

wholly policy ministry with as yet no operational responsibilities.

Recommended Option

The prime responsibility could equally well be given to any of the three contenders considered. Each has its own individual and substantial contribution to make. To bind the three together in a common purpose yet retain the necessary single authority, it is recommended that a modified joint approach be made. Under this approach, MOSST would house, staff and manage the focal point with one official being seconded full time from External Affairs and from NRC. The latter two would provide the direct intimate link required to tap needed foreign policy and S&T expertise.

Finally, in recognition of the need for close and knowledgeable links to Canadian industry, it is recommended that the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce name an officer to act as point of contact with the focal point.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL ARRANGEMENTS

The focal point would be a small central group providing common services to the key executors of the overall strategy - the science based departments and agencies of the Federal government. In order to bring their expertise and skills to bear as a single coherent group, however, some simple effective mechanism is needed. Such a mechanism already exists to some degree in the shape of the Interdepartmental Committee on International Science and Technology Relations, (ICISTR).

ICISTR

ICISTR was established in 1975 to provide coordination of the Federal government's overall participation and policy respecting international S&T cooperation. Chaired by External Affairs, it brings together involved and interested departments two or three times a year.

ICISTR has never had a permanent secretariat or research staff but has had to look elsewhere for the provision of the basic data and recommendations on which to focus interdepartmental policy considerations. To some extent, therefore its priorities and concerns have depended upon chance rather than rational choice. In 1977, a reorganization within External Affairs diverted main responsibility for bilateral S&T activities from the Science, Environment and Transportation Policy Division to