

1. INTRODUCTION

The Air Industries Association of Canada is very pleased to respond to the request of the Senate Special Committee on Science Policy for an aerospace industry statement on this important subject.

Over the past few years an increasing awareness has developed as to the need to study and forecast Canada's future in respect to its economic, technological and industrial facets. The Economic Council and the Science Council have issued a series of reports which bear on these subjects. These reports have been based on a number of studies, reports and presentations, some of which have been specifically commissioned and others prepared voluntarily by interested parties. Of particular interest to the aerospace industry is the report being prepared by the Aerospace Marine and Rail Branch of the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce. The first two volumes of this report which contain substantial quantitative data have been published and the third volume, which we understand is directed at developing recommendations as to future policy for the industry, is in course of preparation.

All the reports and studies illustrate clearly that Canada's future economic welfare is inextricably linked to its industrial growth. They also note that the speed of industrial growth of the most advanced countries is closely relatable to their level of technological competence. In most instances the aerospace industry is highlighted as a prime contributor to Canada's technological competence.