

The Committee has considered the evidence and, on balance, we accept the validity of the statement by Dr. J.S. MacDonald of MacDonald Dettwiler and Associates that "Man-in-Space is something in which [Canada] should participate because it is clearly going to be part of the future of mankind, and as an advanced nation we cannot afford not to be part of it."¹⁷ Although we share reservations about the size of the return on our investment in Space Station, we feel that Canada should continue to participate in the project, provided some specific conditions are met.

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that Canada proceed with its participation in the Space Station Project, provided that:

- a) **agreement be reached with the United States on military use of Space Station. A minimum acceptable agreement would be the exclusion of weapons or weapons prototype testing from Space Station;**
- b) **a satisfactory agreement be negotiated with NASA on Canada's use of Space Station facilities, including polar platforms for Canadian research, Space Station access time, and Canada's share of operating costs;**
- c) **acceptable assurances be given by the Federal Government that cost increases (overruns) for the MSS will not be met at the expense of other parts of the Space Program.**

The 1986 Space Plan establishes the Canadian Astronaut Program on a continuing basis, confirming Canada's belief in the value of manned space flight. As currently planned, the successful continuation of the Canadian Astronaut Program depends on participation of Canadian astronauts in future shuttle flights and their eventual access to Space Station.

Recommendation 4

The Committee recommends that Canada's agreement with NASA on participation in the Space Station Project should include access of Canadian astronauts to Space Station.

Canada's investment in the science and technology of satellite communications has been a notable success and Telesat Canada is now a profitable private corporation. The Committee views the Canadian experience in space communications as a true success story of basic science, initially funded by government, maturing into a practical and profitable applied technology with widespread benefits for Canada.

Given the profitability of the satellite communications industry in Canada, *the Committee believes it is now appropriate for the private sector to provide most of the funding for research and technology development in satellite communications. Concurrently, the Federal Government's funding for the communications component of the Space Program should decrease.*

⁽¹⁷⁾ MacDonald Dettwiler and Associates Ltd., Brief to the Standing Committee on Research, Science and Technology, June 12, 1987, p. 4.