With the exception of the specific areas noted below, the Commercial Policy Division has responsibility for general international economic, trade and financial policy questions, including Canada's bilateral relations in these fields with all countries, and Canadian participation in international organizations and multilateral arrangements concerned with such matters. The exceptions referred to above are bilateral and multilateral foreign aid and development, and energy, transport and communication questions.

The Transport, Communications and Energy Division is generally responsible for scientific and technical questions of concern to the Department. Under transport, its responsibilities include civil aviation and shipping. The Division is concerned with telecommunications, communications satellites, the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organization and, with UN Division, policy matters in the ITU as part of its general responsibility for communications. Its responsibilities with respect to energy include nuclear energy, the IAEA, oil and natural gas. In addition, the Division maintains close liaison with science-based departments and agencies on questions concerning general science and technology. It is also responsible within the Department for questions relating to the export of strategic materials.

The Protocol Division deals with all matters of diplomatic protocol, precedence, privilege and immunity, and works closely with diplomatic missions established in Canada. It makes arrangements for the presentation of credentials by new heads of diplomatic missions and for their introduction to appropriate Canadian officials. It arranges recognition of consular representatives of other countries. It also prepares credentials for Canadian heads of mission and consular officers and for Canadian delegations to international conferences.

The division keeps diplomatic missions of other countries informed of relevant Canadian laws and regulations and helps them resolve problems arising from the application of such laws and regulations. It arranges visits to Canada by distinguished foreigners and for the extension to them of governmental hospitality.

The Legal Division works under the direction of the Departmental Legal Adviser, who is at present an Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs. Its principal function is to ensure that international affairs, so far as Canada is concerned, are conducted in accordance with approved legal principles and practices. Accordingly, it furnishes the Department with advice on public and private international law, constitutional law and comparative law. In addition, the division follows closely the work of the Sixth (Legal) Committee of the United Nations General Assembly and of the International Law Commission. Continuing liaison is maintained with the Department of Justice, the Office of the Judge Advocate General and other law establishments of the Government on many questions.

The Legal Division comprises several sections. The Legal Planning Section co-ordinates and helps plan Canadian policy on legal and quasi-legal questions, and handles problems referred to the division by political divisions. The Treaty and Economic Section assists in preparing and interpreting international agreements and is responsible for keeping treaty records, registering treaties under the United Nations, publishing them in the Canada Treaty Series and tabling them in Parliament. The section also deals with problems of an economic nature.