INTRODUCTION

It has become commonplace today to speak of the "information explosion" and the concept itself has a multitude of implications for all levels of human activity. In company with virtually all governmental and private organizations, the Department of External Affairs has had to take account of this phenomenon in a positive fashion. Provision of vastly improved library services and facilities in the Department's new headquarters and attempts to modernize, systematize and improve internal records management, beginning with the appointment of a Coordinator of Information Systems in 1974, were major steps in this regard. In an effort to improve access to unclassified material, information from other departments and public documents on Canada's external relations, this study of the feasibility of a computerized Canadian foreign policy information system was commissioned in 1975.