- Canada's lead in the design and manufacture of word processing systems has received international recognition, with products sold in more than 80 countries.

- A score of Canadian manufacturers of intelligent terminals export their products worldwide to serve a variety of needs. Some terminals are particularly suited to graphics, while others are oriented to computer-aided learning and industrial data collection. A special high resolution terminal has been developed for Telidon, Canada's contribution to the international interest in interactive television displays.

- Data communications products have been developed in Canada to link computer to data networks, including packet switching.

- Custom-designed on-line computer systems for banks, hospitals, stock brokers, mapmaking and retailing applications employ the latest advances in distributed data processing.

- Canadian manufacturers produce proprietary software packages in data base management, file retrieval, and "user friendly" software productivity tools.

- Also available are desk-top micro-processors for financial management applications in small businesses.

These are but a few examples of Canadian achievements in the computer industry. The companies offer a diversified range of capabilities covering all aspects of business, industry and government.

Because of close proximity to its large U.S. neighbour, the Canadian industry faces competitive challenges unmatched anywhere else in the world. But a burgeoning industry is developing, a reflection of Canada's determination to become a major force in computers, both as a user and a supplier.

Canadians Eyeing Computer Market

THE Canadian computer technology industry and the Canadian Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce have been closely examining Singapore and the Southeast Asian region as a potential market for computer technology products. A Canadian government—sponsored trade mission visited Singapore from December 10–12, 1980. It included representatives of seven companies specializing in products and services ranging from the design and manufacture of electronic systems and computerized telecommunications equipment to computer software firms specializing in applications software and computer bureau operations.

During the visit the companies were briefed by the Singapore Economic Development Board on the prospects for Singapore's computer industry and met companies in the private and public sector.

At the conclusion of this extremely successful visit the delegation leader said that of the seven companies, one already had a distributor for his products, three others had concluded agreements in principle with potential distributors, two companies were involved in detailed discussions with potential distributors and one company, I.P. Sharp, had made a commitment to open an office in Singapore.

IDRC Presents Computer Package

SINGAPORE and Malaysia became the most recent recipients of computer technology developed by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada. The software package of the generalized information-management system MINISIS was presented by IDRC on November 26, 1980, to the National University of Singapore (NUS), the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF), Singapore, and the Majlis Amanah Raayat (MARA) of Malaysia, a technological research institute, for the purpose of automating their respective libraries as well as for other applications. The IDRC also sent a team of three resource personnel from Ottawa to conduct a three-week documentation training course.

MINISIS, which was designed to run on the Hewlett Packard 3000 series of computers, was developed specifically to meet the need for a low-cost hardware/software package permitting on-line data entry and interactive retrieval, primarily for use in bibliographic information systems. But it is flexible enough for many types of applications. For instance, the NUS could easily use MINISIS to create and maintain a data base of on-going research on its campuses, IDRC Asian Regional Director Dr. Jingjai Hanchanlash suggested when he made the presentation at the NUS campus in Singapore.

He also explained that MINISIS will help monitor questions such as how much money the university has committed for research on different disciplines, the status of a particular research project, and etc. He added that MINISIS is used by IDRC to monitor, both administratively and financially, more than 900 development projects around the world.

One other application that Dr. Jingjai said would be watched with great interest is the NUS library's intention to manipulate the Library of Congress MARC tapes on MINISIS. He said it was hoped that arising from this experiment it might even be possible for the library to take the leadership in creating for Singapore a "SINGMARC" version so that other libraries in Singapore can draw upon the benefits of the co-operative machine-readable cataloguing service of LC MARC.

MINISIS gets its name from ISIS, the Integrated Set of Information Systems, a software package developed by the International Labour Office (ILO) in Geneva, with which it is compatible.

The unique feature of a MINISIS agreement is that the licensee institution agrees to become a member of the MINISIS Users' Group and to abide by the understanding to pool and share information with other members of the group on any new applications that it develops. In return, the licensee is able to obtain all modules that have been developed and added to the package by other members of the group, thereby having access to the input in effort of the others. This is an ideal system whereby costly duplication of time, money and energy can be prevented.

There are currently 20 MINISIS licensees around the globe. In Asia, the Korea Scientific and Technological Information Centre (KORSTIC), in Seoul, also has the software package.