

of the personal inconvenience which must be accepted by every Foreign Service Officer because of his liability to be moved all over the world - and often at short notice. There is glamour in the idea of a life spent in the capitals of the nations - and no doubt the opportunities for varied experience are attractive. But I am afraid that the chief impression on the mind of the individual officer - and his wife and family too - is that made by the endless and exhausting problems of housing and schooling and the thousand and one personal difficulties involved in adaptation to new and often strange ways of life. When the diplomat is moved, he and his family may just have found their feet in a sympathetic environment. They must go to a new post knowing that, in all likelihood, they may well be on their way once more before they have had a chance to become a real part of the new community. The other day I said good-bye to one of our officers, who, with his wife and three young children, had lived in five capital cities during the last ten years. This was an unusual example for we would not normally ask anyone to change posts as often. But willingness to accept such changes is a characteristic, a necessary condition of the job. To the persons concerned it is pretty exciting often enough; but more often it is the personal inconveniences that predominate. No, it's not all champagne and caviar - no, nor even beer and skittles!

My account of our affairs would not be complete if I failed to say something of our work in connection with international conferences. Part of the work in relation to these meetings comes under the heading of reporting; part under the heading of carrying out government decisions and advancing the external policies of our country.

When I tell you that in 1949 the External Affairs Department participated in no less than 130 formal conferences and meetings of one kind or another, you will recognize that these affairs occupy no small proportion of our time. The principal reason for this, of course, is the rapid increase in recent years in the number of international organizations and the number of international meetings in which Canadian representation is required.

These organizations and meetings vary very widely in importance and the amount of work they involve for us diplomats. At one extreme there are the annual United Nations Assemblies. For these, long and detailed preparatory work is required and a delegation staff of fifty or more have to be lifted from their normal duties in the Department for two or three months. At the other end of the scale are the numerous relatively small meetings, often of brief duration, between the representatives of two or three nations. For these no elaborate preparations are needed and often one or two Canadian representatives suffice.

ECOSOC, ILO, UNESCO, WHO - all the other specialized alphabetical agencies of the United Nations; the projected International Trade Organization and the detailed multilateral tariff negotiations involved in GATT; the new committees formed under the North Atlantic Treaty; the Commonwealth meetings of which we have just had another in far-off Colombo; three-cornered talks with our British and American friends on financial and other problems; two-sided committees like that on Trade and Economic Affairs with the United Kingdom and the Joint Defence Board with the United States - I think that, almost literally, I could go on all afternoon merely cataloging such bodies and their works. But I have mentioned enough, perhaps, to illustrate how, of recent years, the growth of international organizations

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