

maintained four science counsellors at embassies abroad. Since 1968, science counsellors have been selected from federal government science-based departments and agencies. They are generally seconded to the Department of External Affairs from their department or agency for a term of 3-4 years and are funded and otherwise supported in the performance of their tasks by that Department.

A predominant number of science counsellors have come from the ranks of Energy, Mines and Resources, the Department of Communications and the Ministry of State for Science and Technology. The educational background of science counsellors has varied, though several current science counsellors hold graduate degrees in geology, geophysics and physics.

Science counsellors have, in the past, served primarily the needs identified by federal government science-based departments and agencies. Increasingly, the scope of their activities has expanded to include support for both the industrial governments' science-based departments and agencies.

While the activities of science counsellors are quite varied, three broad categories can be identified:

- I. The advisory function includes the science counsellor's responsibility for keeping the post informed on matters of science and technology of relevance to Canada's foreign policy. This requires study and analysis of the science policies and programs of the host country, the appraisal of priorities and trends together with the implications for Canada and assessments of the status of any existing bilateral science and technology agreements between Canada and the host country.
- II. The liaison function includes advising and assisting Canadian scientists and delegations visiting the host country, facilitating the flow of science and technology information between Canada and the host country, facilitating technological exchanges and formal scientific exchanges of personnel and identifying and promoting areas of collaborative science and technology activities or agreements.
- III. As regards the reporting function, the science counsellor is expected to assess and report on a regular basis on significant research and development policies and activities in disciplines of