

Introduction

- EMBASSY MOSCOW URGES FIRM RESPONSE TO JETLINER DESTRUCTION —
- OPEC ANNOUNCES NEW OIL PRICE HIKE —
- MORE AID NEEDED FOR TURKEY EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS —
- EAST COAST FISHERMEN RESTLESS OVER USA DELAY IN RATIFYING FISHERIES AGREEMENT —
- CHILDREN ABANDONED BY MOTHER IN GERMANY NEED TO LOCATE FATHER IN CANADA —
- CANADIAN EMBASSY STAFF AND SIX AMERICANS CLEAR IRANIAN AIR SPACE —

These are not headlines from recent newspapers but the subjects of a few of the 35 000 or so telegrams that Canada's Department of External Affairs receives from its embassies and other posts abroad in a typical month. They disclose a small cross-section of the varied problems of trade, diplomacy, energy, finance, sports, aid, personnel and administration that require the attention of the Department's staff in Ottawa, numbering approximately 2 500 at the end of 1983, and of its staff at 177 posts abroad in 82 countries, totalling approximately 1 700 Canadians and 3 500 non-Canadians engaged at the posts. As the department of government with the responsibility for promoting and protecting Canada's interests abroad and for conducting its foreign relations, the Department's essential role is to advise the government and to provide policy and priority guidance over the wide range of Canada's international relations.

Historical background

Although now 75 years old, the Department of External Affairs is one of the youngest departments of the Canadian government. When Parliament authorized its creation in May 1909, the name "External Affairs" was chosen and retained in preference to the widely used "Foreign Affairs" because of Canada's membership in the British Empire and later in the Commonwealth; because of common traditions, institutions and sharing