

The Historical Division is responsible for the archival activities of the Department, for historical work in the sphere of foreign affairs and, on occasion, for the preparation of background material on international issues for use in the Department and of articles of a historical nature for publication in the monthly bulletin External Affairs.

The major continuing task of the division is the compilation and editing of volumes of state papers in the continuing series Documents on Canadian External Relations, of which two volumes have been published and a third is in production.

The Protocol Division has two principal functions. One is to handle matters pertaining, on the one hand, to the accreditation and appointment of foreign and Commonwealth representatives to Canada and of Canadian representatives to other countries and, on the other hand, to questions concerning diplomatic privileges and immunities in respect both of foreign missions to Canada and Canadian missions abroad. The other main operation of this division is the planning, organization and management of royal, state and official visits to Canada and of the hospitality that attaches thereto.

The accreditation of ambassadors and high commissioners from abroad, the accreditation of Canadian representatives to other countries, the appointment of consular officers, both foreign and Canadian, are the responsibility of the Accreditations, Privileges and Immunities Section of the division. This section acts as a focus of liaison and consultation with government authorities and with foreign and Commonwealth representatives in regard to all questions relating to privileges and immunities and other aspects of diplomatic relations covered by the Vienna Convention. The section also keeps diplomatic missions of other countries informed of relevant Canadian laws and regulations and helps them resolve problems arising from the application of such laws and regulations.

The Visits and Hospitality Section contains the Secretariat of the Government Hospitality Committee and thus provides a permanent basis for liaison and co-operation with the various government departments in Ottawa and provincial authorities in developing programs for major visits to Canada. The section also oversees the operation of the Government Guest House at 7 Rideau Gate in Ottawa, which serves as a government hospitality centre and a residence for some visiting dignitaries.

The Inspection Service is responsible for carrying out a systematic independent review and appraisal of departmental operations as a service to management. It seeks to assist all levels of management in the effective discharge of their responsibilities by furnishing them with objective analyses, appraisals, pertinent comments and recommendations concerning the activities reviewed. The Inspection Service endeavours inter alia to assess activities against objectives and performance against programs; to provide constructive and realistic recommendations for improvement in departmental operations at home and abroad; to ascertain the degree of compliance with established policies, plans and procedures but also to inform senior management of any cases where