

of the users - essentially the ADMs - will have opportunities to contribute to the development and enhancement of systems for the processing and transmission of financial information. This activity would be coordinated with those of the Departmental EDP committee.

Recommendations. The Task Force recommends that:

2. In the context of Department-wide efforts to coordinate systems development, the Department adopt a formal policy based on Annex F to Chapter III to control and coordinate the design and implementation of accounting and financial systems.
3. The Department develop a mechanism to obtain the contributions of users in the exploitation of opportunities for the development of accounting and financially oriented systems within the context of the Operational Planning Framework.

PROPOSED INTEGRATION OF ACCOUNTING SYSTEMS

3.29 At the present time, the major accounting systems serving the Department are:

- a) DRS of Supply and Services Canada;
- b) FMS of External Affairs
- c) Post manual records.

3.30 Departmental systems should be designed so that data are captured only once and financial and non-financial information on all resources used in conducting activities is incorporated into an integrated scheme from which data for planning, controlling and reporting can be derived⁽¹⁾. In External Affairs, therefore, financial and non-financial management information should be captured only once at source, transmitted and entered in the FMS electronically and then entered in the DRS, also electronically. In short, the output of one system would become an input into a second one without further processing and data could be transferred in both directions; if these conditions were met, the systems would be considered integrated. In External Affairs, these conditions are not met, neither between the DRS and the FMS nor between the FMS and the Posts. Since the FMS is purely an accounting system, it does not capture or integrate non-financial management information.

(1)Source: Comptroller General, Specifications for Departmental Systems, Chapter 110.