

Conclusions

From these considerations, **the Committee concludes that not all firms must engage in research, development and technological innovation**, in order to survive. However, **firms of all sizes and in all sectors of industry — resource, manufacturing and service — must adopt technological innovations that improve their productivity and competitiveness.** Government and universities can play an important role in fostering and assisting technological innovation by undertaking basic research in technologies of interest to industry and by providing research and development and other technical services to industry.

In May 1983, Mr. Johnston, Minister of State for Economic Development and Minister of State for Science and Technology, announced *A Technology Policy for Canada*.

The general objectives of this policy are:

- To strengthen the Canadian economy through the development of new technologies for producing goods and services and the widespread adoption of new and existing technologies;
- To manage the process of technological development so as to assure that Canadians are aware of both the opportunities and the problems that might arise;
- To ensure that the benefits of technological development are shared equitably among all Canadians in every region; and
- To create a social climate that places a premium on excellence and technological excellence, curiosity and innovation.

Environment for Technological Innovation

While these are time-standing general statements, the Committee considers that governmental policy on the subject of technology does not give sufficient attention to the importance of the general economic environment to decisions of firms to pursue technological innovation. Mr. Johnston, in his appearance before the Committee, did agree that: "Any policy that addresses technology development must act *up*, and through, economic, industrial, social and science policy." (1-12-11-83) But perhaps because government policy is developed in compartmentalized agencies, the *upward* has been its programs and policies to promote technological innovation and its diffusion and the importance of the larger picture tends to be overlooked.

The Committee decided to pay particular attention to identifying environmental factors which affect technological innovation. Ten of these are of sufficient importance to be mentioned.