

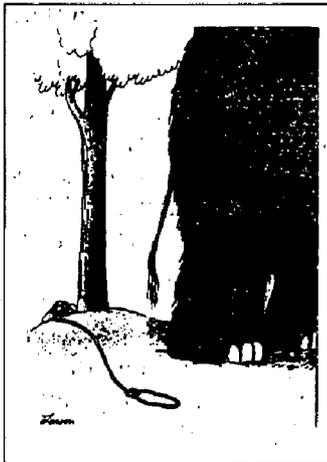
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STRATEGY FOR THE 90s...

Corporate Review Update

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Dept. of External Affairs
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January was an extraordinary month. For those of you who have been working around the clock to deal with crisis after crisis abroad, all we can do is hope that March will bring with it some relief from the pressures and challenges of the situation in the world around us. For many of you these days, the task at hand is enormous. Can anyone out there identify with this cartoon?

The Corporate Review may seem to be a distant memory to some these days, but much work continues to bring improvements in the way our department functions and the way we go about our activities. The work of one group in the Department has been the scene of much activity over the past year with the changes underway around the world. It has also been the scene of many changes as a result of the Corporate Review. In honour of Valentine's Day, this February Update brings news from the area where, based on a Corporate Review decision, there was a recent union in our Department.

Focus on the New Consular, Immigration and Passport Affairs Branch (OFB)

If you have worked abroad, you know how busy your colleagues in Consular and Immigration Affairs are. They are either running from one crisis to another, or they have an office filled with people or they can be found at the front of a long, long line, working to get to the end. However, if your career has been in Ottawa, unless you work in this area you may not be familiar with the kind of work going on in consular and immigration.

Some of the most fascinating human interest stories come from our colleagues in these fields. This is the group that not only processes visas and helps out stranded travellers, but also helps Canadian parents through the process of adoption, visits Canadians in jail and reunites spouses and families. Media coverage of the crisis in the Persian Gulf has brought all of us into daily contact with the work of consular officials in protecting Canadian lives abroad.

The volume our colleagues handle abroad is truly amazing. Did you know that in 1989 our 210 immigration officers abroad issued over 600,000 visitor and 150,000 immigrant visas? Did you know that in 1988 Canadians made over 50 million trips outside Canada and that in the same year our 48 Canada-based consular officers and support staff abroad provided over 600,000 distinct services for Canadian citizens?

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