

2<sup>e</sup> PARTIE/PART 2REPRÉSENTATION DIPLOMATIQUE ET CONSULAIRE  
DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR REPRESENTATIONSECTION A  
GÉNÉRALITÉS  
GENERAL

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*Note du chef de la Direction consulaire*  
*Memorandum by Head, Consular Division*

[Ottawa], April 14, 1947

## EXPANSION CANADIAN CONSULAR SERVICE

*Purpose*

Decision having been taken to expand the Canadian Consular Service, it is the purpose of this paper to discuss the circumstances prompting the decision, to make proposals regarding personnel, scales of pay, recruitment, etcetera, and to estimate staff requirements.

*Circumstances*

Historically, from the time of Confederation and largely until the present, consular functions on behalf of Canadians in foreign lands have been performed by H.B.M.<sup>5</sup> Consuls. Until the Imperial Conference of 1926, from which sprang the Statute of Westminster, they alone provided protection for Canadians abroad, helped them in their difficulties with foreign governments, issued their passports, secured their visas, notarized their documents, registered the birth of their children, looked after their estates when they died and, in general, discharged those manifold responsibilities which by international custom and usage are recognized as the duties of a Consul.

Even to-day it is the British Consuls who, under the law of Canada, perform all the consular duties which are necessary in ports abroad for Canadian seamen and merchant ships flying the Canadian flag.

Between the wars a beginning was made with Canadian representation abroad. A few diplomatic missions were established under the Department of External Affairs and the Trade Commissioner Service of the Department of Trade and Commerce was developed. At the diplomatic missions there were officers duly accredited for consular duties and the Trade Commissioners found that, though they were

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<sup>5</sup>His Britannic Majesty.