

Foreward to Research Paper on Canadian
Consular Operations in the U.S.A.

Canada now operates 15 consular missions in the United States, with a total staff of some 400 individuals, costing approximately \$10 million per year. How and why this extensive network of Canadian representation originated, and the needs it was designed to meet, are matters of some interest in themselves. Of equal value is the light which such knowledge casts on and the perspective in which it places Canada's consular operations as they exist in the United States today.

Special studies are hardly necessary to establish the desirability of all Canadian consulates being responsive to a broad range of Canadian Government interests in the United States. Nevertheless the study has brought to light multiple instances of why offices devoted to one aspect of the consular function, be it immigration, trade promotion, information, or consular services in the narrow sense, are less desirable and effective than offices which carry out a broad range of consular functions.

The study does indicate that the Canadian consular system in the United States has grown in a somewhat haphazard manner, often in response to the specialized interests of single Departments. Posts have been established in cities which might have been less than the best choice in terms of all Canadian interests. It is also clear that it is difficult to close a post when one department decides to move its resources elsewhere. However, this does not appear to present major problems. Rather the degree to which posts today recognize and react to the totality of Canadian Government interests in their territory is the aspect of the