

GERMAN/CANADIAN WORKSHOP
UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO
2, 3, 4 DECEMBER 1986

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER MECHANISMS AND EXAMPLES FROM THE
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL LABORATORIES

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In describing the National Research Council's Industrial Research Assistance Program (IRAP), I want to give you a sense of IRAP's philosophy. I plan to tell you something of IRAP's history and structure and of some new initiatives. I would like to leave you with the impression that we at IRAP have a flexible program, open to experimentation with new ideas, and that in the context of the objectives of this workshop we will be very willing to join you in considering new approaches aimed at encouraging the transfer of technology between our two countries.

The National Research Council is an agency of the Canadian government, similar to your national laboratories in Germany, and is directed by a governing council. NRC's laboratories in Ottawa and elsewhere in Canada are organized into Divisions, much like university faculties: Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering and so on. The Industrial Research Assistance Program is the industrial support arm of NRC, having grown from a technical information service set up at NRC forty years ago.