

Financial Data Processing - Posts

3.20 The automated systems of the Washington and London Posts meet some of the Task Force criteria in terms of the current information needs of Post users (essentially: standard objects, reporting objects and line objects by responsibility centers), but they do not in terms of accounting reports, commitments or OPF activities and sub-activities. At Headquarters, this information is not aggregated in the FMS for the Headquarters managers who need to be aware of certain Post expenditures, e.g., the Physical Resources Bureau (paragraphs 2.14 and 2.31, above, refer).

3.21 The manual systems at the New York and Bridgetown Posts are the means by which data are captured close to their source but, as indicated in 3.15, above, the information is entered more than once. This system provides timely information to HOPs, but Headquarters' users do not generally have this information. By definition, these systems cannot provide automated assistance.

FINCON

3.22 Developed by Supply and Services Canada, FINCON is an on-line financial commitment control and reporting system which can be adapted to meet the needs of most Departments and agencies. FINCON is also a cheque requisition system for the payment of invoices. Cheques are issued through District Services Offices throughout Canada. Annex E to this Chapter provides a detailed description of FINCON and of the experience of Correctional Service Canada and Environment Canada with this system.

FINCON and the Department of External Affairs

3.23 It is clear to the members of the Task Force that FINCON is a financial control and management reporting system which is or will be very useful for many, if not most, Government Departments. It is equally clear, however, that the system would have difficulty meeting the global requirements of External Affairs with its world-wide deployment. In relation to the specific needs of this Department, the limitations of FINCON are seen as follows:

- a) FINCON is designed for Departments with operations in Canada; cheques are issued through the District Service Offices of Supply and Services Canada - they cannot be issued in foreign currencies abroad; and
- b) for the foreseeable future, FINCON will be unable to meet the commitment and reporting requirements of the Posts.

3.24 For the foregoing reasons, the Task Force has discarded FINCON as a viable option in the foreseeable future and has placed a focus on