
Construction continued on the diplomatic complex in Beijing and began on a new chancery in Buenos Aires and a new official residence in Singapore. A new chancery in Dar-es-Salaam is also being built, using a "Canadian component" system. This construction method provides quality buildings in a short delivery time using Canadian design, labour and materials in areas where such resources are limited.

Design began on a major addition to the chancery in New Delhi, a new staff-quarter complex in Warsaw and continued on the major new embassy compound in Algiers.

With the objective of increasing Crown ownership in areas of high rent, 20 properties were purchased in 1989/90. These should produce significant savings for the Department. New properties to support a more decentralized aid program, as well as a new mission in Windhoek (Namibia), were among the 14 new leases acquired, while leases on 34 existing chancery and official residence properties were renewed. Four property disposals were completed and the sale of a fifth, the Sheridan Chancery in Washington, D.C., was negotiated. Tendered on

two previous occasions, this sale will result in U.S.\$13.5 million being returned to the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

The Bureau's interior design group, which plans and controls design in major projects as well as in the refurbishment of the public areas of chanceries and the representational areas of official residences, completed or continued \$8 million worth of interior design projects. Included were five major construction projects, ten major refurbishments, fourteen projects under the aid decentralization program, and eleven chancery and official residence moves.

The property maintenance program coordinates minor capital alterations and renovation projects and supervises maintenance carried out under its auspices or that of missions. During the year, it took advantage of an allocation of \$4.5 million to reduce the maintenance backlog which had been increasing steadily during the past five years. It also realized major savings in a decision to renovate and expand the existing chancery in Colombo at a cost of only \$250,000 rather than go ahead with the \$5 million proposal for a new building.