

the DEEP-ADIS improvements to the DRS. DEEP (Data Element Exploitation Project) enlarges the DRS capacity so that it can accept 204 numerical characters of coding input data from Departments. ADIS (Accounting Data Input System) will permit some preliminary editing of codes and fields prior to the entry of data in the DRS data base. Additional information on these enhancements is provided in Annex B to this Chapter.

3.9 Even with all the available enhancements, however, the DRS cannot fully meet the Department's information needs, nor is it designed for that purpose. This system does not provide the level of detail and the timeliness of reporting to fully meet the objective of Departmental financial systems (see paragraph 3.4, above) and the yardsticks listed in paragraph 3.5, above: it cannot meet the needs of External Affairs managers for reliable, timely and readily usable information, nor does it have a commitment system which would meet all Departmental needs, nor a provision of on-line inquiry services to users (Post and other responsibility center managers). Since the DRS receives data centrally from the Department, it cannot have a provision for the one-time capture of data close to their source, nor can it have edit and control mechanisms for the first entry of data.

External Affairs - Financial Management System (FMS)

3.10 Since April 1, 1980, the FMS has been designated the principal External Affairs system for processing and reporting financial information. Budgets, expenditures and commitments (for Headquarters responsibility centers only) are recorded on the FMS. The DEC-20 computer on which the system operates is owned by the Communications Branch of the Department. The FMS is currently being expanded in terms of the applications it can perform and the information it can provide. As of July 1983, the FMS was not issuing monthly reports to the responsibility centers and, therefore, was not being used by Headquarters programme officers as the primary financial management and reporting system.

3.11 At this time, Post accounting transactions are recorded in automated (FMOs) or manual systems and expenditure data are forwarded from the Posts to Ottawa on the TID. This information is edited, entered into the FMS, transferred to DRS by magnetic tape and then returned to responsibility center managers in DRS reports. Annex A refers.

3.12 The principal strengths of the FMS are that it:

- a) allows some front-end input validation at Headquarters;
- b) has a capability to respond to some on-line inquiries from Headquarters;
- c) can provide outputs in a number of formats;
- d) is owned by the Department and therefore permits departmentally controlled software and programming changes;
- e) has the capability to transfer data through machine-readable media; and
- f) has the capability to process foreign currencies.