

the main business of foreign operations, an integral part of the central role of a foreign ministry.

In the Canadian context the consular function, furthermore, relates readily to the six policy themes identified in Foreign Policy for Canadians as an appropriate framework for thinking about foreign policy. Protection of the rights of the Canadian citizen abroad is clearly part of the business of "Safeguarding Sovereignty and Independence". "Working for Peace and Security" implies an effort to ensure the enjoyment by the Canadian citizen abroad of the peace and security which the host government should provide. Consular support for those travelling on business, for those involved in "such activities as cultural, technological and scientific exchanges" and for those engaged in the promotion of "international scientific cooperation and research on all problems of environment and modern society" is a necessary adjunct of "Fostering Economic Growth", "Enhancing the Quality of Life" and of "Ensuring a Harmonious Natural Environment" respectively. "Promoting Social Justice" includes efforts to develop international law, standards and codes of conduct--activities which impinge on the consular field.

OBJECTIVES

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Objectives are the answer to the question "What are we trying to do?" in greater detail than expressed in an aim. If the aim of the consular function is to protect and promote the interests of Canada, of Canadian citizens and protected persons in the international dimension, then to state the objectives of the consular function requires some elaboration of the ideas implicit in the terms "protect" and "promote".

One of the purposes of foreign policy is to endeavour to shape the international environment in ways which are supportive to our national interests. With respect to that part of the environment which is of particular concern to the individual, one may say that the aim of the government is to ensure--as far as possible--for Canadian citizens living or travelling abroad those conditions of peace and security, freedom and opportunity which are part of our domestic environment. How much can be achieved in this regard is clearly limited by the laws and customs of the foreign country in which the Canadians are travelling or living. Subject to that limitation, however, one can state the objective of the consular function as to enable Canadians to enjoy rights and privileges abroad commensurate with those available to them in Canada.