

### III

#### CO-ORDINATION DIVISION

The Department's Co-ordination Division deals with the federal-provincial aspects of Canada's international relations. The Division's primary responsibility is to maintain close liaison with the provinces concerning their interests in international affairs and to facilitate their international activities in a manner that will fully meet provincial objectives and be consistent with a unified Canadian foreign policy.

##### Origin

The Co-ordination Division was formerly a section of the Department's Legal Division. It was established separately in September 1967 as a result both of expanding provincial interests abroad and of the Federal Government's desire to develop more effective procedures to ensure that these interests could be encouraged and facilitated. The federal position in this regard was outlined in the White Paper *Federalism and International Relations*, published early in 1968, in which it was emphasized that it was not the intention to oppose increased provincial contacts with the international community; on the contrary, the Government was anxious to ensure that Canada's foreign relations would serve the best interests of all the provinces as well as of the two major linguistic communities in Canada. As the White Paper recognized, however, it would be no easy task to work out the necessary co-ordinating procedures within a federal system of government in which provinces were wholly or partly responsible inside Canada for a wide range of subjects that were also matters of international interest but in which the Federal Government must bear ultimate responsibility for the conduct of international relations. Within the Department of External Affairs, the task of devising and implementing such procedures rests with the Co-ordination Division.

##### Functions

The Division carries out a liaison function at both provincial and federal levels. Within the Department of External Affairs, it co-ordinates the activities of other divisions and of Canadian posts when these impinge on areas of provincial interest. The Division also works closely with other federal departments and agencies to ensure that full account is taken of provincial interests abroad.

On the provincial level, the Co-ordination Division is in regular contact with officials of the provinces on day-to-day questions of interest to provincial governments. In conjunction with provincial authorities, the Division constantly seeks to establish closer working relations and more effective continuing procedures for consultation.

##### Provincial Interests Abroad

Aspects of international affairs that have been of particular interest to the provinces include: