

The part that was controversial was, of course, the plan to build a fleet of ten to twelve nuclear-propelled submarines and thus to create a "Three-Ocean Navy" capable of operating in Arctic waters as well as the Atlantic and the Pacific. The government claimed that this would strengthen Canada's presence in the North while also contributing strongly to the defence of the continent and to Alliance commitments in the Atlantic, but Canadian opinion was bitterly divided over the desirability of employing nuclear technology in this way and also over the question of costs. Some observers have also suggested that an additional purpose of the nuclear submarines may have been to introduce a Canadian naval presence in Arctic waters that would have obliged the United States Navy to exchange information about submarine movements in those seas. Canada's knowledge of developments in those waters -- and thus its claims to sovereignty over them -- would thus have been enhanced.

Like many other equipment items listed in the White Paper, the nuclear-propelled submarines fell afoul of budget cuts early in 1989. The *Tracker* aircraft were also retired. However, plans went ahead for two batches of six new frigates (estimated at \$9.5 billion in 1990), twelve mine counter-measures vessels (for \$750 million), and ship-borne helicopters (\$3 billion). The TRUMP programme -- up-dating the four *Tribal Class* destroyers for \$1.9 billion -- was continued. The government also announced its intention to acquire three *Arcturus* aircraft for patrol duties in coastal areas and elsewhere. Shortly afterwards, there were intimations that the government might eventually acquire a small fleet (possibly four) of conventional submarines.

In November 1990, the House of Commons Standing Committee on National Defence and Veterans Affairs completed a report on maritime sovereignty which reviewed the work of the Department of National Defence and other government agencies in such fields as drug interdiction and the enforcement of fisheries regulations. It concluded that the government should undertake to redraft an oceans policy for Canada that took into account the importance of the armed forces in guaranteeing national sovereignty and that outlined ways of using them better to address newly emerging security issues. The general