A user-friendly research tool, the DRP was designed to help users navigate the Internet as easily and efficiently as possible. It offers a starting point and reference to hundreds of relevant sites on the Internet. Simply put, it is *a directory* to pre-evaluated and pre-mapped sites that may contain relevant, current information for the business of the Department.

Designed for use with the browser software, Netscape, the DRP consists of over 130 and growing hypertext files, each containing a number of sites (the Bosnia Home Page, for example) which interact with each other and link to other Internet sites. For ease of use, a brief summary and editorial comment on selected sites has also been included in the system.

### What will The DFAIT Research Page allow me to do? *or* Neat things you can get from from the Net

In this age of constant change, computers are an 'open opportunity for everybody.' Using the DRP as your guide, you can *get* from the Internet the current information you need to do your work. For example, if you are preparing for a visit of the French Foreign Minister, you can obtain his up-to-date biography from France's Home Page. Do you need the most up-to-date U.S. exports reports? You can review U.S. trade statistics at the U.S. Department of Commerce Home Page. You can also obtain electronic newspapers to keep you current with current events. You can scan an NGO report. Read a U.N. press release. Or archive free software. The choices are endless.

"Hot Topics" (refer to screen print on page 1) is where you look for information on the most politically visible events of the day. Do you need to know what resolutions were passed at the Women's Conference in Beijing? Just point and click on Hot Topics. But when you read, exercise judgment. What you read is what the other the other Home Page providers *want* you to know.

The Internet and the DRP are excellent sources of online research information; however, there are additional online, CD-ROM and print sources that in some cases may offer faster access and more complete, relevant, or higher quality information. Expert guidance and access to these other sources can be obtained through the reference and research services of the Library Services Division (SKS) (996-8691).

The DRP is *your* cool tool. Become part of building the DFAIT Research Page. If, in your exploration of the Internet, you find a site that you think should be included in the DRP, please use the feedback mechanism associated with it or contact Clancy Coughlin (SKRS) via SIGNET.

### Will I need to be trained to use the DRP?

While our goal is to make access to Internet sites as easy as possible, training will be provided on how to access and navigate the Internet, and how to use other Internet tools, including Netscape.

### The Next Step. SIGNET user access to the Internet

The next challenge is to provide SIGNET users at Headquarters and at large bandwidth missions with desktop access to the Internet. This capability is now in the pilot stage, and is provided by a secure firewall between SIGNET and the Internet. The "firewall" pilot will conclude at the end of September, and we expect to be distributing Netscape software in October. Divisions should begin to think *now* about who in their organizations will need access to the Internet to do their work .

Missions without wide bandwidth connection to Headquarters can obtain Internet access via a standalone PC connected through a local Internet service provider.

We are continuing to build connections. In subsequent issues of *SIGNET News*, we will tell you about our other innovative Internet initiatives, which include the Internal Web Service, the Library Catalogue, and mission-based World Wide Web sites.

*Standalone workstations having access to the Internet can be found in the Library and in the BICOs, where you can also get expert advice on how to obtain information from the Internet.

# Etcetera...

In the August 14 issue of SIGNET News, it was reported that five missions in the United States have established sites on the World Wide Web. In fact, to date there are four. They are:

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| San José, USA | http://www.globalx.net/ccto |
| Detroit, USA | http://BizServe.com/canadian-detroit |
| Washington, USA | http:/www.ntsn.ca/wshdc |
| San Diego, USA | http://www.cts.com/-cdntrade |

Milan, Italy, also has a WWW Site. The Internet address is:
http://www/agora.stm/canada/homepage.html