

INTRODUCTION

This third annual Access to Information Act report for the Department of External Affairs covers the period from April 1, 1985 to March 31, 1986.

2. During the period under review, 15 Access Requests were carried over from 1984/85, 168 new Access requests were received, and 156 requests were completed.

3. Media representatives have continued to show the most interest in using this legislation. The breakdown of the 156 requests completed was as follows: media 71, organizations 52, academic 13, business 7, public 13.

4. Nearly half of the requests dealt with foreign policy questions. The remainder covered mainly international trade, immigration and general information on a variety of other subjects that were foreign affairs related.

STATISTICAL REPORT

5. The attached Report on Access to Information ... (Appendix A) contains detailed statistics on the processing of the 156 requests completed. Twenty-seven Access Requests were carried forward to 1986/87. Of these, sixteen were the subject of consultations with other government institutions, three were waiting for responses from the applicants for clarification, and eight were completed in the first two weeks of April. In four cases, extensions of over 60 days were required due to extensive consultation with other