

It is also agreed that the terms of reference of the interdepartmental Committee on Innovation should be extended to include those departments whose policies may have a significant but indirect impact on industrial innovation. The committee should consult on a regular basis with industry (at least twice a year), circulate agenda and working papers to industry in advance of meetings, and foster close and continuous associations with industry through the medium of sub-committees or working panels on specific topics.

INDUSTRIAL INNOVATION Science policies aimed at encouraging innovation in industry will be effective only if action is taken to stimulate a favourable industrial climate. A sound technological assessment of the social and environmental effects of any proposed innovations involving major national developments must be an essential part of planning. The scientific and technological associations should share in this responsibility.

There was general concensus that there is a need for more venture capital and management services in this area but there is concern that a government-operated bank may not be the most effective mechanism for assisting innovative ventures. The policy of contracting-out more industrially oriented research was endorsed.

TECHNOLOGICAL INFORMATION A National Scientific and Technological Information Board, composed of delegates from the federal and provincial governments, universities, and industry should be given responsibility for devising ways of co-ordinating existing and potential resources that would comprise a National STI service. The board should evolve from the present NRC Advisory Board and should be given the necessary statutory and financial responsibility to carry out its functions. The Ministry of State for Science and Technology should be responsible for a continuing review, evaluation, and co-ordination of the scientific and technical information services and technological forecasting activities of the federal government."