

Office of the Inspector General

In the year under review, the Inspector General continued to respond to Senior Management's interest in the quality of management practices at headquarters and abroad and to provide it with assessments of the ability of missions to meet foreign policy objectives. The Inspector General received the full co-operation of assistant deputy ministers, bureau heads, heads of missions and other personnel concerned.

In addition, the Inspector General headed a departmental team which reviewed the resources of the 13 consulates general in the United States, an exercise which brought substantial personnel and financial savings to the Department.

Federal-provincial co-ordination

The role of the Department in federal-provincial relations is pre-eminently to harmonize the policies and activities of both levels of government in the international sphere. During the year under review, provincial governments continued to devote a considerable amount of human and financial resources to the promotion of their interests abroad, benefiting from the Department's support in this area. Of particular note was that four working units from two provinces were established on a pilot basis within Canadian missions in Dusseldorf, Hong Kong, and Seoul. Federal-provincial consultations with ministers and senior officials were held during the year to ensure that provincial interests were considered in the formulation of international relations policies and that provincial authorities were kept fully informed of the federal government's position on a number of issues of mutual interest. In addition, the Department's telecommunications network was available to the provinces, providing them rapid access to the many services offered by Canada's diplomatic and consular missions abroad. The Department continued to transmit to the 10 Canadian provinces' reports, comments and research material, particularly of an economic and commercial nature, from Canadian missions abroad; the missions also maintained close contacts with provincial offices located in their areas of responsibility.

The Department facilitated provincial participation in meetings of multilateral organizations such as the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organization, UNESCO, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, the Commonwealth, Francophone institutions and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. It also helped to arrange visits abroad for provincial premiers and delegations as well as visits of foreign delegations to the provinces.

Protocol services and diplomatic, consular and other representatives in Canada

During the past year Canada had diplomatic relations with 145 countries. They were represented in Ottawa by 76 resident and 30 non-resident ambassadors, and 23 resident and 16 non-resident high commissioners.

Other representational offices in Canada are the International Civil Aviation Organization with representatives from 50 countries, the Delegation of the Commission for the European Communities, the Inter-American Institute for Co-operation on Agriculture, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the International Labour Organization, the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.

During the year under review, the Department's Protocol Branch maintained liaison with all of these missions and provided services and advice in accordance with Canada's obligations under the Vienna Conventions and other international agreements, and Canadian laws and regulations. The Branch was responsible for the physical protection of diplomatic and consular representatives and premises, the accreditation arrangements of foreign and Canadian heads of posts and the ceremonial aspects of state visits to Canada. It also oversaw the privileges and immunities of some 6 500 members of diplomatic missions and consular posts in Canada, including their domestic servants and dependents.

The Branch was responsible for welcoming official foreign visitors and providing the logistic and administrative support for their visits. In 1986 this included the greeting and handling of many Heads of State, Heads of Government, Ministers of Foreign Affairs and other ministers who visited EXPO 86 on their National Day at the Exhibition. Included in the official visitors to Canada during the year were President Francesco Cossiga of Italy, President Denis Sassou-Nguesso of Congo, President Augustus Seignoret of Dominica, President Paul Biya of Cameroon, King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV of Tonga, Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland of Norway, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of Britain, Prime Minister R. Premadasa of Sri Lanka, Prime Minister Kennedy Alphonse Simmonds of St. Kitts-Nevis, Prime Minister Herbert Blais of Grenada, Prime Minister James Mitchell of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Prime Minister Lubomir Strougal of Czechoslovakia, Prime Minister Shimon Peres of Israel, Prime Minister Samson Kisekka of Uganda, Vice-President George Bush of the United States and many Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

In addition, the Office of Protocol was responsible for arrangements connected with visits abroad by the Secretary of State for External Affairs. During the year under review Mr. Clark's overseas travel included visits to the Middle East, Japan, Britain, Uruguay, India, Bangladesh, Austria and the United States. Similarly, trips abroad made by the Ministers of Foreign Trade and Foreign Relations to Japan, Latin America, Europe and Africa received the support of the Office, as did visits to many destinations by other ministers or parliamentary secretaries representing ministers.

The Office also administered the official Government Guest House in Ottawa and managed an official hospitality facility at headquarters. During the 1986-87 fiscal year 13 109 guests were entertained in these facilities.