

both a responsibility and a liability for VIP visitors. Foreign governments therefore frequently request that all pertinent details of visits are forwarded by Canadian missions, through this department, to the local authorities in advance of VIP visits.

The same also applies to travel by lieutenant-governors. Because of their relationship with the Department of the Secretary of State, however, it is anticipated that the current practice of lieutenant-governors dealing with travel plans through that department's state ceremony directorate will be continued. The state ceremony directorate will, as before, act as interface with the Department of External Affairs.

Invitations for foreign government representatives to visit provinces are also extended through this Department and the Canadian mission after being cleared in advance with the SSEA.

To facilitate official travel abroad by provinces, the Department is authorized to issue, on request, "special" official passports for all premiers, cabinet ministers, speakers of legislative assemblies and leaders of the opposition and their spouses. For further details see Tel CFX0267 on Special Passport Procedures.

Other services provided by the Department at different stages of the visit, include:

- (a) provision of written briefing on request for ministers or senior officials prior to departure;
- (b) for major visits by premiers the department stands ready to send on request one or more senior officials to provide a confidential oral briefing to the premier and his staff. A second oral briefing can be provided to the other members of his delegation;
- (c) in developing a visit program, input from this Department should be invited, while the Canadian mission will be charged in cooperation with the provincial office (should there be one in the country to be visited) to identify contacts and set up appointments in the private as well as the public sector;
- (d) while as a general rule, provinces are encouraged to make their own administrative arrangements for