

Passports have recently been reported by the media to be relatively easy to obtain from the Passport Office. This has largely resulted from the use of fraudulent "birth certificates" from provinces, since the PPO must rely on documentation sent and can really only verify the existence of the town and perhaps the name and birthdate in exceptional circumstances. It is known that a number of operational initiatives are being implemented which will improve this situation, but it is clear that ultimately much better computerized links with provincial data bases and guarantor files will be necessary to shore up this aspect of the passport fraud cycle.

A strategic focus on both elements will eventually be necessary to raise the true security, integrity, and reliability of the passports issued by Canada. This security of documents will be realized with two types of support:

- o **Intrinsic security**, involving the existence of a passport which has been authenticated carefully before issue, and which contains security codes and inks, probably digitized and computer generated pictures, signatures, and other difficult to copy elements; and
- o **Extrinsic security**, involving the common use in Canada and perhaps elsewhere, of on-line authentication as the situation warrants. Such authentication may involve picture and signature display on the screen of the Immigration officer, as required.

Faced with difficulties both in obtaining a "valid" passport through a fraudulent application, and with the real probability that detection through the use of a forged passport will result, the passport fraud cycle can be effectively countered. Lack of sufficient attention to both facets of this problem can, however, considerably weaken the effectiveness of the program. This fact, along with the awareness that technologies to deal with the problem properly, can be expected to come increasingly into view by various governments during the 90's. As a result, the evaluation of alternate means are the proper strategic focus of the Passport Office.

In figure 2 are shown some of the ways in which the intrinsic security of the passport may be augmented in the next few years.