

## Foreword

The Federal Government, through the Minerals Yearbook and its predecessor volumes, has reported annually on mineral industry activities for 96 years. This edition discusses the performance of the worldwide mineral industry during 1977. In addition to statistical data, the volumes provide background information to assist in interpreting the year's developments. Content of the individual volumes follows:

Volume I, *Metals and Minerals*, contains chapters on virtually all metallic and nonmetallic mineral commodities important to the domestic economy. In addition, it includes a general review chapter on the mineral industries, a chapter on mining and quarrying trends, and a statistical summary.

Volume II, *Area Reports: Domestic*, contains chapters on the mineral industry of each of the 50 States, the U.S. island possessions in the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. This volume also has a statistical summary, identical to that in Volume I.

Volume III, *Area Reports: International*, contains the latest available mineral data on more than 130 foreign countries and discusses the importance of minerals to the economies of these nations. A separate chapter reviews the international minerals industry in general and its relationship to the world economy.

The Bureau of Mines continually strives to improve the value of its publications to its users. Therefore, the constructive comments and suggestions of readers of the Yearbook will be welcomed.

*Director*

