

STATISTICAL REPORT

... 5. Appendix A contains detailed statistics on the processing of Access requests in the Department of External Affairs during the past year. Details regarding exemptions cover the 371 requests which were completed. Fifty Access requests were carried forward to 1987/88. This number was reduced considerably in the first two months of the new fiscal year.

6. Because of the nature of requests received during 1986/87, the statistics present a somewhat distorted picture of the use of exemptions in the Department. In the spring of 1986, the Department released under Access to Information a series of studies related to the Negotiations on Free Trade. Close to 160 requests were received for these studies which were released to the applicants with portions excluded or exempted as provided for under the various sections of the Access to Information Act. Therefore, while the Statistical Report indicates extensive use of particular exemptions, e.g., Section 24 (157 times), this exemption was, in fact, invoked only once in respect of one set of documents which was requested under 157 separate but identical or very similar Access requests.

7. The personnel costs reported represent the salary costs of the personnel in the Access to Information and Privacy Office, who spent approximately ninety percent of their time processing Access requests and the rest on Privacy