

The primary clientele of the system would be officers of the Department of External Affairs at home and abroad. During interviews with members of the Department in Ottawa and at three posts abroad (London, Paris and Geneva) considerable interest was shown in the system and a wide range of potential uses were identified. The most general reaction was, "its a great idea -- the system has considerable merit IF it can ever be implemented". Nonetheless, comments on the building and use of the data base varied considerably depending largely on the perceptions of the individuals interviewed based on their experience and present role.

A number of specific uses for the proposed data base by members of the Department were identified and certainly there are other possible uses as well. Included among those identified were:

- (1) Specific information enquiries -- action requests related to specific needs.
- (2) Policy, planning and development requirements.
- (3) Formation and revision of country plans.
- (4) Briefing materials for new officers coming into the Department.
- (5) Briefing materials for officers about to be posted to new assignments in Ottawa or abroad.
- (6) Briefing materials for delegations attending international meeting, conferences, working groups etc.