

4. Last November the Science Council of Canada and the Department jointly hosted a workshop to examine, and to consider new approaches to the operation, of Canada's existing Science Counsellor system. It was noted that approximately 95% of manufacturing technologies are diffused to Canada from abroad, so that it is most important that our intelligence on foreign technology is complete and up to date. Canada's existing science counsellor system plays a role in this process of gathering intelligence on foreign technology; to date, however, the clientele has come primarily from the federal governmental sector. The Science Council has undertaken a review of the system; its report is expected to be completed this fall.

5. The National Research Council's Industry Development Office has approached this Department with a draft proposal of its own system for the acquisition of foreign technology for use by Canadian industry. NRC already has programs in place to assist industry with new technology, and proposes to use these programs as the delivery system to industry. NRC industry proposes to post some of its Industrial Technology Advisors abroad to act as facilitators in the technology acquisition process. The Department of Regional Industrial Expansion also has an interest in this subject, insofar as it is susceptible of industrial applications, as well as the Ministry of State for Science and Technology, in its role of providing advice on scientific and technological policy matters to Cabinet.

Factors

6. In other countries, we have: a) science counsellors; b) trade officers. The former have numerous responsibilities that do not allow them to concentrate on the acquisition of advanced technologies, while the latter's activities are geared to exportation, although in practice acquisition involves importation.

1. A system of technology attachés should meet two needs: