

growing international awareness of the increasing importance of energy questions was reflected in a UN General Assembly decision to convene in 1981 a UN conference on new and renewable sources of energy.

Optimism about the short-term world oil-market situation faded late in the year when, as a result of internal political turmoil, Iranian oil exports of about five million barrels a day began dwindling in October and by late December had been reduced to zero. For Canada, Iranian exports had provided about 20 per cent of its oil imports, or 7 per cent of its total oil consumption. On December 16, OPEC countries approved a 5 percent oil-price increase in the first quarter of 1979, to be followed by further increases every three months to reach a total price increase for the year of 14.5 percent. It had become clear that, in the coming year, governments from all regions would need to give continuing high-level attention to the effective development and management of energy resources.

#### Industrial co-operation policy

During recent years, a new pattern has appeared in the conduct of international trade. In contrast to isolated transactions involving relations between buyer and seller or user and supplier, there has been a growing tendency for firms to pool their capabilities in common industrial endeavours. These arrangements typically cover sets of complementary activities and often extend across the entire spectrum of capital-formation, research and development, financing, production, marketing and distribution.

Within Canada, increasing attention has been given to the stimulation of industrial co-operation between Canadian firms and those of Canada's trading partners to achieve a number of the Government's purposes, including: the upgrading of exports; the providing of Canadian firms with the most modern technologies; the rationalizing of the manufacture of Canadian products through the expansion of markets; and helping Canadian firms with insufficient resources to become established in international markets.

The Department, in conjunction with other interested ministries, has encouraged Canadian industry to explore this increasingly important method of carrying on international trade. To this end, industrial co-operation is being incorporated into trade and economic co-operation agreements negotiated with some of Canada's trading partners.

#### Intellectual property, investment and competition policy

Throughout 1978, intergovernmental preparations continued for the revision of the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property (Patents). In the course of this work, which will culminate in a diplomatic conference in February 1980, special attention was given to the interests of developing countries.