

Council and departments of the Government which have an active interest in scientific matters. The Canadian delegation to the Third OECD Ministerial Meeting on Science, held in Paris in March 1968, was led by the Honourable Senator J.J. Connolly. The agenda of the meeting included items on the effect on social and economic development of "technological gaps" between member countries, the promotion and organization of fundamental research, and the development of both national and international capabilities to cope with the rapid growth of scientific and technical information. Also during 1968, a submission on the role of the Department in scientific activities was prepared for consideration by the Senate Special Committee on Science Policy.

International Telecommunications

The most significant development in the use of telecommunications during 1968, from the Canadian point of view, was the publication in March of a White Paper entitled A Domestic Satellite Communication System for Canada, which outlined Canadian plans for developing such a service in Canada by 1971. Copies of the Canadian White Paper were delivered to member countries of the International Telecommunications Satellites Consortium (INTELSAT) immediately following publication and the Canadian project was endorsed at a meeting of the Interim Committee of INTELSAT (ICSC) held in May 1968. Canada has been a member of INTELSAT since its beginning in 1963 and has played an active part in the development of the existing system, which now has four satellites in operation over the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, providing transoceanic telephone, television relay and data-transmission services. During 1968, Canada also played an active part in the preparation of a report by the Interim Committee providing guide-lines for the negotiation of definitive arrangements for the permanent organization to be established in 1969.

Canada also continued to display its interest in other satellite programmes through bilateral and multilateral meetings. In November 1968, Canada was represented by an observer delegation at the European Space Conference held in Bonn, and during the year two technical missions visited Europe to investigate ways and means of increasing co-operation with Europe through exchanges of space techniques and technology.

Canada also made progress during the year in the completion of additional bilateral agreements with other countries on the reciprocal operation of amateur radio equipment.

Civil Aviation

Canadian officials concerned with civil air transport, together with the representatives of Canadian international airlines, during the year held discussions with representatives of several countries with a view to establishing or altering international routes flown by Canadian airlines. Bilateral negotiations were successfully completed with Czechoslovakia, Greece and Panama in 1968, although during the year an agreement was signed with the last-named country only, and discussions were held with a number of other governments concerning policy on charter flights and the revision or termination of existing bilateral agreements.