

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
in cooperation with
the Institute of International Relations/University of British Columbia

announces

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

A symposium examining the impact of new *information technologies*
on the changing international environment

January 13, 1995
Lester B. Pearson Building
Robertson Conference Room
Ottawa, Ontario

The communications revolution has cut across all aspects of society and politics in the late 20th century. Driving this revolution have been a number of technological advances, centring mostly on digital technology and fibre optics, which have vastly enhanced the capacity to store, process and transmit information. This revolution has created, among other things, a planetary web of instantaneous communications which has profoundly altered the international environment across a number of spheres, including the practice of diplomacy, the nature of state governance, and the conduct and scope of transnational business and finance. Taken together, these changes may very well constitute a fundamental transformation of the modern system of states itself. The purpose of this symposium is to gather together experts from academia, business, and government to assess the implications of these new information technologies for the changing international environment. The focus of each panel will be on how information technologies have facilitated the rise of new social movements and networks across political boundaries, and how these, in turn, present challenges to the conduct of state governance, the practice of diplomacy, and the character of international economic and security relations.