

The work of a mission abroad is:

- (a) to conduct negotiations with the government to which it is accredited;
- (b) to keep the home government fully informed of political and other developments of significance in the country in which it is serving;
- (c) to watch over Canada's interests in the country;
- (d) to serve Canadians in the country;
- (e) to make information about Canada available.

A constant flow of communications keeps the missions and the Department in Ottawa in close touch on all such matters.

Qualifications for the Service

Those entering the external service of Canada do so on a career basis under the merit system. Only Canadian citizens who have resided at least 10 years in Canada are eligible for admission.

The basic qualification for the diplomatic service is a university degree, preferably with post-graduate study. Examinations are held annually by the Civil Service Commission and consist of two parts: a written test and an oral examination. The written test for the position of Foreign Service Officer, Grade 1, consists of a short-answer paper of the "objective" type, designed to discover a candidate's intelligence and general knowledge, and a paper consisting of essays on Canadian and international affairs. The oral examination is designed to disclose personal suitability and knowledge of modern languages.

As in other government departments, veterans are given preference in all appointments.

The more senior positions of high commissioner and ambassador are filled by appointment. Appointees are normally "career men" who have come up through the Civil Service, but in some cases distinguished citizens are appointed directly from private life. Since shortly after the Second World War, women have been admitted to the Canadian diplomatic service on the same basis as men.

As Canada's interests multiply in the international field, the work of the Department continues to grow. To meet these increased responsibilities, the Department had, in Ottawa and abroad, in December 1965, a total of 555 officers and 1270 clerical and stenographic personnel. In addition, missions abroad employed a total of 819 locally-engaged employees.