

(iii)

- a) the Departmental Reporting System of Supply and Services Canada, including readily available enhancements;
- b) the current External Affairs Financial Management System;
- c) the automated data processing Service Bureau serving the Washington Embassy;
- d) the stand alone computer of the London High Commission; and
- e) the manual systems at most Posts.

5. Chapter III also includes:

- a) a review of FINCON (the financial and commitment control system of Supply and Services Canada) and its use in Correctional Service Canada and in Environment Canada; and
- b) reference to a National Defence study of options concerning a future automated financial reporting system.

6. The Task Force concludes that FINCON could not adequately meet the needs of the Department but that several of the major features of this system could be introduced in External Affairs, notably the provision of:

- a) a direct access by Headquarters responsibility centers through "dial-up" or "on-line" facilities to the financial management system for information on their budgets, expenditures, commitments and free balances; and
- b) financial reports as required, by activity/sub-activity and by responsibility centers (at both Headquarters and Posts).

7. The principal recommendations of Chapter III are related to:

- a) the establishment of a formal policy and some procedures for the development, coordination and approval of financial systems within the Department;
- b) the automated processing and transmission of financial data at Headquarters and the Posts; and
- c) the acquisition of a dedicated computer capacity at Headquarters for the reception, processing and transmission of data from and to the Posts.