

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade

REVIEW, AUDIT AND EVALUATION POLICY

Part I: THE DEPARTMENT'S REVIEW FRAMEWORK

Our previous policies having to do with review date back to the 1980's. They dealt specifically with two components of the current review spectrum, namely Internal Audit and Evaluation.

The review environment has undergone considerable changes since the promulgation of those policies. These include the implementation of PS2000, recommendations of parliamentary committees (particularly the Public Accounts Committee), recommendations of the Auditor General, a revised Treasury Board policy which includes internal audit and evaluation under a much broader "review" umbrella; the promulgation of federal government Service Standards; and continuing downsizing of the federal government.

The new Treasury Board policy on review reflects a four-part strategy for "strengthening the value-added of review of all levels of management and for the government as a whole". The four-part strategy consists of:

- focussing on the timeliness, relevance and usefulness of review for decision making;
- aligning review with government priorities;
- using review to find out what works and what doesn't and to develop practical alternatives;
- enhancing the quality, reliability and professionalism of review.

The **first strategy** recognizes that information useful for decision making can come from a variety of review exercises, including monitoring and self-assessment by front-line managers at one end of the spectrum, through to formal internal audit and evaluation at the other end. While encouraging departments to make use of the results of all review activities in a coordinated and complementary fashion for assessing performance, it recognizes that the objectivity and value of information for decision-making is enhanced by independent, professional review activities.

The **second strategy** emphasizes alignment of review activities with departmental, multi-departmental and government-wide priorities. Many departmental programs or activities are