

During the year under review, a new telecommunications network was put in place linking Canada with the Department's U.S. operations. To this end, an agreement was signed with Telecom Canada/U.S.A. Sprint, one of the FTS 2000 (Federal Telecommunications System) participants, for a new high-speed digital network in support of free trade.

The Bureau began extensive implementation negotiations and planning to put a telecommunications network in the Sahel, in support of the CIDA decentralization program.

The Canadian Diplomatic Communications Service carried over 7,222,000 messages in support of various programs during the past year. In addition, the Bureau provided extensive staff support both directly and indirectly for the implementation of COSICS Phase I.

A major initiative of the year was the implementation of a unified subject classification system, which replaced four existing systems.

In response to the new Management of Government Information Holdings policy, the Bureau has assumed responsibility for implementation of that

policy within the Department. The policy affects all departmental holdings in all media.

During the past year, mail and messenger services handled 1.7 million items. Records Information Services processed over 1.6 million documents and responded to over 26,000 research requests.

To provide support for immigration programs, the Computer Assisted Immigration Processing System (CAIPS) was put into operation at sites in the United States, Western Europe and the Far East. CAIPS automates the process of issuing visas to immigrants and visitors to Canada, with substantial improvements in productivity and accuracy.

Immigration Mega, a system that uses microprocessors to improve productivity in processing applications and producing correspondence, was also launched during the year.

The number of personal computers in use by the Department grew to 2,200 by the end of 1989, compared with 1,200 in the previous year. Abroad, state-of-the-art computer networks have been installed in nine missions and ten sub-missions in Latin America, Africa and the Far East.