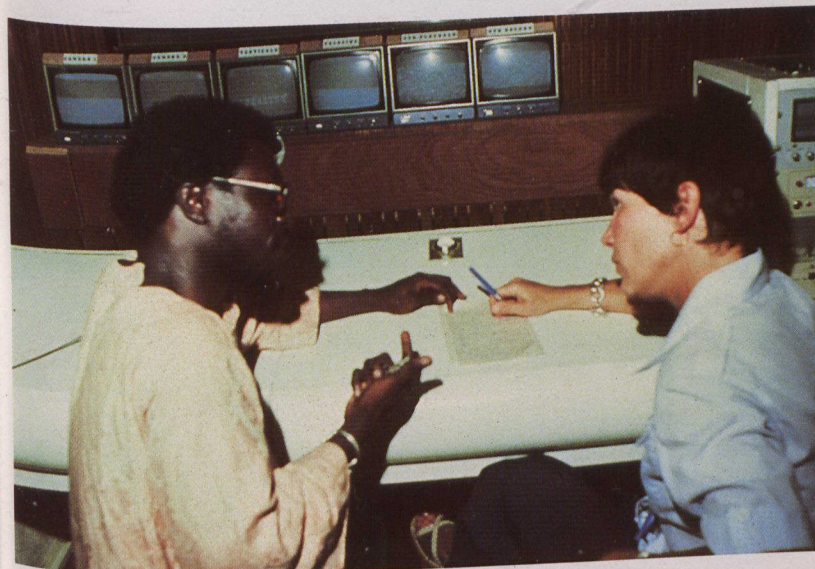


*Operating a new computer system in Thailand.*



MICHEL FAUGERE, CIDA

*Training is an important element of all CIDA's telecommunications projects.*

Canada is committed to the protection of personal property and has been an active participant at numerous Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) conferences on the international flow of information. As a member of the Group of Experts on Transborder Data Barriers and Privacy Protection, Canada helped formulate the OECD's "Guidelines on the Protection of Privacy and Transborder Flows of Personal Data". These guidelines establish minimum standards for handling personal information by member countries. The standards relate to the collection, quality, use, disclosure, registration and security of personal information and provide that individuals should have a right of access to stored information about themselves.

All OECD member countries including Canada and its largest trading partners, the United States, Japan, the United Kingdom and the Federal Republic of Germany, have formally adhered to the guidelines. It is not necessary for member states to pass specific legislation incorporating the principles of the guidelines but private sector corporations have been encouraged to develop and implement voluntary privacy protection codes. Although there are no exact figures indicating how many private companies in OECD countries have voluntarily adopted the guidelines, some 200 leading American and almost 40 Canadian firms have indicated their support.