

## INTRODUCTION

This fourth annual Report on the Access to Information Act for the Department of External Affairs covers the period from April 1, 1986 to March 31, 1987.

2. During the period under review, 27 Access requests were carried over from 1985/86, 394 new Access requests were received, and 371 requests were completed. This represents an increase of approximately 250% over 1985/86. The increased workload was felt throughout the Department but most particularly in the Office of the Co-ordinator for Access to Information where two new positions were added.

3. Media representatives have continued to show the most interest in using this legislation. The percentage breakdown of the sources of requests was as follows: media 43.5%, organizations 13%, academic 3%, business 18%, public 16.5%, professional access consultants 6%.

4. Over one-third of the requests dealt with Canada's Free Trade Initiative. Another third dealt with other foreign policy and trade questions. The remainder covered mainly immigration cases (requests for files from Canadian representatives of foreign applicants) and management and administrative issues (financial accounts, program evaluations, etc.).