

Early in the year, the division assumed responsibility for providing departmental representation on the Interdepartmental Advisory Committee on Refugees and for maintaining general liaison with the Department of Manpower and Immigration on refugee matters.

An increasing number of Canadians made use of the general enquiries services, which provide information, advice and assistance on such matters as dual nationality, visas, travel conditions abroad, and the safety and well-being of Canadian relatives in troubled areas. The division was also engaged in contingency planning for the protection and evacuation of Canadians in disturbed areas of the world. During the hostilities in Ethiopia, Canadians in Asmara were evacuated to Addis Ababa. In April, with the help of the Department of National Defence, Canadian residents were assisted in leaving South Vietnam on a series of flights from Saigon to Hong Kong by Canadian Armed Forces aircraft. All remaining Canadians who wished to leave, as well as Embassy personnel, were withdrawn on the last flight on April 24, a few days before the war in Vietnam came to an end. A close watch was kept on the development of hostilities in Lebanon. As the situation grew worse, Canadian residents were advised to leave the country, and dependents and non-essential staff of the Canadian Embassy in Beirut were evacuated to Athens.

Consular Policy Division

During 1975, the division continued to examine the obligations resulting from the Department's accession to the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, and to make arrangements for the proper interpretation and implementation of the convention with the relevant authorities at the federal and provincial levels. On the basis of the provisions of this multilateral agreement, the division proceeded with the development of a model bilateral consular agreement. These additional bilateral agreements are required to define and clarify areas of consular activity that were omitted or dealt with only in general terms in the multilateral agreement, or to provide effective agreements with countries that have not yet adhered to the multilateral agreement.

Within its continuing program of monitoring legislative developments in Canada that affect Canadians abroad, the Consular

Policy Division followed closely the development of the new Citizenship Act with a view to ensuring that posts abroad were equipped to deal with the numerous enquiries that were expected to result from the changes in the act. The division has also been involved in the co-ordination of legislative suggestions about the proposed Immigration Act because of the major foreign-policy implications of legislation in that field.

As the number of Canadians travelling abroad has continued to rise, the Department has set about expanding the program of appointing honorary consuls and improving and refining the education program for newly-appointed consular staff.

To acquaint the Canadian public with existing and potential problems or physical dangers they might encounter abroad, and to inform potential travellers of the consular services they might expect from Canadian representatives abroad, the Consular Policy Division expanded its Consular Awareness Program in 1975 as follows: by publishing a revised edition of the booklet *Information for Canadians Travelling Abroad*, which is sent to every new passport-holder, as well as to newspaper travel editors, university and college libraries and youth hostels; by distributing a new consular-warning pamphlet, *Bon Voyage But . . . Mais*, to new passport-holders and travel agencies; by distributing individual warning notices to travel agencies through their trade publications; by producing and distributing a new consular poster; by placing specialized advertisements concerning documentation and dual nationality in the "ethnic" press in Canada; and by producing films and other audio-visual presentations. At the year's end, arrangements had been made for the placing of specialized advertisements and feature material in university publications across Canada.