

1.6 CONSTRAINTS ON DEVELOPMENT

The Department's base of professional personnel has not kept pace with the large expansion that has taken place in the number of Departmental systems. As a result, it is poised on the brink of a major step forward in the Informatics area without the resources to sustain it. Unless new resources can be made available there will have to be a drastic reduction in the projects included in the Action Plan.

1.7 MAJOR NEW PROJECTS

The Major projects contained in the Action Plan are as follows:

- (1) To support Corporate Planning and Departmental administration the Financial and Personnel systems will be redesigned and a system will be designed for physical and materiel resource management.
- (2) To support Trade activities the Import Permit Processing System will, if Treasury Board approves, be located on Departmental equipment and operated by Departmental employees instead of being accommodated on an outside service bureau and being operated by contract personnel. A study will be undertaken of ways of making available timely and comprehensive information about Canadian export capabilities for Posts and Headquarters and about trade opportunities abroad for potential users in Canada.
- (3) To assist managers and desk officers in the substantive area of the Department's activities a study will begin of a prototype of a secure office automation system, to follow on from experience with the current pilots.
- (4) To determine the most effective way of introducing systems to support the range of programs at Posts in the USA a comprehensive study will be undertaken to define their requirements and possible integrated approaches to support them through the wider use of Informatics.
- (5) To apply modern computer-based methods to produce increased effectiveness and cost savings in program delivery at a number of Posts with large immigration programs the Department will proceed with the installation of a computer in Hong Kong this year and depending on results will wish to consider installing similar equipment at other Posts in future years.