automated program will replace both the Machine Readable Passport (MRP) system at some missions and the manual processing system at most missions. PMP is designed to manage all passport processing functions; automate inventory functions for controlled passport materials; import PCL information; and automate both the compilation and distribution of the standard reports required by the Passport Office.

PMP will have three main functions. First, it will provide a working environment for the management and processing of all requests for passport services at Canadian missions. Second, the program will produce the "labels" with the requisite information for insertion in passport blanks. Third, the program will record and automate appropriate information that will provide the opportunity to ensure proper inventory, control and audit functions for all safeguarded material associated with the delivery of passport services overseas.

The most notable value-added features of PMP are as follows:

The Passport Control List or PCL (unclassified version) will be available to users on-line and is triggered when data is saved on the Tombstone screen in CAMANT. This will permit the automatic checking of names of persons requesting passport services against the PCL. Now that the Passport Office has a connection to SIGNET, and thereby to COSMOS, it will be responsible for ensuring that the most recent version of the unclassified PCL is available for COSMOS users.

With the Passport Office connected to SIGNET and to COSMOS, there is no need for missions to forward manually the various monthly reports to their head office in Hull. Passport Office officials will be able to simply run the various passport reports for a given mission at the end of each month and obtain for themselves the necessary information directly from the COSMOS database in Ottawa.

PMP also provides consular users with a complete and fully automated PMP Inventory program which allows the consular program manager to record and keep detailed accounting of the various controlled stock items associated with passport production.

Furthermore, with the PMP Inventory program, it is no longer necessary for missions to manually compile and/or calculate the statistics required for the monthly inventory reports. By making use of the PMP Inventory program to record all inventory stock, all issuances are debited automatically from the mission's controlled document inventory, and this information is automatically defaulted to appear in the "Mission Passport/Label Inventory and Record of Issues" report.

PMP also provides for the printing of the passport identification and observation labels using dot matrix printers for the non-MRP missions and using existing Diablo daisy wheel printers for the remaining MRP missions.

Passport identification and observation labels can be produced individually or collectively, depending upon the size of the mission and the volume of passports produced.

While there is, as of yet, no direct link to the "Master Index" database of the Passport Office, by capturing and maintaining all passport application information within the PMP program of COSMOS for those passports issued overseas, our consular users will have direct access to a wealth of passport data which was previously only available to them through the Passport Office. This database of passport information, while only a subset of the total amount of passport issuances, will nevertheless do much towards reducing our reliance upon other offices in the performance of our consular mandate.

The COSMOS Travel Information Program (TIP)

TIP is the most publicly visible aspect of COSMOS since the travel information it contains on safety and security conditions, health and visa requirements of selected countries is designed to better inform Canadians venturing abroad. TIP will produce two page country-based reports, either a Travel Information Report (TIR) or a Travel Advisory Report (TAR), containing sections on safety/security conditions, health concerns and visa requirements which can be printed and/or viewed by missions in either official language. Headquarters retains responsibility for the content of the TIP reports and, as such, will have full editing privileges in this program. The toll free 1-800 Travel Information number which has been in place since February 1993 for the public in Canada will continue under TIP and we have added a toll free automated fax-back system whereby callers in Canada can select those travel reports of interest and have them faxed directly to their location. We have also made arrangements to make the TIP reports available to the Department's World Wide Web site so that the public can view and/or download these reports on-line over the Internet with their computers.

The COSMOS Contingency Planning Program (CONPLAN)

With the release of CONPLAN, the development of country contingency plans has been fully integrated into COSMOS. The CONPLAN program consists of a preformatted WordPerfect template which is accessible through the CONPLAN icon in COSMOS. This template contains "boilerplate" contingency planning information and text that has been drafted at Headquarters that missions can alter according to local circumstances. Therefore, to complete their contingency plans within CONPLAN, missions will only have to simply "fill in the blanks" with the relevant mission specific information. CONPLAN will go the distance in eliminating the onerous work associated with the production of these reports.

For more information on the COSMOS System, please contact Nina Harkess, Deputy Director, COSMOS Management Division (JPDC).