

standards are comparable to those in Canada, and their redeployment to areas of greater need, where standards are considerably inferior to those to which Canadian public servants are accustomed at home.

Since the process of redeployment will take some time, attention is being paid first to the areas of greatest need. It is clearly impossible to station a Canadian medical officer at every diplomatic mission, but it is envisaged that medical officers may be so deployed at larger posts and in areas of maximum need that periodic visits may be made to all or most diplomatic missions. The frequency of such visits would vary with the needs and the location of individual posts.

While Canadian medical officers may not undertake actual treatment (that is to say, engage in the practice of medicine in a foreign country), they may provide a number of services related to the broad conception of health as a state of total wellbeing which may contribute to the welfare of the individual throughout his period of foreign service.

#### **Value of Medical Interviews**

Though post reports provide useful information of a general nature on the medical problems of public servants and dependents arriving at a mission for the first time, it can be of considerable value to Canadians on first posting to have an interview with a Canadian medical officer as early as possible, to learn the special health hazards at the post and appropriate measures to guard against them. Counselling of this nature would include advice on standards of water and food supplies, necessary safeguards in preparation, sanitary conditions of public eating-places and related subjects. Such interviews give the doctor an opportunity to check the adequacy of each individual's immunization status and advise on the use of prophylactic drugs. Advice can be provided as to how and where to seek medical care. Most important, possibly, is the fact that an introductory interview of this kind can provide reassurance.

Health-advisory and medical-counselling services may be provided on a regular basis or at individual request. The counselling required may be mainly on matters of an environmental or public-health nature or a problem concerning which the individual seeks personal medical advice. A professional interview with an employee may reveal that simple advice or reassurance is sufficient to resolve the problem. If further investigation or treatment is indicated, names of physicians considered suitable for further consultation may be provided or assistance may be given in making appointments.

#### **Importance of Professional Contacts**

A major role of the medical officer providing health services to public servants abroad is to establish professional contacts with the medical profession of the host country in order to develop a thorough firsthand knowledge of the abilities, specialities and standards of its various members. Similarly, the Canadian doctor