

Law Section, which assists the legal profession and the public with the administration of private international law, particularly international civil practice and procedure pertaining to the service and authentication of documents in legal proceedings abroad and the furthering of extradition proceedings to and from Canada.

The *Consular Division* is responsible for dealing with all consular matters. Its duties include safeguarding the rights and interests of Canadian citizens and companies abroad; contingency planning and administration of plans for the protection of Canadian citizens abroad in times of emergency; helping Canadian citizens in difficulty or distress abroad, including those who are in detention or temporarily destitute, and, where warranted, providing financial aid on a recoverable basis to relieve their immediate distress or to facilitate their repatriation to Canada; assisting in connection with the death of a Canadian citizen abroad and the settlement of estates; handling questions relating to Canadian merchant shipping and seamen; answering enquiries or acting in a liaison capacity in matters pertaining to travel abroad, Canadian citizenship, immigration and non-immigrant entry, social security, taxation, Red Cross matters, liability for military service and Canadian war graves; authorizing the grant of, or renewing, diplomatic and courtesy visas; providing assistance in obtaining birth, marriage and death certificates and other official documents from countries abroad.

The Consular Division is also responsible for the negotiation of agreements with foreign countries for the easing of entry requirements for Canadian citizens visiting such countries, whether by waiver of visas and the elimination or reduction of visa fees or by the introduction of multi-entry visas.

The *Passport Office*, which is directly responsible to one of the Assistant Under-Secretaries, issues passports to Canadian citizens. This is done in Canada through the main Passport Office at Ottawa and through regional offices at Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver. Abroad, service is provided through Canadian diplomatic missions and consular and trade offices. The Passport Office issues certificates of identity and United Nations Refugee Convention travel documents to non-Canadians legally landed and currently residing in Canada who are eligible to receive them. It also provides limited consular and passport service on behalf of certain newly-independent Commonwealth countries that do not have diplomatic missions in Ottawa.

During 1970, 393,104 passports were issued for citizens residing in Canada and 28,979 were issued by posts abroad for Canadians travelling or residing outside Canada. In addition, 655 United Nations Refugee Convention travel documents and 1,632 certificates of identity were issued or extended. Fees received by the Passport Office during the year amounted to \$3,914,590. Growth in public demand for passport services has increased by 157 per cent in the past ten years.

The *Bureau of United Nations Affairs* is primarily concerned with managing the policy Canada pursues in the United Nations and its Specialized