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Indirectly Developmental Collaborations

This chapter considers three types of collaboration whose principal purpose is not developmental, but which have many possibilities inherent in them for contributing to skills acquisition and institutional capacity-building in the developing world.

5.1 DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL

This category of NS collaborations includes a variety of particular roles, such as ambassadors, political officers, commercial envoys, development officers, consular staff, immigration officers, and military attachés. The focus here is on northern diplomatic personnel resident in Third World capitals, but diplomatic collaborations could also include those between northern and southern diplomats at international conferences on development and related issues.

The developmental relevance of diplomatic personnel requires some explanation, given that the primary purpose of diplomats has always been to represent, promote, and defend the interests of the country that sent them, not those of the host country. But several of the specializations just mentioned do have considerable potential for making contributions of a developmental nature. This is most obvious in the case of the development officers in northern countries' embassies, their job being to monitor development trends, to facilitate and coordinate their country's development projects, and to advise both the host and the home governments on aid and development policies. In the case of commercial officers, while they are there principally