Plenary   Sunday, September 12, 1993
                                                                      09:00 - 10:15

Tomorrow's Technological Frontiers:
Implications for Business and Higher Education

This session assessed the impact of information management technologies on higher education, research and training. Participants explored methods for broadening access to education and training. They concluded that the priority is to develop and set up cost-effective, high quality, non-exclusive networks. Access to the networks and the cost of this access were considered important issues.

Current estimates show 10 to 20 million users of Internet, Bitnet, Uninet and other networks, worldwide. The numbers grow daily. Participants recognized the importance of examining the potential of interactive technologies to the year 2000 and beyond. The best approach from their perspective is to build on existing networks. Discussions on the potential of a trilateral network accessible to education, business and government were exhaustive. Over and above questions of technology, the importance of management and leadership was stressed as a condition for such a network to function effectively across North America.

Successful business alliances were described. They illustrated the significance of partnerships among institutions of higher education and the private sector. The success of these alliances is only in part related to the effective use of technology.

The education industry must develop new pedagogical materials and approaches in association with the relatively new information industry. This would ensure the effective application of new technologies in support of education and training goals. Goal-oriented learning must be the driving force behind the use of the technology, and academic integrity must be safeguarded. Participants agreed on the importance of linking electronic networks to the classroom.