

Table 16
CONSULAR ACTIVITIES
(Fiscal Year 1987/88)

Total number of cases or services rendered (approximate)	
a) Cases:	
Repatriation	264
Hospitalization or medical treatment	2 227
Deaths	1 386
Detainees	844
b) Services:	
Passports	201 971
Citizenship	46 750
Legal and Notarial	33 378
Requests for financial assistance or transfers	4 080
Well-being and whereabouts	9 301
Registration of Canadians	23 125
Advice and assistance	276 727
Child custody	1 573

Table 17
CONSULAR RESOURCES
(1987/88 fiscal year)

Funds advanced against undertaking to repay	
1983-1984	\$147 000
1984-1985	\$102 430
1985-1986	\$104 261
1986-1987	\$121 993
1987-1988	\$114 225
Average recovery rate	38 per cent
Person-years devoted to consular work at headquarters and abroad (expressed as equivalent number of positions)	198

In some areas where Canada has no regular diplomatic or consular representation, honorary consuls provide a certain number of essential services to Canadians living or travelling abroad. Honorary consuls frequently assist other departmental programs such as trade development, public affairs and general relations. During the year, new honorary consuls were appointed to Ouagadougou, Strasbourg, Nuuk, Perth

and Muscat. The memorandum of understanding concluded with Australia the previous year has enabled Australians to benefit from the emergency consular services of Canada in Oslo, Tunis and Lima, and Canadians, from Australian services in Honolulu and Denpasar, Indonesia.

Passport Services

The Passport Bureau issued a record number of passports in the 1987/88 fiscal year in response to the continued attraction of international travel to Canadians. In Canada, 995 390 passports and travel documents were issued, exceeding by 8.2 per cent last year's volume. There are now about 4 823 000 valid Canadian passports in circulation.

Canadians may submit their passport application personally at 1 of the 20 local passport offices and expect to receive their passport in three or four days. Approximately 80 per cent of applicants file in this manner. The alternative is to mail the application to the Passport Office in the National Capital Region. In support of the network of passport offices, the Bureau maintains a national toll-free enquiry system. This bilingual service has proved to be valuable and to have contributed to the 3.5 million contacts Canadians made with the Bureau during the year. New regional passport offices in Jonquière, Regina and Thunder Bay are planned for the next fiscal year.

Canadian missions abroad issued 65 000 passports in addition to those issued by the Passport Bureau within Canada. The cost of providing passport services abroad is substantial and to offset this cost the passport fee was increased by \$4 to \$25 effective January 1, 1988. The Bureau operates on a revolving-fund basis and its operations are intended to be self-financing.

During the past year 4 559 refugee travel documents and certificates of identity were issued to eligible residents of Canada who are not Canadian citizens. The increased demand for these documents experienced in the last three years reflects the demand on Canada's immigration program by refugees and other stateless persons seeking admission to Canada.

Immigration and refugees

The carrying out of Canada's immigration program abroad is the responsibility of the Department of External Affairs. During the past year 202 Canada-based officers conducted the program at 63 Canadian missions abroad. For the remainder of this century Canada can expect to face the reality of much of the world population on the move. Concurrently, it must address its own demographic future, especially in the light of an aging population. In this context, the immigration program abroad faced a number of challenges in 1987.

For the first time since consolidation of the Canadian foreign service the overseas target for immigration landings was achieved, indeed was considerably exceeded. The number of immigrant visas issued rose 57 per cent over 1986 to 138 442 and was the largest number issued since 1975. Despite this increase, achieved with near static resources, the median time for processing immigrant applications declined 12 per cent to six months and three weeks, made possible by improved processing procedures.