

"Hot Topics" (refer to screen print) is where to look for information on the most politically visible events of the day. Do you need to know the positions of the parties involved in the conflict in Northern Ireland? Just click on Hot Topics. But when you read, exercise judgment. What you read is what the other Home Page providers *want* you to know.

The Internet and the DRP are excellent sources of online research information; however, there are additional online, CD-ROM and print sources that in some cases may offer faster access and more complete, relevant, or higher quality information. Expert guidance and access to these other sources can be obtained through the reference and research service of the Information Resource Services Division (SKS) at 996-8691.

The DRP is *your* cool tool. Become part of building the DFAIT Research Page. If, in your

exploration of the Internet, you find a site that you think should be included in the DRP, please use the feedback mechanism associated with it or contact Clancy Coughlin (SKRS) via SIGNET.

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*Using the DRP as your guide, you can get from the Internet current information you need to do your work.*  
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**The Next Step: SIGNET user access to the Internet**

The next challenge is to provide SIGNET users at Headquarters and at wide bandwidth missions (London, Paris, and USA missions) with desktop access to the Internet. This capability has been in the pilot stage for the last few months, and is provided by a secure firewall between SIGNET and the Internet. The service will

be phased in over a number of months beginning this spring. Divisions should begin to think now about who in their organizations will need access to the Internet to do their work. Information on how to sign up for direct Internet access is being distributed.

Missions without wide bandwidth connection to Headquarters can obtain Internet access via a standalone PC connected through a local Internet service provider. ( See also "SIGNET User Access to the Internet" in "We're on the Internet!", page 7.)

**We are continuing to build connections.** In subsequent issues of *SIGNET News*, we will tell you about other Internet initiatives, which include the Library On-line Catalogue.

As noted above, if you have questions concerning The DFAIT Research Page, please contact Clancy Coughlin or Rick Dossett (SKRS) via SIGNET.