

18. Accommodation. Although a number of significant adjustments will have to be made in the accommodation plan currently being developed and implemented, there will be no basic change to the policy of concentrating the Department in the Pearson Building. A substantial portion of the existing plans will continue to be valid. For certain branches little or no adjustment will be required and even for the geographic branches much of the work undertaken to date will not be wasted, as it had in any case been intended to co-locate most geographically-focussed divisions. Every effort will be made not to impede the rapid planning of designs and moves.

V. CONCLUSION

19. The potential advantages of this organizational change are very significant for the Department's future. The creation of the five geographic branches will result in clear accountability for regional and bilateral policies and operations, a framework for the development of coherent and mutually supportive policies and programs across the range of departmental activities, and a single geographic focal point for posts abroad, for exporters, the rest of government, and other constituents and foreign governments. The four functional branches will be structured to provide clear responsibilities for departmental involvement in domestic and sectoral issues and provide single functional focal points for other government departments, the business communities and NGOs.

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