



**United States Department of State
and the Broadcasting Board of Governors
Office of Inspector General**

Inspection of Consulate General Hamilton, Bermuda



Exterior of Consulate General Hamilton

Consulate General Hamilton has an active, successful public diplomacy program that is energetically led by a consul general who has invigorated the bilateral governmental relationship and strengthened the positive image of the United States in Bermuda.

The consular section provides good consular services and receives complete cooperation from local officials on all consular matters. Transferring immigrant visa processing responsibilities to Consulate General Montreal would permit elimination of one consular officer position.

Given the demands of global repositioning, the consulate general should be restructured and its staff reduced. A two-officer post would be sufficient to manage U.S. interests and provide lessened but adequate consular services. In any event, the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs should take over responsibility for Consulate General Hamilton from the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs.

Consulate General Hamilton's management section provides a reasonable level of service and has made significant progress in restructuring internal administrative operations. The post's management controls are adequate, although the Office of Inspector General identified weaknesses in procurement and property management that should be addressed.

OIG Report ISP-I-06-48, Inspection of Inspection of Consulate General Hamilton, Bermuda

The fieldwork for this report was conducted by the Office of Inspections in Hamilton from June 5 through 9, 2005. This is an unclassified summary of a full report, which receives limited official distribution. Both the report summary and the full report reflect the conditions reviewed during the fieldwork.

Background: Bermuda

Bermuda is a small, stable, democratic, self-governing island that is part of the United Kingdom's overseas territory. It has a population of 62,000 and is about 700 miles off the coast of North Carolina. Bermuda has strong ties to the United States and once played a key national security role. Today, it is a burgeoning international insurance/reinsurance center focused on the United States. Tourism, the number-two industry, is primarily driven by the 400,000 U.S. visitors it receives annually. There are 8,500 resident Americans. Eighty percent of Bermuda's exports are to the United States. As a self-governing British overseas territory, Bermuda is not an active player on the international scene; the United Kingdom handles its foreign relations and defense. However, the current Bermudian government has sought closer association with the Caribbean Community.

Office of Inspector General

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