

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, announced today that, effective April 1, 1971 responsibility for the provision of support services for most departments and agencies at all diplomatic posts, consular posts and most Federal Government offices abroad will be assumed by the Department of External Affairs. This decision was forecast in "Foreign Policy for Canadians" as a means of providing support services for foreign operations in the most effective way.

Support services include financial and personnel administration; the management of properties, supplies, equipment and materiel; travel arrangements, and the provision of clerical, stenographic and certain translation services. The staff of the new integrated support services system will include approximately 2100 employees of the Department of External Affairs and about 1000 employees of other departments and agencies who will be transferred on April 1 to the Department of External Affairs, together with budgetary resources totalling nearly ten million dollars previously allocated for this purpose by the other departments and agencies.

The following table shows the approximate numbers involved with respect to the departments with the largest numbers being transferred:

	<u>OTTAWA</u>	<u>ABROAD</u>	
		<u>CDN</u>	<u>LOCAL STAFF</u>
Industry, Trade and Commerce (including the Canadian Govt. Travel Bureau)	37	50	425
Manpower and Immigration	9	8	269
National Defence (non-operational)	0	35	61
National Health & Welfare	0	1	60

Any organizational changes arising from this integration of services will be made over a period of time as it becomes evident that such changes would increase efficiency and effectiveness. A substantial step for the