

capacity of final arbiter where international affairs are concerned.

The question of how the fund should be administered and the mechanism through which allocations should be made are dealt with in succeeding sections.

#### A FOCAL POINT

As emphasized in the various elements of the overall strategy proposed, the role of the actual R&D performer is central to the planning and execution of joint collaboration. Coordination and other common services should be provided only where absolutely necessary and then with as light a touch as possible. Nevertheless certain major common functions will have to be carried out. They are:

- The initiation and coordination of the strategic sector and bilateral country activities including the review of existing umbrella agreements.
- The coordination of existing bilateral umbrella agreements and future response to requests from other nations for S&T collaboration.
- The administration of the "seed fund".
- The monitoring of reciprocity.
- The execution of major studies.
- The provision of secretariat functions to the interdepartmental committee responsible for coordinating major international S&T activities.

Some of these functions are already being performed by either External Affairs or MOSST and it could perhaps be argued that the new central responsibility devolving from the overall strategy could also be shared. It is considered, however, that the impetus needed to successfully get the strategy underway and the effective application of the new financial resources envisaged demand the continuity of commitment best provided by a single, clearly designated, responsibility centre. The establishment of a simple, modest permanent focal point is therefore urged on the understanding that the basis of such a focus already exists in the central agencies most concerned.

Ideally a central focal point should have all of the following main characteristics: