

*The Political Officer
in the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade*

The "globalist" is already beginning to emerge in various forms and guises:

- In a number of professions, "command of the world" is becoming recognized as the key to individual and corporate success. Among these are hedge fund managers, commercial bankers, international investors, management consultants, and foreign correspondents.
- In the Public Service of Canada, all executives are members of a single classification group or "stream" on the grounds that effective management requires a common base of knowledge and core competencies whatever the department or agency. Within DFAIT, EX-level officers are no longer divided into "streams".
- In Australia, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) has erased the distinction between "streams", combining foreign policy and trade policy (trade promotion remains separate). The department employs generic job descriptions for all positions, allowing lateral entry into the foreign service from other government departments and from the private sector. All positions are "rotational". In addition, the Secretary (deputy minister) has wide latitude to set salaries at competitive levels and pay for expertise.
- In Australia and New Zealand, the competition for senior positions in the foreign ministry is open to anyone with the necessary "globalist" credentials. In 1999, New Zealand advertised in *The Economist* for a successor to the Secretary, not restricting candidates to either New Zealand government officials or even to New Zealanders.
- In 1993, at a meeting at La Sapinière, a group of officers commissioned by the two DFAIT deputies to explore the future of the foreign service, concluded that there was continued need for "an FS/rotational group because of the value of the combination of experience and expertise which can't be replicated in a non-career service". But the group believed that "the existence of separate streams for trade and political officers was divisive and counter-productive". One participant argued for the removal of distinctions between categories of employees (permanent/temporary, rotational/nonrotational) and the creation of a "consolidated agency consisting of employees who may accept assignments abroad depending on requirements and in which all employees will have equal career opportunities and benefit".