

The Office of Protocol: *The fine art* of

CHOREOGRAPHING AN INTERNATIONAL EVENT

When a country hosts an international event, it must follow set rules governing honours and precedence. In Canada, this is the responsibility of the Office of Protocol of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT).

Says Chief of Protocol Alain Dudoit, "Protocol consists in ensuring orderly, harmonious interaction among state and government leaders at official events. Our job can be likened to choreographing a full-length ballet."

And what a ballet! At the Moncton Summit, it involves playing host to 52 heads of state and government plus their delegations—nearly 1500 people

the RCMP, which supplies the limousines. Menu planning is another responsibility. Each person's dietary or religious restrictions must be known in advance, and the meals must be varied and easy to digest.

Last, Protocol must ensure that all facilities and equipment are available when needed. That means everything from vehicles to hotel and meeting rooms, tables, chairs, microphones, identification cards and more. Further, arrangements must be made for the media and for medical services. In other words, it's a mammoth undertaking.

To meet this challenge, Protocol has assigned 38 people full-time to the organization and staging of the Summit. Add more than 100 volunteers to all those involved with security, hospitality, food services, maintenance, equipment supply, etc., and the number rises to over 400 workers.

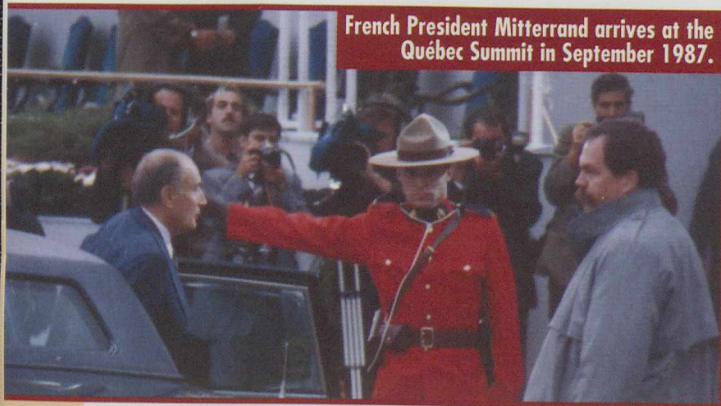
For Alain Dudoit and his team, as well as New Brunswick and Quebec representatives involved in organizing the Summit, the work hours have

been long—but that's the price to pay to ensure that the event is a success. ●—



We want to make our guests happy. If everything goes smoothly, I will be proud to say 'Mission accomplished.'

CHIEF OF PROTOCOL **Alain Dudoit**



French President Mitterrand arrives at the Québec Summit in September 1987.

in all. If everything is to run smoothly, Protocol needs to know each delegation's arrival time to ensure that limousines are standing by at the airport. But that's just the beginning. Since the guests stay in different hotels and the ceremonies and meetings are held at various locations, detailed plans must be drawn up to ensure that everyone is in the right place at the right time.

In addition, an order of precedence must be followed. Heads of state come first, ranked according to the date they assumed office. Heads of government are ranked in alphabetical order by country name.

The Protocol Office is also responsible for VIP security—a job it shares with

Some statistics about the Summit:

- Up to 700 Canadian and foreign journalists are covering the event.
- More than 1500 RCMP officers are providing security.
- More than 4000 people are involved in one way or another.
- Some 48 000 meals are being served in eight days.

photos: DFAIT



Even the flags must be displayed in the proper order.