

The Protocol Division deals with all matters of diplomatic protocol, precedence, privileges and immunities. It attends to the accrediting of Canadian diplomatic and consular representatives abroad and to the acceptance of the credentials of similar representatives of other countries in Canada. It arranges for visits to Canada of distinguished foreign visitors and for the extension to them of government hospitality. It deals with foreign honours and awards.

The Legal Division advises on questions of international law, including the interpretation of treaties. It is responsible for the liaison between the Department of External Affairs and the Department of Justice. The most frequent question of common concern is the constitutional capacity of the Government of Canada to implement an international agreement and, where that capacity exists, whether legislation is required to implement the agreement. Besides its general section, the Division comprises a Treaty Section and a Claims Section. The former assists in the preparation of international agreements; it is also responsible for their publication in Canada Treaty Series and in the United Nations Treaty Series and for their presentation to Parliament. The latter deals with claims of Canadians against foreign countries.

The relation between foreign policy and defence policy necessitates close liaison between the Department of External Affairs and other departments of government, particularly National Defence. The Defence Liaison Divisions are responsible for this aspect of the Department's work. Thus, these are the divisions primarily concerned with the work of the Department arising from Canada's membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, though much of the work on some aspects of NATO questions is carried on by other divisions. They are also responsible for such questions of defence relations between Canada and the United States as concern the Department - for example, the work of the Permanent Joint Board on Defence. One of the members of this body is a senior officer of the Department, and the Department provides the secretary of the Canadian Section of the Board. In addition, the Defence Liaison Divisions deal with most problems of a diplomatic or political nature created by the presence of Canadian forces in other countries, and they handle other defence matters not specifically allocated to other divisions.

The Defence Liaison Divisions co-ordinate the work of the Department in relation to the Cabinet Defence Committee, the Chiefs of Staff Committee and various other committees concerned with defence matters, which facilitate the co-ordination of foreign and defence policy at every level. The Secretary of State for External Affairs is a member of the Cabinet Defence Committee, and the Under-Secretary normally attends meetings of the Committee. The Under-Secretary also attends meetings of the Chiefs of Staff Committee and is a member of the senior interdepartmental bodies that examine and advise on various aspects of defence questions. The Department is represented at meetings of the Vice Chiefs of Staff Committee and provides the Chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee, a member of the Joint Intelligence Staff, and a member of the Joint Planning Committee. Officers of the two Defence Liaison Divisions co-operate closely with the intelligence and planning agencies of the armed forces in the preparation of papers for consideration by the Chiefs of Staff.