Department at home and abroad in order to enable them to be more fully informed of current writing and research on Canadian foreign policy and external relations. To this end it will be necessary to:

(1) create, maintain and access a machine-readable data base of abstracts on Canadian foreign policy and external relations,

(2) provide ready access to the data base to meet the policy, planning, research and operational needs of the Department,

(3) provide, as a by-product, information for members of the academic community and others conducting research on Canadian foreign policy and external relations.

Advances in computer hardware and software systems in the 1970's make consideration of the development of a computerized system to satisfy these requirements particularly appropriate. Through the creation, manipulation and accesssing of machine-readable files of information it should be possible to meet the wide range of disparate requirements for information from members of the Department in Canada and at posts abroad. Linked to the developing internal Departmental information system being developed, a much broader range of data and sources could be made available to meet the policy, planning and operational requirements of the Department.