



"Smart" here means supplying "just in time and place" political, economic and cultural intelligence to achieve our critical foreign policy objectives with the resources available.

- Another major impact of communications on the conduct of diplomacy will be the move to a more "informed and informing" foreign service. When the Canadian News Network and the Réseau de l'information already have pictures of some international crisis back home before we can send in a representative, it becomes more important than ever for our diplomats to be able to quickly select, filter and analyse the information available from existing sources.
- We can find examples of other nations using the cyberworld to great effect in their own diplomatic efforts. For example, the excellent "Virtual Finland," or the U.S. Institute of Peace. This aspect of cyber-diplomacy can be expected to grow as the number of users expands.
- This will likely encourage a third aspect of the evolution towards cyber-diplomacy — the expansion of two-way communication between our Department and its clients at home and abroad, made possible by electronic communications, particularly the Internet.
- Already certain program delivery models, such as our Business Opportunity Centres, are using the standard PC as a powerful tool for transmitting valuable information on economic conditions and opportunities.
- These electronic links with our clients will expand our ability to shape consensus on specific issues when dealing with NGOs or other interest groups at home and abroad. We have already discovered that many of these groups are already well ahead of us in their ability to reach around the world to publish their position, and influence the public response on particular issues or events.
- Canada has always been an active participant in the world of international diplomacy. As we move into a new, technological era in human history, our transition to cyber-diplomacy is not a question of "why," but rather of "when" and "how".