



*Watch Office Monitoring Console and Task Force Deck*

and have it fast. It can help to prepare in advance for quick and effective reaction; contingency planning is an important part of the work of the Centre.

Now a year old, the Operations Centre has more than proved its worth, not least in times of crisis. Its work includes: the monitoring of all substantive departmental telegrams, as well as Canadian and other wire-service copy and radio and television broadcasts; the distribution of bulletins and information sheets on developments it is monitoring; and the preparation each day at dawn of an overnight digest of significant telegrams and media reports from around the world, for members of the Government, senior officials of numerous departments and agencies, and the members of the Department itself.

The Centre's full potential as a repository and disseminator of facts is evident whenever a task force begins to operate from within its confines. At that moment the Centre can become the "bridge" from which the Department is commanded, at least during the crisis at hand.

Structurally, the Operations Centre is a division of the Under-Secretary's Central Staff. Headed by a Director, it has a staff of experienced foreign service officers, clerks and stenographers to carry out day-to-day monitoring, assessing and briefing responsibilities of the Watch Office, to assist senior management by undertaking secretariat functions of a broad variety and, in times of crisis, to support special task force operations. Located since June 1970 in specially-designed quarters in the East Block of the Parliament Buildings, the

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