(3) A separate project is already underway in the Corporate Management Bureau involving the establishment of an information system that would establish a data base for Departmental planning and evaluation purposes at the senior management level. It will be used to assess the current allocation of resources by program and country and for displaying program activity and performance to senior management and central agencies.

### 4.4.3 OBJECTIVE B

To explore the possibility of introducing appropriately secure systems at Headquarters to enhance the effectiveness of personnel working in the substantive areas of the Department's activities.

(1) Projects to support this objective cover almost the full range of functional elements of the OPF.

(2) There will be benefits from the introduction of automated office equipment to support the work of managers and desk officers in the substantive area of the Department's activities and the decision to proceed with a number of pilot projects has been made on this basis. Early experience with these projects has been positive. Firm conclusions must await further reports from the consultants evaluating the projects. The current pilots can only process unclassified data. To meet its longer term requirements the Department will have to introduce automated office equipment that is secure and the first part of this document proposed that work begin without delay on the preparation for a project using secure equipment.

(3) The Information Storage and Retrieval System also supports this objective.

### 4.4.4 OBJECTIVE C

To improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the systems operating in support of the Government's International Trade activities at Headquarters and at Posts.

(1) Projects to support this objective cover the International Trade Development and International Economic, Trade and Aid Policy functional elements.

(2) Work is already underway to modernize the operations of some of the systems brought into the Department from the former Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce. The Import Permit Processing System is at the present time set up on an outside service bureau and supported by consultants with Treasury Board approval. It is intended to locate this system on a Departmental installation and to support it with Departmental personnel. Some cost savings will result. It would result in the acquisition by the Department of a modern system that could perform its functions for the foreseeable future and much more efficiently than the existing system.

(3) The Program for Export Market Development (PEMD) is now accommodated with systems of the Department of Regional Industrial Expansion on an outside service bureau. This arrangement makes sense in view of the heavy involvement of the regional offices of DRIE in PEMD.

(4) A project is being developed in the Asia and Pacific Branch with the objective of enabling the three Divisions in the Branch that deal with Trade Development activities to have access inter alia to a variety of external data bases. A consultant has been retained by the Branch to assist on this project and it is anticipated that a proposal describing the design and identifying the equipment and funding required will be submitted to the EDP Policy Committee for approval. This project could have wider applicability within the Department for those organizations wishing to make arrangements for access to outside data bases. Two other projects are also planned for Headquarters to support specific Trade Development initiatives. These include improvements in the system supporting the Fairs