ALTERNATIVE REGIONALIZATION CONCEPTS

As discussed earlier, regionalizations have involved a common series of changes to the way that financial management is conducted at a post. This all-inclusive approach to regionalization has been the one which best met the objective of financial administration at these posts, all of which were large operations. In identifying additional posts to be regionalized in the future, however, the approach to regionalization which best achieves this objective may vary according to the characteristics of the individual post considered.

The concept which is most appropriate for a given post can only be determined based on an analysis of which activities should be regionalized, and the proposed evaluation framework presented in the next section is intended to assist with such an analysis. It is clear in advance, though, that many posts may benefit from the regionalization of certain activities even if complete regionalization is not justified.

The following three basic concepts are introduced to delineate the different degrees of regionalization which may be most appropriate at different posts. The first of these is consistent with the complete regionalization approach that now exists in Washington, London and Paris; the third concept is closest to the current situation at non-regionalized posts, and primarily entails superimposing regionalized data processing on the post activities. The second concept is a compromise between Concept A and C.