

## New space program approved

The federal government has approved a three-year space plan designed to enhance Canada's research and development capacity.

The government has announced that it will provide \$64 million over the next three years for new space projects. This funding brings total federal financing for the space program to \$260 million over the next three years.

About 80 per cent of this increase will go to Canadian industry for research and development, Minister of State for Science and Technology John Roberts said in announcing the plan.

He said the plan was aimed at developing technology in industry, emphasizing the potential of remote sensing in resource management and surveillance, and introducing an integrated multi-year approach to financing the space program.

### Remote sensing

In the area of remote sensing, \$40 million has been earmarked for six projects to improve Canada's ability to use remote sensing satellites for resource management and to explore the application of new sensors for meeting some of Canada's territorial and environmental surveillance requirements.

These undertakings include:

- a \$14-million project to improve Canada's two LANDSAT earth stations at Prince Albert, Saskatchewan and Shoe



Space program is aimed at developing technology in industry.

Cove, Newfoundland so that high resolution data and pictures of the land and coastal waters can be produced;

- a technology transfer program to assist resource management agencies to incorporate remotely sensed data into their management systems;
- a \$3-million meteorological satellite research and development project to improve the accuracy of weather and ice forecasts;
- a \$17-million radar satellite development program which would help provide information on ice and sea conditions required for safe, efficient navigation of Arctic and coastal waterways;
- a continuation of Canadian participation in the remote sensing program of the European Space Agency; and
- a \$1-million study of a new sensor to help predict the type, size and location of fish stocks.

The federal government has also increased funding for its technology development program to \$20 million over the next three years to finance the following projects:

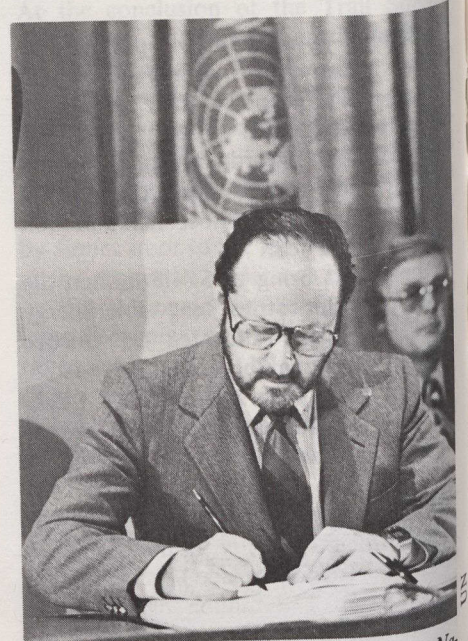
- a \$3-million contribution to the European Space Agency to allow Canadian industry to continue its participation in the preliminary development phase of the European large communications satellite program;
- a \$6-million key technology program for industry;
- a \$10-million increase in the Department of Communications' industrial contract fund; and
- a \$1-million project to establish a Canadian manufacturer of gallium arsenide devices, a key semi-conductor technology required for the next generation of satellites and earth stations.

### Communications studies

Mr. Roberts also announced three new major communications projects comprising a \$15-million study of a possible direct broadcasting satellite system; additional personnel resources to manage and conduct an increased technology development program and to investigate new satellite applications; and a \$500,000-program to improve the controls laboratory of the Department of Communications.

The minister said that in approving the space plan the government, for the first time, took into account Canada's over-all space interests and made long-term decisions on resource allocations to maintain the momentum of the program.

## Canada signs weapons convention



Canada's Ambassador to the United Nations Michel Dupuy signs a UN convention designed to prohibit or restrict the use of inhumane conventional weapons such as fragmentation and incendiary weapons, mines and booby-traps. More than 30 states signed the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects.

## Schools get cancer research grants

Medical faculties at nine Canadian universities will receive grants of \$150,000 over three years from the Terry Fox cancer research fund.

The grants, part of the \$23.5-million raised by the young British Columbia cancer victim in his marathon run, are intended to be used "in areas where it's difficult to get money through the regular grant system," said Dr. Louis Siminovitch, who heads the Marathon of Hope fund.

The universities which will receive the \$150,000 grants are the University of Saskatchewan, University of Manitoba, University of Toronto, Queen's University, University of Ottawa, McGill University, Dalhousie University and Memorial University of Newfoundland. The University of Sherbrooke will receive a \$50,000 grant for a one-year project, which will be reviewed and perhaps extended at the end of the year.