

SECTION 2

SCOPE OF THE DATA BASE

A clear, precise statement of the extent, coverage and nature of the data base of the proposed system will ultimately be required before its feasibility can be finally determined. Establishment of the parameters of the data base will, in the final analysis, have to be done by members of the Department who are thoroughly familiar with the ongoing priorities, programs and operational needs of the Department at home and abroad. The experience of having been in the 'firing line', be it on a desk in Ottawa or at a post on the other side of the globe, combined with a knowledge of the clientele who will be using the system will have to be brought to bear on the problem of establishing the necessary parameters if the results are to have any long term relevance to or utility for the Department. The outsider's view of the requirements will be based at best on limited information and at worst on potentially severe misperceptions or prejudices.

Nevertheless, it is possible to identify the major elements of the necessary parameters. These elements include,