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Canadarm claims accolades for another success in space

Space shuttle *Columbia*, with the Canadarm, the remote manipulator system built in Toronto, returned to earth last month after a highly successful week of testing the arm's capabilities in space.

The 15-metre, \$100-million arm was designed in Canada by the National Research Council (NRC) and built by Spar Aerospace Limited of Toronto. The arm was given to the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA); the March test was the arm's second success in space.

Commander Jack Lousma and Colonel George Fullerton aboard the *Columbia* and engineers at mission control were pleased and impressed with the Canadarm.

"My compliments to the Canadians," said Fullerton who operated the arm during the mission. "Everything it has done is just like the simulator or better, very smooth, absolutely no surprises. It really looks like a fine piece of machinery," he added.

On earth the gangly Canadarm, with its shoulder, elbow and wrist joints and all its equipment, cannot even support its own weight. In space it must operate

smoothly and efficiently lifting and moving large packages. Eventually the arm will be used to lift satellites weighing up to 30 000 kilograms.

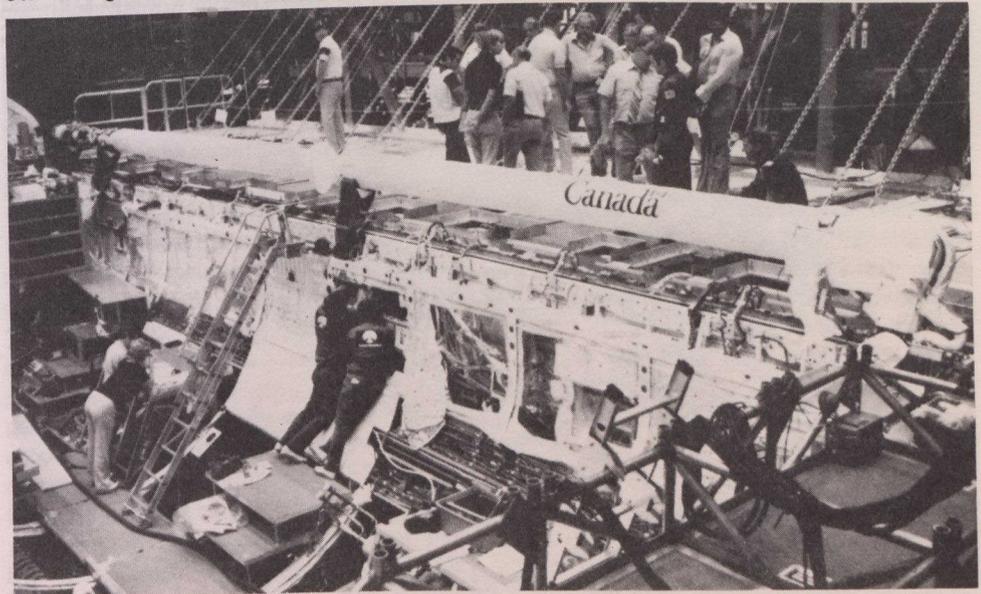
Canadians attend launch

Governor General Edward Schreyer, Canadian Consul General in New York Ken Taylor, golfer George Knudson, and entertainers Anne Murray and André Gagnon were among a number of prominent Canadians invited to attend the launch of the *Columbia* and the Canadarm from the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral, Florida, on March 22.

Mr. Taylor, Canada's former ambassador to Iran, said of the launch, "It's an important occasion for us." Canadians have always been interested in the U.S. space program, he said, but the feeling is even more pronounced now because the shuttle is testing the Canadarm.

This mission was the third of four test flights designed to make shuttle space transport a reusable tool for exploring space. Flying in space for eight days, it was the longest earth-orbiting mission to date, almost twice as long as

Queen Elizabeth II was in Ottawa, April 17, where she signed a proclamation bringing into force the Constitution Act, 1982. The act serves to give Canada full authority over its Constitution and legally ends British jurisdiction. The next issue of *Canada Weekly* will carry further details on this important step in Canada's constitutional and political history.



Canadarm, wrapped in its white thermal blanket, is placed on shuttle orbiter *Columbia* prior to shuttle's second mission.