2.3.3 Other systems should be introduced at Posts to support the Immigration program, to improve services and to achieve savings in human resources. It is necessary for services in Ottawa to be improved with the introduction of new technology supporting the activities of the Cultural and Public Affairs Bureau, permitting it to respond more efficiently to user requests. Posts should be assisted in introducing Informatics to support their programs and comprehensive training programs must be introduced.

2.4 DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 1985-90

2.4.1 To bring into operation by 1990 the set of modern systems briefly outlined above, the Department must follow a development strategy based on three elements:

(1) Systems should be modernized or introduced for those activities such as Financial Management and Immigration where there can be quick returns from automation.

(2) The prototype approach should continue to be used since it offers a way of introducing systems, initially on a small scale and at limited cost, to test their applicability to the Department's operations. This approach forms a sound basis on which to make decisions about major investments of resources.

(3) Managers in parts of Headquarters and at a number of Posts abroad see ways to improve the effectiveness of their operations through the use of micro-computers. The continued acquisition of micro-computers in a stand-alone mode should be part of the Department's development strategy, but this process needs to be subject to guidelines.

2.4.2 The responsibility for managing the implementation of this strategy rests with the EDP Policy Committee, which among other things, will make recommendations to the Executive Committee on priorities for projects and the allocation of resources to them.. Once resource levels identified in the Plan have been approved they will be incorporated into the Department's resource allocation process. Matters will be brought to the Committee's attention through the Secretariat provided by Management Services Division.

2.4.3 The Committee will monitor the development of individual projects and will also supervise periodic evaluations of the operations of individual projects. It will, in addition, reconsider this Plan annually. For the first review in December 1985 the Committee will look at the Plan against the following criteria:

(1) Are the projects identified in the Plan consistent with Departmental priorities?

(2) Are the development and maintenance resources approved in the Plan in place?

(3) Are the projects approved being implemented on schedule and in accordance with Departmental policies? and,

(4) Has material relating to Informatics documentation and administration been prepared and promulgated?

2.5 CONSTRAINTS ON DEVELOPMENT

The Department's base of professional personnel has not grown to keep pace with the large expansion in the number of Departmental Informatics systems. As a result the Department is poised on the brink of a major step forward in the Informatics area without the resources to sustain it. The discussion below of individual projects identifies the resources that must be made available for systems development and subsequently the work of systems maintenance. Unless these resources can be made available, there will have to be a drastic reduction in the number of projects included in the Action Plan.