

Area bureaux

Each of the five area bureaux co-ordinates the formulation and conduct of Canadian policy towards the countries of the region with which it is concerned, and supervises the operations of the diplomatic and consular posts in that region.¹ The main responsibility of each post is the quality of Canada's relations with the country in which it is situated. The area bureaux are the main points of contact on bilateral matters for the diplomatic missions of other countries in Canada. They also advise both other government and private agencies regarding the policies of such agencies towards the countries and multilateral organizations with which they have specialized relations.

In co-operation with other government entities, the area bureaux make substantive arrangements for official visits (both incoming and outgoing), many of which take place at ministerial, head-of-state or head-of-government level. An allied responsibility of these bureaux is the preparation of the policy-briefing and advisory materials associated with such visits.

Responsibility also devolves upon the area bureaux for supervising the allocation of resources at posts and between posts, and for ensuring the effective management of individual missions.

The *Bureau of African and Middle Eastern Affairs* directs the activities of three divisions: *African Affairs (Anglophone)*, *African Affairs (Francophone and Maghreb)* and *Middle Eastern*. Within the bureau's extensive and diverse region, 21 posts, 16 with multiple accreditation, maintain Canada's relations with more than 60 countries. The Arab-Israeli confrontation, southern African questions, Canada's growing economic relations with the Middle East and the security situation in a number of French-speaking countries, as well as the expansion and diversification of Canadian activities in French-speaking Africa, are among the Bureau's most active concerns.

The *Bureau of Asian and Pacific Affairs* directs the work of three divisions — *Northeast Asian*, *Pacific Affairs* and *South Asia* — and through them the work of 17 diplomatic and consular missions. The bureau is responsible for the implementation and general co-ordination of Canadian Government policies and programs in an area that contains over 60 per cent of the world's population, exhibits dramatically different cultural, political and economic characteristics, and stretches east from Afghanistan as far as Oceania and north from Australasia to the Sea of Japan. The region contains some of the world's wealthiest industrialized countries, as well as many of the poorest. Substantial Canadian con-

(1) See Appendix, p.39