

members of the government or members of the diplomatic corps. Other receptions are usually more private in nature.

The following points should be borne particularly in mind with respect to official receptions:

- (i) all official dignitaries must be shown the respect due them;
- (ii) each must be given his rightful distinctions and titles;
- (iii) some countries have, in addition to the official authorities, notables who are entitled to special attention (the clergy) or to traditional marks of respect (the nobility).

Receptions are held in the late afternoon and generally last two hours. Guests are not expected to arrive exactly on time, and they may stay as long as they see fit within the limits indicated in the invitation; this depends on the reception and the people that are there.

(b) The reception on the national day

Receptions are given for all sorts of reasons, official and private. One of the most important is the reception held on the national day. Invitations are generally extended to the entire diplomatic corps (with the exception of representatives of countries with which Canada does not have diplomatic relations) and to persons with whom the mission has established contacts in the host country. The invitations are sent by the head of mission; the statement "On the occasion of Canada's national day" should appear prominently on them.

The head of mission or, in his absence, the *chargé d'affaires*, and at least one other high-ranking representative of the mission, with their spouses, welcome the guests. They remain in the receiving line throughout the reception, which may be held at midday, usually from 12:00 to 2:00 pm, or at the end of the day, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Unless otherwise indicated in the invitation, dress for a day-time reception is a suit and tie for men, and an afternoon dress or suit for women; for an early evening reception, a dark suit and a short dress, respectively.

In view of the large number of guests, the mission should notify the local authorities in advance of the place, date and time of the reception.

The appropriate formula when greeting the host on his country's national day is "My compliments" or "Congratulations".

(c) Meals

Meals generally involve a greater degree of formality, if only because the guests must be seated according to the order of precedence and the