

CONCEPT C

The financial administration activities take place at the post under the authority of a financial manager working there, but financial records and reports are generated using a centralized data processing approach.

Concept C would be most suited to posts where most of the financial administration activities are currently performed in accordance with appropriate control and service standards and at a reasonable cost. In such cases, the prime functions of regionalization would be the provision at the regional level of two services that are currently maintained in Ottawa: financial report preparation and an audit function. Locating these two activities nearer to the post would make management reports available much faster, would eliminate the need to send invoices to Ottawa for audit, and would provide more timely audit feedback to the post.

Although the feasibility of regionalizing banking will vary for each post, it may be very advantageous to centralize significant parts of this activity under Option C, where possible. Although financial staff located at the post would prepare cheque requisitions, two alternatives exist for the cheque issuance activity. Either the local staff could issue cheques drawn on a local bank account whose balance is managed in collaboration with the regional staff, or cheques could be drawn on an account that is located centrally and managed regionally. The appropriate choice would depend on the specific circumstances of the post and region under consideration.

The generation of financial reports under Option C would make use of varying degrees of data input automation depending upon transaction volumes, the ease of communications and cost; for example, the most appropriate form of automation could be to forward actual paperwork to the regional location for input; to telex lines of financial coding, or to enter data on remote terminals.