

The *Consular Operations Division* is responsible for providing advice and instructions to posts with respect to Canadians in difficulty abroad, including those who are ill, have sustained injury, or are in detention or temporarily destitute; for giving them, where warranted, financial aid on a recoverable basis to relieve immediate distress or to enable them to return to Canada; for making arrangements in connection with the death of Canadians abroad and the settlement of estates; for authorizing the issuance of diplomatic and courtesy visas to foreign officials; for answering enquiries in matters pertaining to travel abroad; for providing assistance in obtaining birth, marriage, death, and other official documents from certain foreign countries; for contingency planning and for maintenance of a register of Canadian residents abroad.

The *Passport Office*, which is directly responsible to one of the Assistant Under-Secretaries, issues passports to Canadian citizens. This is done in Canada through the main Passport Office at Ottawa and through regional offices at Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver, Halifax and Edmonton. Abroad, service is provided through Canadian diplomatic missions and consular and trade offices. The Passport Office issues certificates of identity and United Nations Refugee Convention travel documents to non-Canadians legally landed and currently residing in Canada who are eligible to receive them. It also provides limited consular and passport service on behalf of certain newly-independent Commonwealth countries that do not have diplomatic missions in Ottawa.

During 1972, 489,000 passports were issued for citizens residing in Canada and 34,000 were issued by posts abroad for Canadians traveling or residing outside Canada. In addition, 1,300 United Nations Refugee Convention travel documents and 1,500 certificates of identity were issued. Growth in public demand for passport services has increased by 170 per cent in the past ten years.

The *Bureau of United Nations Affairs*, which consists of two divisions, United Nations Economic and Social Affairs and United Nations Political and Institutional Affairs, provides advice on and co-ordinates the implementation of Canadian policy towards the United Nations and the related "family" of Specialized Agencies and other bodies. A major function of the Bureau and its divisions is to assist in the appointment, briefing and co-ordination of the work of Canadian delegates who participate from time to time in nearly all of these bodies that offer an opportunity to advance Canadian policy objectives. In addition to its major co-ordinating responsibility, the Bureau has a variety of operational responsibilities and serves as the head-