

SUMMARY RECORD OF  
ITEMS DISCUSSED AT THE  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS JOINT COUNCIL MEETING  
November 19, 1986

The meeting was chaired by Management.

Workforce Adjustment/Person Year Reduction

Management reported that three surplus situations from last year's reductions remain to be resolved. Management is continuing to do its utmost to redeploy the employees involved and the Public Service Commission has enlarged its field of search to include organizations in the private sector.

Since decisions about downsizing for the next fiscal year were not complete, Management stated that it expects to be able to manage the process such that the results would be at least as successful as last year's downsizing. Management is hopeful that the downsizing can be accomplished through attrition.

A number of Branch reorganizations currently underway in the Department are not directly associated with PY reduction, but rather result from program reviews aimed at more efficient delivery of the Department's mandate. Redeployment, and retraining where necessary, is to be used for employees in positions that are affected by reorganization.

Canadian on Line Secure Information and Communications System (COSICS)

Management provided a briefing, in general terms, on the new computerized automated data and messaging program (COSICS) planned for headquarters and between headquarters and missions. A submission seeking Treasury Board approval for the system will be going forward shortly. Once approval is received management will be in a position to provide more details on a wider basis than has been the case. Management plans to do this by the frequent issuance of an unclassified newsletter. The newsletter will include items on personnel issues such as training, classification etc. A sub-committee with a mandate to look at personnel issues which will result from COSICS has just been established. Management expects to be in a position by the end of December to issue a request for proposals from private vendors for the supply of systems design, software and equipment for COSICSs. There will be consultation with Staff Side. Management hopes to commence a pilot programme in New York and a number of divisions at headquarters by May or June of next year.