

SECTION 1

THE NEED FOR A COMPUTERIZED CANADIAN
FOREIGN POLICY INFORMATION SYSTEM

Until recent years the volume of material being produced dealing directly with Canadian foreign policy and external relations was relatively limited. Traditional informal and personal means of keeping abreast of the flow of information necessary for the execution of professional duties were adequate. Today this is no longer the case as the volume of available material has increased dramatically and the scope and nature of the subjects of interest have altered greatly. Moreover, as the conduct of foreign affairs has become more a matter of public interest and concern the volume and substance of information being generated in the public domain has increased greatly. While the Department's Division of Library Services provides sound information service, some means of organizing and accessing the increasing volume of current material of interest to members of the Department has become essential.

The objectives of the proposed computerized Canadian foreign policy information system may be stated as being to develop an information system for officers of the