

Dual Citizenship¹

Between my wife and myself, our three children and four grandchildren, nine in all, we have 30 legal citizenships and legal access to 30 passports!² I have strongly encouraged my children to work hard at retaining their citizenships, both for themselves and their children, for it spells opportunity and freedom.

Yet, I think it nonsense for countries to allow multiple citizenship. While we retain ours because of the opportunities it affords, I personally do not believe *any* country profits from such arrangements. Criminals use it as a cover. Citizens of convenience hold Canada responsible for their safety, while they contribute nothing to the country. Cohen reminds us how our fellow “Canadians” in Lebanon have abused their status at your and my great expense. I hold them in deep contempt as exploiters. 250,000 of them in Hong Kong? A financial catastrophe waiting to happen! And our government just sits there waiting for it?!

I lived abroad from 1958-2001, on three continents, with 30 years in a very unstable country.³ I experienced a civil war in the midst of which the Canadian High Commissioner miraculously managed to get a letter to us, assuring us that he had everything under control! Utter nonsense. They did not have a chance in the world to rescue us. I quit registering my presence in the country.

I learned that if I go abroad, I should take responsibility for my own decision and not force it on my fellow citizens at home. No one forced me to leave. It was my choice, my responsibility. Why should Canada be responsible for such personal decisions? If I want our government’s protection, I should stay home.

I want Canada to decide two issues:

1. *Do away with multiple citizenship.* It does her no good. It forces her to save people from the scrapes they get themselves in.

¹ Letter to Editor of *VS* in reaction to Andrew Cohen’s article under the same title, 30 July/2007 (p. A7).

²

By now in 2015, the year this article is edited for placement on our website, these figures need to be amended upward since there are now seven grandchildren, which should mean 36 legal citizenships and 36 legal passports! These figures do not include the spouses, who would add another four to the total to make it 40! But these new figures are difficult to verify at the moment, since both Canada and The Netherlands are in the process of revising the relevant laws.

³At this point, there is a slight change of subject, though the topics are related to each other. Neither the Editor nor I detected the shift at the time. This comment is meant to pre-empt your critique!

2. *Reject responsibility for citizens gone abroad*, unless employed or sponsored by a Canadian institution that is licensed to so employ Canadians. The employer is then charged all expenses for repatriation or other protective measures.