

PART E

POLICY FORMULATION AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

Policy planning

A policy planning secretariat assists the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs and senior management by evaluating the effectiveness of current policies in light of changing international and domestic circumstances, advancing options and suggesting new directions in foreign policy. It also works to strengthen the Department's function as the federal agency responsible for the management of Canada's foreign relations. During the year, the secretariat was involved in several activities aimed at bringing a higher degree of consistency and co-ordination to policy development in the Department.

Security and intelligence

The Department's intelligence analysis and security branch is responsible for programs designed to ensure the physical security of documents and communications and the safety of personnel both at posts and at headquarters. Responsibility for matters of international terrorism and emergency preparedness also belongs to this branch. Branch officers collect and analyze political and economic intelligence from many sources to provide a basis for policy formulation on matters affecting Canada's interests.

Federal-provincial co-ordination

Federal-provincial co-ordination seeks to harmonize the policies and activities of the two levels of government in the international field. The division in charge of this co-ordination formulates government policy relating to the interests of provinces in the area of international affairs and helps them carry out international activities related to these interests.

Close liaison is maintained between the Department and the provinces, chiefly through periodic visits by departmental officials to the provinces as well as almost daily telephone contact. The Department's telecommunications network is available to the provinces, giving them rapid access to the services offered by Canada's posts abroad.

The Department operates an information program for the use of the provinces whereby observations, comments and research, primarily from Canada's posts in the US, the Canadian embassy in Japan and the Canadian mission to the EC, are sent to the provinces. Most of this material is economic, dealing with energy, the environment, trade and commerce and natural resources.

This same co-operation exists outside Canada between posts and some 40 provincial offices in Europe, Asia, Latin America and the United States.