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### CONSULAR AFFAIRS

All consular matters other than travel documentation are dealt with in Ottawa by the Consular Division; the issuance of passports and other travel documents is the concern of the Passport Division.

#### Consular Division

While the past year has seen an increase in the normal consular workload, both in the Consular Division and at posts abroad, as a result of the increasing numbers of Canadians travelling and residing outside of Canada, there has been a decline in the visa workload compared to that of 1967, when so many people came to Canada to visit Expo 67. As a consequence of the invasion of Czechoslovakia in August by the armed forces of the U.S.S.R. and other Warsaw Pact nations, it became necessary to render assistance to the large number of Canadians who were then in Czechoslovakia.

The Consular Division continued to maintain liaison with the Canadian Red Cross Society, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Consular services performed abroad included: issuing and renewing regular and emergency passports; renewing certificates of identity; granting diplomatic and courtesy visas; issuing immigrant and non-immigrant visas and letters of introduction in countries where the Canadian Immigration Service is not represented; providing advice and assistance on matters of citizenship, immigration, tourism, education, marriage and adoption procedures and liability to military service abroad; registering Canadian citizens abroad and providing relief and repatriation for Canadians temporarily distressed or disabled; assisting Canadians under arrest or in detention; advising on cases involving the death of Canadians abroad and protecting Canadian interests in estates; assisting Canadian ships and aircraft and their crews; performing notarial acts, including authentication of legal and other documents; advising and affording consular facilities to persons proceeding to and from Canada under Canadian aid and technical assistance programmes; helping locate missing persons; assisting Canadian veterans; dealing with enquiries concerning Canadian customs regulations, taxation, children's allowances, workmen's compensation, vital statistics, the Old Age Security Pension and the Canadian and Quebec pension plans; and generally protecting the rights and interests and, in conditions of emergency, securing the welfare and safety of Canadians abroad.

Agreements are in effect with 22 countries providing for the elimination of the requirement for a visa for a stay of short duration. Under these agreements, Canadian visitors may enter and remain in the country concerned, normally for a period of up to three months. Such privileges are enjoyed by Canadian citizens who travel as tourists to Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece,