While mineral exports increased at an annual rate of 5.1 per cent in real terms from 1962 to 1981, the continued progress of the mining industry depends greatly on the expansion of foreign markets. The United States absorbs 50.9 per cent of Canadian crude mineral exports, Japan 12.9 per cent, the European Community 10.3 per cent, Britain 5 per cent and other nations 20.9 per cent.

Many countries not only purchase Canadian minerals but also seek Canadian technological knowledge in mining development, which is widely recognized for its quality and innovativeness.

*Mining in Canada: Facts and Figures*, published in 1983 (pages 7 and 8), describes as follows, Canada's role in the development of its mining industry:

"Over the years, advancing technology has had a dramatic impact on mining — in reducing costs and increasing supply at all stages of exploration, development, production and marketing. As a result of innovative technologies, there has been a substantial increase in the recovery rate of metals and byproducts from the processing of ores, scrap metal and tailings.

"Other applications which have reduced costs include more efficient flotation techniques for extracting minerals, while large-scale mechanized equipment has now made low-grade open-pit mining economical.

"The industry also conducts important research into ways to improve health and safety. For example, the Mining Industry Research Organization of Canada (MIROC) carries on continuous programs to develop better equipment for miners. . . . In addition, the organization is currently examining the effectiveness of a new air-flow monitoring system that measures the movement of fresh air underground.

"Minerals are an integral part of the environment and their extraction and processing inevitably causes some disturbance. The industry, however, is committed to minimizing that disturbance. Environmental protection accounts for an average of 10 to 15 per cent of total expenditures for new Canadian mining and processing operations. All plant designs incorporate proven methods to reduce [the formation of] pollutants in water, air and land.

"The industry's efforts in research and development are coordinated with important programs developed by specialized government agencies. Most notable is work with the Canada Centre for Mineral and Energy Technology (CANMET), which is part of the federal Department of Energy, Mines and Resources."

The mining industry has also been instrumental in the development of transportation in Canada as railways and the St. Lawrence Seaway