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Department of External Affairs



Ministère des Affaires extérieures

Canada

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: CHANGES TO
ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

I. INTRODUCTION

The Secretary of State for External Affairs and his two colleagues of the portfolio have approved some changes in the organizational structure of the Department of External Affairs. These changes will take effect on September 1, 1983. They will complete the process of consolidation begun with the move into the Department of the Foreign Branch of CEIC in 1981 and with the reorganization of January 12, 1982 which brought the Trade Commissioner Service and other key units of ITC into a Department with expanded responsibilities.

II. OBJECTIVES

2. Among the basic objectives of the January 1982 reorganization of the Department was the perceived need to give greater weight to economic factors in the design of foreign policy, to ensure the conduct of foreign relations serves Canadian trade objectives, to improve the service being offered exporters in an increasingly competitive international marketplace and to ensure policy and program coherence in the conduct of Canada's range of relations with the outside world.

III. THE NEW STRUCTURE

3. Following a review of the existing departmental structure and the problems which were its natural by-product, it has been decided to proceed with an organizational adjustment aimed at improving the achievement of the January 1982 objectives. The basic theme of the changes now being brought about is the concentration of responsibility for all geographically-focussed policies and programs in five new geographic branches. Functional branches will ensure global or inter-regional policy and program consistency in trade, aid, economic, political and social issues.

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