

REVIEW OF PAST ACTIVITIES: TRANSLATOR EXCHANGE PROGRAM

SECRETARY OF STATE OF CANADA

Since the last bilateral talks in 1985, the Translation Bureau has continued to exchange translators and terminologists with the Bundessprachenamt (the Federal Bureau for Languages) and with the Auswartigesamt (German Foreign Office). In 1985 and 1986, the Translation Bureau sent a translator to the Bundessprachenamt for three months each; in return, the Bureau welcomed a translator from the Bundessprachenamt for six weeks in 1985 and two translators from the Bundessprachenamt and one from the Auswartigesamt in 1986. In addition, the Bundessprachenamt annually loans the Bureau updated sets of MICROFICHES displaying the contents of the Bundessprachenamt's Terminology Bank.

We would like to continue this exchange program on an annual basis with the Bundessprachenamt and bi-annually with the Auswartigesamt. Since foreign language translators in Canada are cut off from the cultural milieu from which the material they translate emanates, such exchanges provide a useful immersion in the mother culture and enable the participants to broaden their professional experience, maintain professional contacts, update their language skills in the other country's environment and acquire terminology and reference materials. The German participants derive similar benefits from the exchange program. Under the agreement, each employer assumes all travel and related costs for its participating employee.