

OBJECTIVES:

The objective of this project is to improve the Department's ability to communicate with posts, and to ensure that certain missions have the necessary back-up radio system to enable them to communicate with their staff in the field or in staff quarters, particularly during local or regional emergencies.

GOALS:

The following are the specific goals of this project:

- a radio program be officially acknowledged as an essential element of the telecommunications requirement of the Department; and
- appropriate upgrading and extension of the back-up radio system take place, by providing MGT with specialist personnel to plan, implement and manage the emergency radio networks.

DESCRIPTION:

This project would affect, to a greater or lesser degree, other activities of the Department: security, personal safety, consular services, information services, general relations. Besides providing personnel resources dedicated to this project, it will be necessary to train the staff at posts about the proper use and upkeep of the equipment. It will also be necessary to review the rules and regulations concerning the use of radios, particularly with respect to general administrative activities at posts. A small specialist unit within MGT would be responsible for consolidating the four separate radio operations currently existing in the Department: personal safety, local and international emergency voice, radioteletype and protocol systems.

IMPLEMENTATION CONSULTATIONS:

Intra-departmental consultations are necessary to plan and implement this project. MGT normally seeks to identify the needs and priorities as proposed by the Department's geographic bureaux regarding posts likely to require a stand-by radio system. ZSS provides MGT with its priorities for personal safety systems and other government departments (CIDA, DND, F&O and DOC) sometimes inquire as to the methods of communications available in the field. If MGT does not obtain the new person-year resources requested, this project cannot be carried out in an efficient and effective manner. The existing workload and staff ratio in MGT is such that a re-allocation of personnel resources would have severe implications on other important operations of the Department. If this project is delayed, certain posts that need radio systems immediately will not be able to obtain them.