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Foreword

2 The Federal Government, through the Minerals Yearbook and its predecessor volumes, has reported annually on mineral industry activities for 98 years. In the interest of expediting the release of minerals data, this edition of the Yearbook covers both 1978 and 1979. It discusses the performance of the worldwide mineral industry during 1978 and 1979 and provides background information to assist in interpreting developments during the years being reviewed. Content of the individual volumes follows:

Volume I, Metals and Minerals, contains chapters on virtually all metallic and nonmetallic mineral commodities important to the U.S. economy. In addition, it includes a chapter on mining and quarrying trends.

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.

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. Separate chapters review the international minerals industry in general and its relationship to the world economy and ocean minerals.

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

