

## 22. CANADA-US SPACE STATION

### Background

In his State of the Union address in January 1984, President Reagan announced the beginning of a United States project to build a space station, and invited the US allies to participate. In response, Canada commissioned studies on the potential costs and benefits of participation in the project and on 30 March 1985 it announced its commitment in principle.

The space station would be built, in space, over a two-year period and is expected to be operational by 1994.

The Canadian contribution to the project would consist of construction of a Mobile Servicing Centre (MSC) which will service the instruments and payloads of the station, aid in the deployment and retrieval of satellites and aid in the actual construction of the station. In return for this contribution Canada will receive preferred access to all of the station's facilities.

The initial estimated cost of the station is \$12 billion, of which the United States is expected to contribute \$8 billion, the European Space Agency (ESA) about \$2 billion, the Japanese \$1 billion and Canada approximately \$800 million. The ESA is developing an orbiting laboratory for the station and Japan plans to develop a research laboratory and an unpressurized facility for space experiments.

On 7 April 1987, in a letter to Secretary of State George Shultz, US Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger stated that the United States should be prepared to go ahead alone with the space station project rather than

1 SECRET Proceedings, 21 Jan. 1987, p. 1122891, vol. 12, para. 1122891  
2 Standing Committee on Research, Science and Technology, Report, 1987, p. 34-35  
3 Mar. 1987, pp. 34-35