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Department of External Affairs



Ministère des Affaires extérieures

Canada

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The Department of External Affairs  
The Central Agency Revisited

Over two years have passed since I issued Circular Document Admin. No. 56/78 explaining the central agency concept and its implications for the Department of External Affairs. That document stands up well, I think, but there have been some developments in recent months which throw a new light on the Department as a central agency in action. On February 12, 1981 I explored this question at an open forum with members of the Department in Ottawa and now enclose for your information a slightly edited transcript of my remarks.

2. I am more convinced than ever that External Affairs must act as a central agency if it is to realize its full potential and provide the kind of advice and service the Government has a right to expect. As I acknowledged at the open forum, the record of achievement is good. But I am sure that we can do better, and that depends on all of us.

*a e Sotl-S*

Under-Secretary of State  
for External Affairs

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