

The Science Council of Canada has recommended that an advisory council on space, separate from the Space Agency, should be created. The advisory council would be representative of the general public and all sectors involved in space activities, and would report directly to the Minister responsible for the Space Agency. The Committee concurs in this recommendation.

Recommendation 15

The Committee recommends that an Advisory Council on Space, comprised of representatives from industry, university and government, be established to advise on space policy. The Advisory Council should report to the Minister responsible for the Space Agency.

A critically important part of Canada's Space Program is the international collaboration on space activities. As we have discussed earlier, Canada perhaps is more dependent on international collaborative space projects than most other countries, principally because we lack an independent launch capability. Examples of current international projects are Space Station, MSAT, and the search-and-rescue system SARSAT/COSPAS.

International space projects vary considerably in character and complexity and Canada's involvement may be negotiated on an inter-agency basis, or require an intergovernmental agreement (IGA). Where Canada's involvement is essentially technical in nature, as in the case of our contribution to Sweden's VIKING satellite, an agency-to-agency agreement is sufficient. In a more complex project, as in the case of Space Station, an IGA is required since important foreign policy issues may be involved. An inter-agency agreement, dealing with the technical issues, can be developed under the umbrella of the IGA.

The Committee believes that the Canadian Space Agency should be responsible for negotiating agreements with the space agencies of other countries. When a specific project involves issues bearing on Canada's foreign policy, and an IGA is required, the Department of External Affairs will be responsible for negotiations.

Recommendation 16

The Committee recommends that the Canadian Space Agency have the authority to negotiate agreements on international space projects with its counterparts in other countries.

A recurrent theme in the Committee's hearings on the Space Program was the emerging crisis in the training and supply of space scientists and engineers to carry Canada's space effort into the next century. We alluded to this problem earlier in our discussion of the effects of the cancellation of the sounding-rocket program and its dual impact on Canada's Space Science Program and on research opportunities for graduate students.

Professor Gordon Rostoker of the University of Alberta made the following statement on this issue:

...the picture I am painting is one of an aging, over-committed group of researchers who have, in the past, served Canada and their science well. They are, however, being asked to