
FOREWORD

Members of the Foreign Service are well aware that living abroad may involve increased risks to personal safety. The nature and level of the risk varies from place to place and from time to time. Accordingly, security facilities and procedures at individual missions differ. There are, however, general principles or guidelines which should be understood by all personnel and their families to assist them in following Departmental recommendations and in adopting prudent measures that will help protect them from natural disasters and from attacks by criminal elements and terrorists. The purpose of this booklet is to provide such guidance.

Host governments have an obligation under the Vienna Convention to provide measures for the protection of foreign representatives. The Department also recognizes its responsibility to ensure that Canadians serving abroad are afforded appropriate protection by means of the personal safety program. Although the Canadian Government encourages international measures to protect diplomats, and the Department continually assesses threats and countermeasures, the benefit will be limited unless each individual is informed and vigilant, and each Head of Mission ensures that personal safety receives the required

attention and effort by all mission members.

At each mission there are specific instructions concerning emergencies, such as fire and sometimes floods and earthquakes; these subjects are also included in this booklet. Departmental and mission-specific instructions provide direction and guidance on violent acts and all personnel are required to be familiar with them. It is also suggested that comments and recommendations be conveyed by the mission staff to the Mission Security Officer. We each have a responsibility for our security and safety and it is hoped that this booklet will assist in helping each of us to meet that responsibility.

It should be noted that the risk from criminal acts, particularly theft, is much greater than from politically-motivated crimes. Nevertheless, terrorism is discussed first in this booklet because it is perhaps less well understood and also because measures taken to prevent it are also effective against criminal acts.

Although this booklet is prepared for Canadian Foreign Service employees and their families, it may also be of interest to Canadian companies with offices abroad. They should note that certain organizational and operational arrange-