

and the analyses which will subsequently have to be carried out represent an attempt to improve the information on the subject, and should assist the Councils in their decision-making.

MOSST's role in technology assessment.

66. MOSST is particularly concerned with providing a science input into the long-term national planning. As part of its ongoing program, the Ministry has established a Technology Assessment Division within the Industry Branch which is its central focus for assessment studies. Its main role is to provide assessments of likely advances in science and technology, their alternatives and effects on the quality of life in Canada. The assessments are designed to provide essential background for the policy formulation and advisory roles of the Ministry.

67. These studies are selected with due recognition of the potential contribution which they can make to national priorities. Proposed studies are then reviewed by the Project Management Committee of MOSST and either approved, modified or postponed for later consideration.

68. In the category of long-term impact R&D, MOSST has recognized the need for technological assessment in the areas of solar, fusion and hydrogen energies. Following a detailed study funded by MOSST and the Atomic Energy Control Board with assistance from the Departments of Supply and Services and National Defence, a report was released in June, 1975, that examines Canada's options for R&D in fusion systems. The Government, in undertaking the study, recognized that nuclear fusion is an important area of science which may contribute in an important way to the national long-term energy needs.

69. A comprehensive assessment, funded by MOSST, of solar energy systems and their potential for Canada, was prepared by the Brace