

Foreign Missions & International Organizations

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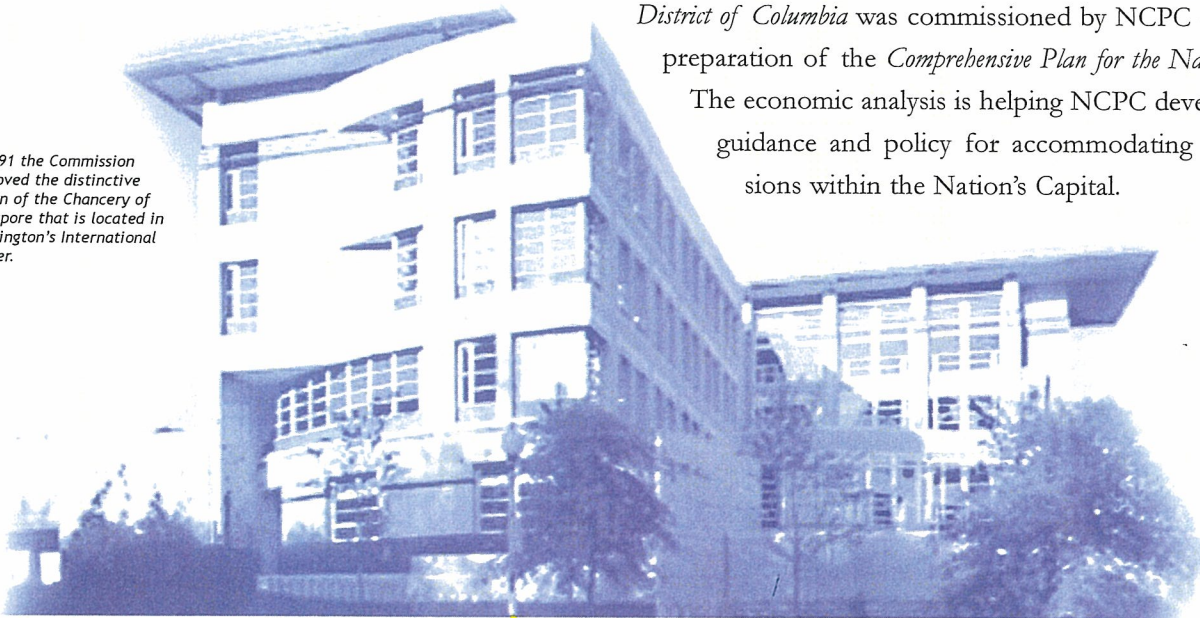
Foreign embassies; international business; cultural and financial institutions; and students and visitors from around the world all contribute to the special and cosmopolitan character of the Nation's Capital. These activities and institutions strengthen Washington's role in international affairs and reaffirm its position as one of the great cities of the world. Now, a recent study by the National Capital Planning Commission reveals that international activities not only enliven the city's cultural and political life but they also provide a major source of jobs and income for the city's economy.

The federal government, international business, and the hospitality industry are the city's three primary industries. With direct annual spending totaling an estimated \$10.4 billion in the District of Columbia, international business is the city's second most important source of economic activity, right behind federal spending. These and other findings are contained in a study prepared for the National Capital Planning Commission by Stephen Fuller, Professor of Public Policy at George Mason University and leading analyst of the metropolitan Washington economy. *The Economic and Fiscal Impact of Foreign Missions on the*

District of Columbia was commissioned by NCPC as part of its preparation of the *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital*.

The economic analysis is helping NCPC develop planning guidance and policy for accommodating foreign missions within the Nation's Capital.

In 1991 the Commission approved the distinctive design of the Chancery of Singapore that is located in Washington's International Center.



In isolation, foreign missions as a whole are not major generators of economic activity; however, as a catalyst for the entire international business industry within the District, foreign missions support a significant and growing sector within the city's economy. Washington's 169 foreign missions represent a complex of economic activities far more important than the sum of their direct and indirect spending would indicate. *The Economic and Fiscal Impact of Foreign Missions* report presents both the measurable and non-quantifiable economic dimensions of foreign missions.

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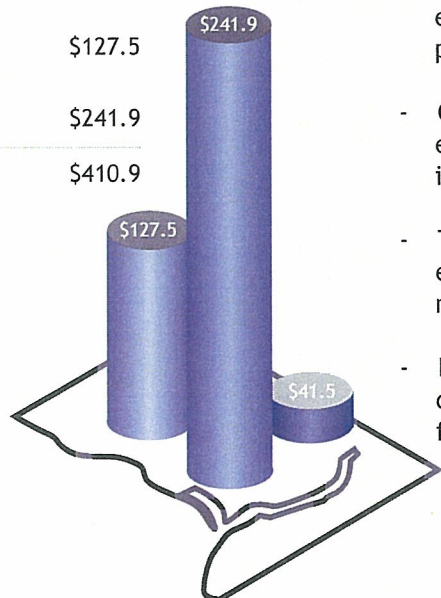
The report analyzes in detail both workforce and non-payroll spending by foreign missions and examines the spending of the visitors that foreign missions attract. It also examines tax and fiscal impacts. While foreign mission buildings and property owned by their respective countries are not subject to property taxes and the salaries of diplomatic personnel are also generally exempt, much of the spending of foreign missions and the spending of visitors to foreign missions is subject to all local taxes. In addition, office space leased by a foreign mission in the District is subject to property taxes, as is the rental housing occupied by employees of foreign missions.

The Economic and Fiscal Impact of Foreign Missions report calculates that the total contribution of spending associated with foreign missions to the District economy in 2001 was approximately \$411 million. This spending will support 1,651 jobs in the city and generate \$44.1 million in personal earnings. While this represents only a small fraction of the city's total economic activity, foreign missions represent a critical component of the international business industry and they are an economic force far exceeding their measurable benefits.

The Economic and Fiscal Impact of Foreign Missions on the District of Columbia is available upon request from the Commission office and is posted on our web site at www.ncpc.gov.

SUMMARY OF ECONOMIC AND FISCAL IMPACT OF FOREIGN MISSIONS ON THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Source of Impact	Total output (millions)
Spending by Foreign Mission Employees	\$41.5
Non-Payroll Spending by Foreign Missions	\$127.5
Spending by Foreign Mission Visitors	\$241.9
Total Economic Impact	\$410.9



FOREIGN MISSIONS IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL

- Washington, D.C. is home to 169 foreign missions.
- Foreign missions employ nearly 10,000 workers in the District of Columbia with an annual payroll of close to \$300 million.
- Consumer spending by foreign mission employees in the District of Columbia in 2001 is estimated to total \$32.4 million.
- Total combined spending by these 169 embassies in 2001 is estimated to total \$510 million.
- Foreign missions attract a large number of day visitors who spend \$183 million annually for lodging, food, and shopping in the city.

LARGEST FOREIGN MISSIONS BY EMPLOYMENT

Country	Employees
Saudi Arabia	781
United Kingdom	478
France	325
Russia	300
Brazil	286
Canada	266
Japan	243
Egypt	242
Australia	230
Germany	188

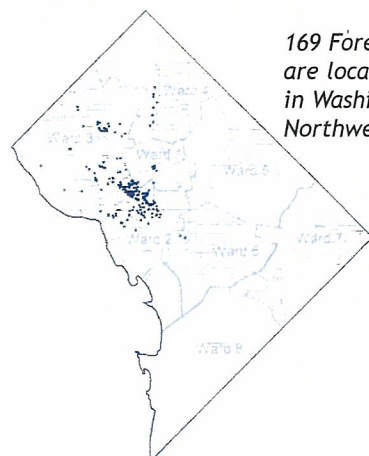
Board of Trade Survey 2001

THE FOREIGN MISSIONS ACT

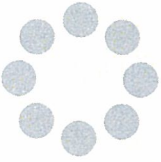
The 1982 Foreign Missions Act reaffirms the federal government's jurisdiction over the operation of foreign missions and international organizations in the U.S. The Act establishes an Office of Foreign Missions within the Department of State to review and control the operations of diplomatic activities and sets out the process by which the foreign missions will be located in the District of Columbia. The Act requires the NCPC Executive Director to serve as a member of the District of Columbia Board of Zoning Adjustment when it considers applications by foreign missions.

THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER

Established in 1968, the International Center is a 47-acre campus in Northwest Washington. Located between Connecticut Avenue and Reno Road and bisected by Van Ness Street, the park-like enclave offers an attractive and convenient location where countries can build their chanceries. NCPC reviews plans for all development in the International Center and administers the Development Controls that regulate design and planning in the area. The diplomatic missions in the International Center reflect the traditional architecture of the home countries and some of the world's great design traditions as interpreted by leading international architects. When fully built out, the International Center will be home to chanceries of 19 nations. With all building lots at the center now spoken for, NCPC staff, Department of State, and District of Columbia officials are working to identify new chancery locations elsewhere in the city.



169 Foreign missions are located primarily in Washington's Northwest quadrant.



The Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital

The Commission is currently revising the federal components of the *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital*, the planning document published jointly by NCPC and the District of Columbia government. The Comprehensive Plan establishes goals and policies for future development in the Nation's Capital and helps coordinate planning among federal and local jurisdictions. The plan is composed of two parts: the Federal Elements, which are prepared by NCPC and guide development of the federal establishment; and the District Elements, which are prepared by the District of Columbia government and direct city planning. The federal portion of the revised Comprehensive Plan, which will be released later this year, includes policy guidance for foreign missions.

The National Capital Planning Commission is the federal government's planning agency in the District of Columbia and surrounding counties in Maryland and Virginia. The Commission provides overall planning guidance for federal land and buildings in the region. It also reviews the design of federal construction projects, oversees long-range planning for future development, and monitors capital investment by federal agencies.

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