

COSICS

The Canadian On-Line Secure Information and Communications System (COSICS) is the Department's integrated approach to secure, high speed communications, office automation and centralized record storage. It will increase security by centralizing records and reducing the amount of paper in circulation. COSICS will be built using existing and proven systems and technologies. It will result in profound changes in departmental operations.

As one part of the Department's Long Range Management Plan, COSICS will enable the Department to meet the government-mandated reduction in person-years, while respecting existing operating procedures and distinct program needs, and increasing the over-all program support ratio of the departmental establishment.

The COSICS system will be compatible or connectible with existing or planned departmental systems such as the Financial Management system, the Personnel system, WIN Exports, and the Computer Assisted Immigration Processing system. The COSICS system will permit the Department to continue its role as "common carrier" for other government departments with operations abroad.

Current plans call for a contract for the provision of COSICS to be signed during the autumn of 1987, with work on the physical fit-up of the first site, the Permanent Mission to the UN and the Consulate General in New York, already underway. Phase 1 plans call for PERMIS/CONGEN to be on-line by the end of 1987 and to be followed, in the first half of 1988, by the new Washington chancery, the remaining consulates in the United States and selected units at headquarters.