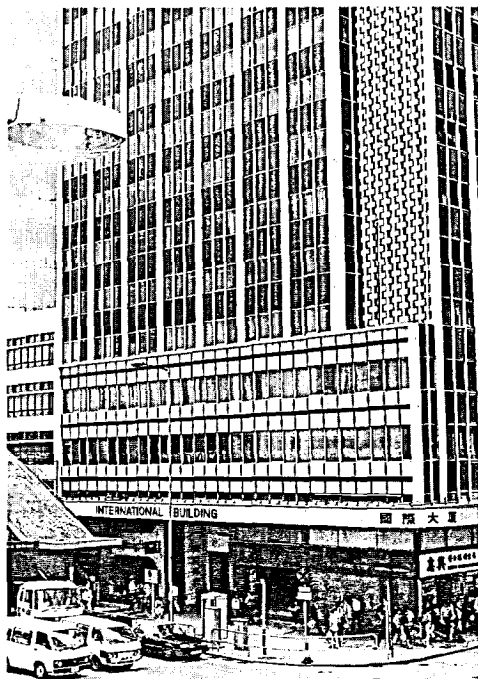

Chapter Six

Into The Seventies



In the 1960's, the Commission's offices were divided between the International Building and P.&O. House.

The offices of the Trade Commission, and those of Immigration, and Health and Welfare, were at this time four blocks apart. In 1970, an inspection team from Ottawa visited the two premises and made several pertinent observations.

A number of factors appeared to be responsible for what the Inspectors noted as "unsatisfactory work flow". There were now 35 Canadians at the post – Immigration, Health and Welfare, Trade, Communications, and Diplomatic Couriers for the Peking train route. Maintenance of staff quarters, family welfare administration and the environment of Hong Kong, made for an impossible burden on the Office Manager. The purchasing of food and mundane office supplies for the newly opened Embassy in Peking was time-consuming and inefficient. There was also considerable irritation stemming from working conditions in the P & O Building. The

offices were little more than large closets, with staff working in windowless rooms, and the general office acting as a thoroughfare for traffic. By contrast, the International Building was spacious. There was now a political officer posted to the Commission for reporting. A "secure area" was also vital. The Consular Section was inconveniently located several floors below, and was becoming overrun with Canadians requiring assistance.

Surprisingly, the inspectors noted that staff morale was excellent. Thus, the main observations of the team were that the post look for new consolidated office space in Central area, and that the purchase of supplies for the Embassy in Peking be streamlined.

In November, 1971, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wales disembarked at Kai Tak. Robert Lisson Wales was no stranger to Hong Kong. He had first seen the Colony as an Ordinary Seaman aboard the "H.M.C.S. Prince Robert"