

the appropriate geographical divisions and thus further diffused ICISTRs central role. Finally though attempting to call the interdepartmental tune ICISTR had no funds to pay the departmental piper. Its current function has therefore largely become that of a forum for information exchange and general discussion. It has, in other words, become a "paper retort".

### An Enhanced Role

To properly support a new coherent strategic approach ICISTR will have to fulfill the following main functions:

- Using papers and studies produced by the focal point, develop an overall strategy for major government-to-government bilateral and multilateral S&T activities.
- Provide overall guidance and evaluation of such activities.
- Provide general direction to the focal point.
- Decide upon the general lines of allocation of the central "seed" fund.

Committees reflect their membership and particularly their leadership. To realign the energies of ICISTR into new, far more active channels, will require strong and vigorous direction. External Affairs are therefore urged to strengthen their internal central S&T focus by reassigning it responsibility for bilateral S&T relations. The interface between the scientific and other aspects of foreign relations with a country should lie within External Affairs and not between its many geographical divisions and individual science based departments.

Proper review and decision making is badly needed if a national, integrated and effective Canadian approach to future government-to-government S&T activities is to be forthcoming. This in turn will only occur if continuity, adequate resources and firm leadership is available. The combination of a permanent focal point, a modest "seed" fund and a revitalized ICISTR should amply meet these needs.

### OTHER SECTORS

Full advantage of international collaboration can only be taken to the degree that knowledge is held of the existence somewhere of research of possible interest and subse-