

STATISTICAL REPORT - INTERPRETATION/EXPLANATION

During fiscal year 1991-92, the Department of External Affairs received 490 requests pursuant to the Access to Information Act. Fifty-eight requests were carried over from the previous reporting year. Of these 548 requests, 456 were completed during the period under review for a completion rate of 82 percent and 82 were carried forward. Fewer than 17 percent of the requests required extension of time for their completion and the majority of these were for consultations with other government institutions.

The disposition of the completed requests is as follows:

All disclosed	156
Disclosed in part	179
Nothing disclosed (exempt)	14
Nothing disclosed (excluded)	01
Transferred	17
Unable to process	42
Abandoned	41
Treated informally	06
TOTAL COMPLETED	<u>456</u>

Requests in the "abandoned" category generally relate to no application or other fee being paid. The statistical reports do not reflect the time-consuming activities related to the processing of consultation requests, responding to informal requests or advising departmental units on compliance with the Act on specific matters. The Department received 354 consultations from other departments.

Approximately 50 per cent of the 1991-92 Access and Privacy requests are for visa applicant files held at posts abroad. These are submitted by lawyers on behalf of the applicants who usually do not have status being neither Canadian citizens nor residents in Canada. Given that records need to be retrieved from abroad, these requests normally take longer than 30 days but the majority of requestors understand the process and waive the right to complain. The other requests have ranged from current reporting from embassies on events such as the attempted coup in Moscow in 1991, the costs of participation in