewed 12,474 in 1955. During the year 4,601 certificates of identity were issued, and 2,277 were renewed. These certificates are issued to *bona fide* residents of Canada who are unable to obtain passports or other travel documents from their country of origin. The fees received by the Passport Office during 1955 amounted to \$438,261.71.

A list of foreign consular offices in Canada and of diplomatic offices, most of which include consular staff, will be found in Appendix C.