
Military Mission and Consulate

<i>Country</i>	<i>City</i>
Germany	Berlin

Commission

<i>Country</i>	<i>City</i>
Hong Kong	Hong Kong

Handling of Information in the new

In 1974—the first full year of occupancy of the Lester B. Pearson Building by the Department—the problems of doing business and providing services in the new headquarters environment continued to be important. Not all the problems were solved during the year. Nor were the advantages of working in one location in Ottawa instead of 11 fully realized.

Progress was made, however, toward the use of computers to aid in handling the rapidly growing volume of information. This was particularly true in the communications area—telecommunications, library services, records keeping and departmental publications.

The acquisition of more modern equipment to increase the capability of the Canadian diplomatic communications system was the principal concern of the Telecommunications Division during the year. A contract was let for the supply of an automatic message switch in the Ottawa comcentre. This will make possible the automatic routing of messages to addressees in government departments in Ottawa and to posts abroad. Planning teams were formed to liaise with the supplier and assure adherence to security and operational requirements. Preliminary plans were made for the installation of a second switch in London when the Ottawa switch is fully operational. A replacement program for all teleprinter equipment in New York and Washington was approved by Treasury Board.

Work continued on the development of a program to acquire new cryptographic machines and teleprinters. The use of radio at selected posts was explored and progress made toward removing the obstacles posed by the Radio Regulations. Inter-city facsimile transmission tests were conducted between Ottawa and New York. Experiments were also undertaken to ascertain the practicability of long-distance transmission using high-speed magnetic tapes.