

[Text]

Question No. 103—**Mr. Holtmann:**

1. With respect to the Canadian consulate in Kiev, USSR (a) what is the status of credentials of the Consul-General (b) how many officers are there and what are their specific duties (c) what is the citizenship of each staff member (d) what is the operating budget for the Consulate?

2. How do the staffing positions in Kiev compare to (a) other Canadian consulates (b) German, French and U.S. consulates in Kiev?

Hon. Barbara Jean McDougall (Secretary of State for External Affairs): 1. The former Consulate General in Kiev was raised to the status of an embassy on January 27, 1992. It is accredited to Ukraine. There are currently three Canada-based officers at the embassy: a chargé d'affaires, responsible for managing the embassy and for the political and trade programmes; an immigration officer, responsible for the visitor programme; and an administrative officer. The 15 locally-engaged staff members are Ukrainian citizens. The estimated operating budget for the embassy in the 1991-92 fiscal year is \$220,000, not including salaries of Canada-based staff.

2. The staffing level of the Consulate General was comparable with that of consulates in major European cities such as Munich, Dusseldorf, or Milan. It is now being expanded in connection with upgrading to embassy status. Plans call for 11 Canada-based staff members to be deployed in Kiev. The timing of their arrival will depend on the progress of chancery renovations and availability of housing. Locally-engaged staff will also be augmented. The staffing levels of the USA and French missions, previously two officers each are also being expanded. The German mission last year had a staff of 15.

Question No. 210—**Ms. Phinney:**

How many disabled persons are employed by the government?

Hon. Gilles Loiselle (President of the Treasury Board and Minister of State (Finance)): As of December 31, 1991, there were 6,480 self-identified persons with disabilities employed in active status under the Public Service Employment Act. Persons with disabilities are represented in all occupational categories: 91 per cent are indeterminate; slightly above 3 per cent work part-time, less than the Public Service-wide average of 3.5 per cent. Persons with disabilities represented 3 per cent of

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the Public Service in 1991 compared to 2.6 per cent in 1987.

Question No. 222—**Ms. Callbeck:**

What are the guidelines or terms of reference used by Canada Post Corporation when deciding upon the closure of post offices?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Canada Post is constantly reviewing its network of postal outlets to ensure that they best meet the needs of our customers.

In rural communities, the review of postal services in a community begins following a natural opportunity, which is defined as:

A vacancy in the postmaster's position, such as resignation, retirement, promotion, transfer, etc.;

The unsuitability or unavailability of the premises housing the post office; or

At the request of the community.

The purpose of the review is to determine the best way to continue to provide postal service to the community. This review could result in:

The re-staffing of the postmaster's position;

Conversion to a retail postal outlet;

Amalgamation of retail postal services to a nearby community; or

The opening of a retail postal outlet in the community and re-staffing of the corporate outlet.

In every case, however, local mail delivery and the community's postal identity are maintained.

Factors that influence the decision include:

The size of the community;

The demographic trends of the community and area;

The current method and level of service;

The distance to the nearest community;

The revenues earned and the costs incurred at present;

The business base of the community;

The facility currently housing the post office; and

The need for the outlet in Canada Post's mail processing and delivery network.