

In its response the Government recalls that action has already been taken on a number of the Commission's principal recommendations, notably:

- completion of the consolidation of the foreign service to include the former Trade Commissioner Service and other trade elements of the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, announced in January 1982;
- major improvements in April 1982 in the system of benefits and compensation for members of the foreign service; and
- the introduction in the House of Commons in June 1982 of a proposed new Department of External Affairs Act.

Other measures being taken by the Government include:

- reaffirmation of the commitment of the Government and of the Department of External Affairs to the principle of equity in the treatment of the various categories of foreign service employees and reinforcement of this commitment through instructions to heads of posts and other members of the foreign service with management responsibilities;
- elimination of distinctions in the type of passports provided to different categories of foreign service employees;
- enhancement of the substantial measures already taken to strengthen the personal safety of members of the foreign service and their families abroad;