

During the year, the Hospitality Section received 10 663 guests for over 365 luncheons, dinners and receptions. These were held in the Pearson Building, in the official guest house at 7 Rideau Gate, and at several other locations within Canada.

The Diplomatic Corps Services Division continued to provide assistance to diplomats accredited to Canada, thereby promoting the interests of their Canadian counterparts serving abroad.

The Division is responsible for liaison between foreign missions and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police concerning the physical protection of diplomatic and consular representatives and their premises. The Gulf War required special measures to ensure protection for diplomats from countries directly or indirectly involved in the conflict.

In the area of privileges and immunities, reciprocity is still an important issue being handled by the Division. The coming into effect of the Goods and Services Tax necessitated a review of value-added taxes in each country of accreditation and the exemption of Canadian diplomats from such taxes. Decisions were then made for reciprocal exemptions to foreign diplomats in Canada.

The Division continued the conversion of identity documents for resident diplomats to computer-generated ones. It also regularized the status of certain employees of foreign governments working in Canada as a result of inter-government agreements. The Immigration Advisor met the challenge of the increased demand by the foreign diplomatic corps for advice on immigration.

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## FEDERAL- PROVINCIAL COORDINATION

External Affairs and International Trade Canada has a major role in coordinating the policies and activities of the federal and provincial governments in the international sphere. During the year, provincial governments continued to devote resources to promoting their interests abroad, in accordance with economic objectives. The provinces received considerable support from the Department, in various forms.

The Department guides the provinces on the international scene where they are becoming more active. The provinces have 61 offices abroad as well as five representations in facilities shared in Canadian missions: Seoul (Ontario, British Columbia and Quebec); Minneapolis (Saskatchewan); Hong Kong (Newfoundland); and Abidjan (Quebec). Such cooperation enhances the effectiveness of federal-provincial relations and it will likely increase in the future.

Under the new agreements between Canada and Quebec concerning immigration cooperation, the parties continue to share the financial burden of Canadian mission premises occupied by Quebec immigration officials. Quebec is now present in seven Canadian missions.

Increased federal-provincial consultations ensured that the interests of the provinces were considered in the formulation of international relations policies and that provincial authorities were kept informed of the federal government's position on issues of mutual interest.

The Department facilitated provincial participation in meetings of multilateral organizations such as the OECD, the Council of Europe, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, the Commonwealth and Francophone institutions. It also helped to arrange an increasing number of visits abroad for provincial premiers and delegations as well as visits of foreign delegations to the provinces.

In addition, the Department's communications network provided the provinces with rapid access to the diverse services offered by Canada's diplomatic and consular missions. The Department continued to transmit reports, comments and research material, particularly of an economic and commercial nature, from Canadian missions to the provinces. The missions also maintained continuing contact with provincial offices located in their areas of responsibility.