

Changing conditions in the world led the department to conduct a detailed examination of Canada's consular policies and practices in order to recommend desirable improvements for the coming years.

In the aggregate, consular services provided by all Canadian posts abroad again marked an increase over those of the preceding year. For the most part, these services consisted of essential but standard functions such as issuing passports, providing citizenship and notarial services and supplying related information. In some 4,000 cases, however, consular officers rendered more complicated services connected with serious illness, financial distress, deaths, incarceration, child custody cases, and others.

Reports on political instability or armed conflict in certain parts of the world and on random violence in others, including some from heavily frequented tourist destinations, augmented the need for emergency planning by the department and for public awareness of information and measures useful to Canadian citizens travelling or living abroad.

CANADA'S IMAGE ABROAD

In carrying out its responsibility to advise the government on foreign policy matters and to manage Canada's external

relations for the benefit of all parts of the country, the department was careful, in 1980 as before, to take account of provincial, regional, minority, business and other interests through extensive consultation.

The department's information activities abroad sought to convey that Canada is a unified country with a flexible federal system and a bilingual, multicultural society. Canada's position as a world leader in the development of advanced technology and as a country where sound opportunities exist for trade and investment, was also emphasized.

In response to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and at the request of the government, the Canadian Olympic Committee decided to boycott the 1980 Summer Olympic Games in Moscow. However, Canadian athletes participated fully in the 1980 Winter Olympics at Lake Placid, New York.

The department deployed considerable efforts in 1980 to promote Canada's cultural achievements abroad and helped Canadians from the fields of literature and the visual and performing arts show their talent in Europe, Asia and the Americas.

In 1980, Canada hosted *Les Floralties internationales de Montréal*, the first international horticultural exposition of this type to be held in North America.