

they were a generation ago - the experts will be sent from headquarters in Ottawa". Nonetheless, it would appear that the system would certainly have potential as a 'back-up' when required in specific situations and much more direct application for those involved in public information and specialized post activities (eg. scientific officers). Similarly, it would be useful in helping to bridge the gap between officer's special expertise and the more general demands often placed on them.

In multilateral posts there seems to be a somewhat greater involvement in the policy formation process as the officers (along with expert delegations from Ottawa) are often in the midst of the multidimensional round of discussions and negotiations on international committees, working groups and in countless other forums. While the need for access to the system in day-to-day operations may still be limited, its potential overall use in this type of mission may well be somewhat greater.

Several officers currently in positions in Ottawa commented that they felt the system would have been of more use to them while abroad, where their sources of information were often limited, than it would be in Ottawa. They saw this as being particularly the case if they were posted outside a major, highly developed, metropolitan centre. Availability of the system combined with the provision of supporting materials from the