

a valuable dimension and should be fostered as much as possible. The potential for supplying input will vary considerably depending on the nature and location of the post, but the type of material which might be generated from this source would frequently be unobtainable by any other conventional means. Posts already send material from their areas to Ottawa in the course of their normal reporting, but this process could be made more systematic in order to link up with the creation of this data base. <5>

A significant data base of material on Canadian foreign policy and external relations is not going to be built by the chance accumulation of data. Considerable planning and organization will be required in order to ensure the creation of a data base that is sufficiently complete (within the parameters established for the system), accurate and timely to be credible in the minds of potential users. If it is not credible as an information source it certainly will not be fully used by its potential clientele.