

formula to convert, say, a thousand words into the much larger number of computer characters. Strangely enough, as I found out, there is no accurate formula to accomplish this conversion. Texts vary greatly in nature; some employ many longer words than others. Hence a rule of thumb sometimes cited -- that one can estimate five computer characters to each word -- can lead one badly astray. The computer doesn't guess; it counts the characters as the text is typed into the terminal and presents the operator instantly with the total.

So I began all over again and counted characters directly, totalling them for each of the two months.

So much for the input from External Affairs. The next problem was to estimate how much material might have been contributed during the same two months by other government departments.

A study of "International Canada", which as I noted in my first report does try to cover the Ottawa waterfront, makes clear that foreign policy material -- other than that emanating from External -- originates for the most part from only a limited number of departments. These include Environment, IT&C, EM&R, Finance, and M&I; to a lesser extent Agriculture, Health and Welfare, and Consumer and Corporate Affairs; and one Agency, CIDA.