

By the end of 1981, employees of the former foreign branch of the Canadian Employment and Immigration Commission (CEIC) had been integrated into External Affairs and a bureau of immigration affairs created. Negotiations were taking place with the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce concerning the Trade Commissioner Service, as well as with the Canadian International Development Agency about the creation of a group of rotational aid specialists within the Department of External Affairs.

During this period, substantial work had been done to effect the harmonization of senior levels in the foreign service with the new management category system that applies to the whole of the federal public service. A concomitant of this change would eventually be the restructuring of the remaining levels of the foreign service group according to a new classification plan. Work began on this long-term project at the end of 1981.

The triennial discussions with the members of the National Joint Council (involving management, unions and the Treasury Board), concerning the revision of the Foreign Service Directives continued throughout the year. The directives, which govern the terms and conditions of service abroad, were to be renegotiated by April 1, 1982. On October 21, 1981, a Royal Commission on Conditions of the Foreign Service, headed by Pamela A. McDougall, submitted its report to the Prime Minister. The report was published at the end of 1981.

The major portion of the bureau's work was devoted to essential, ongoing tasks. Modest increases in recruitment took place during 1981 in view of the previous austerity and the larger responsibilities of the Department (i.e. the integration of the former CEIC foreign branch).

During the year, there was a total of some 935 movements of personnel assigned to posts or returned to headquarters. This involved a total of 1,998 employees and dependents.

#### Interdepartmental co-ordination

In 1980, the Committee of Deputy Ministers on Foreign and Defence Policy was established to replace the Interdepartmental Committee on External Relations (ICER). The committee of deputies is chaired by the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs; it reviews major policy and expenditure issues referred to it by Cabinet committee, or prepared by departments for Cabinet committee, and is expected to ensure that recommendations reaching Cabinet committee are sound in substance, correct in form, consistent with government priorities and objectives, and responsible in their reconciliation of policy proposals with the resources required to implement them. The committee of deputies is supported by an interdepartmental secretariat.

The committee of deputies deals with the political, economic and other issues that may arise in the area of foreign affairs, aid and defence,