

under the general supervision of the head of the diplomatic mission in the country, while receiving instructions in matters of detail from the appropriate division in the Department.

Part of the work of a post is to distribute information about Canada. In a few places this is done by full-time information officers; elsewhere it is undertaken by other officers. Where there are no diplomatic or consular representatives, trade commissioners or other Canadian Government officials stationed in the country do this work.

In some cases officers of other departments of the Canadian Government — commercial, immigration, military, naval, air or others — are attached to missions. Though responsible to their departmental heads in Ottawa, they also work under the general supervision and direction of the head of the mission.

The work of a mission is:

- (a) to conduct negotiations with the government to which it is accredited;
- (b) to keep the Canadian Government fully informed of political or 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. Preference is given to Canadian citizens.