

SUMMARY RECORD OF
ITEMS DISCUSSED AT THE
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS JOINT COUNCIL MEETING
January 21, 1987

The meeting was chaired by Staff Side.

Workforce Adjustment/Person Year Reduction

Management had no additional information to report at this time regarding PY reduction exercise for FY1987, aside from the previously announced closing of overseas missions. (The previously announced program of post closings/downsizing will result in the elimination of 50 Canada-based positions. The post closings were made necessary not only for PY reduction, but also because the Department was instructed by Treasury Board to reduce its operations budget. No lay-offs are anticipated as a result from the post closings/downsizing.) About 63 positions are to be eliminated from the Department's authorized establishment for 1987. Every effort is being made to achieve this reduction without layoffs.

Canadian on Line Secure Information and Communications System (COSICS)

Treasury Board gave its approval to COSICS on 15 January. Because of the magnitude of the COSICS program it has now become a major "crown project" as opposed to being purely a departmental project.

A COSICS project office (MIDC) is now being established in the Department, to be staffed with employees from the Department of Supply & Services (who will be responsible for contract administration) and External Affairs (responsible for project management). An interdepartmental committee at the Director General level is to be established to provide interdepartmental coordination and oversight of the COSICS project. All departments currently being served by the External Affairs communications network (e.g., Finance, PCO, and NDHQ) will be linked to COSICS as well as all posts.

A Newsletter to be issued periodically for circulation to employees will be prepared by the COSICS project office.

Parking

It has been confirmed by Treasury Board that employees whose hours of work designate them as shift workers are exempted from the application of parking charges.