

## 8. Acquisition of Equipment and Furnishings

Communications Branch will be the responsibility centre for the special communications equipment requirements throughout the Department. Central Services Division will be the responsibility centre to plan and provide for furniture and equipment needed in offices at headquarters.

For the rest, we quote the consultants' report: "This category of expenditure includes the purchase of furnishings for chanceries and official residences where major furnishing schemes for representational and reception areas can be required, and which would necessarily involve headquarters control and technical design expertise. On the other hand, by far the greatest proportion of expenditures on behalf of posts in this area is related to the routine replacement of furnishings, appliances and equipment for the chancery, official residence and staff quarters. Thus, it would appear that most acquisition activity under this standard object is subject to timing and priority decisions that can best be made at the level of the individual post."

Accordingly, Materiel Management Division, guided by the property acquisition program, will provide for furniture and equipment for newly established posts and newly acquired premises at existing posts. However, all replacement acquisitions will be budgeted for by the post concerned which will thus be enabled to make its own decisions on priorities and on the questions of what and where to buy. Needless to say, the headquarters specialists will continue to be available for advice and to make purchases on behalf of the post when the post directs them to do so.

Furthermore, no post could be expected to take on this responsibility in an information vacuum. Therefore, full implementation of this proposal will be delayed until adequate materiel management and control procedures can be developed and published.