

Space Agency

comment on that, except to say that that fact, in addition to placing the space agency in Montreal has evidently led to quite considerable difficulty in getting Ontario to make its commitment. Ontario has cut its proposed contribution from \$29 million to \$22 million in reflection of the fact that, in respect to RADARSAT, while Ontario's share has been cut quite dramatically down to the level of \$60 million, Quebec has an expenditure or contracts worth approximately \$140 million.

We have a problem here, and I want to refer to the effect that this is having on one of the companies that is supposed to be benefiting from contracts as a result of the RADARSAT project. It is reported that Spar Aerospace is having considerable difficulty continuing its operation on a reasonable keel. In fact, attributable to that delay in RADARSAT, there has been a decrease in profits for the last year. It is of great concern that the RADARSAT project go on in terms of a reasonable schedule. I have been assured by the Minister that the RADARSAT satellite will be launched in 1993, although recently we have heard reports that it may not be launched until 1994.

Many of those involved in space research are concerned about the difficulties recently, including squabbling among various jurisdictions, and the failure by Great Britain to be a participant has delayed the project.

I cite RADARSAT because it is regarded by many, certainly the Committee on Research, Science and Technology considered that we should put our highest priority on RADARSAT because it is inherently more beneficial to Canada, both in terms of addressing specific Canadian needs, as well as having a higher probability of significant industrial and technological spin-off than can be attributed to Canada's participation in the space platform.

In respect of this, it is interesting to note that the committee called attention to the External Affairs suggestion for Paxsat, in effect the peace satellite. One of the recommendations of the committee was that the technology associated with RADARSAT be expanded to include a function which would allow it to be used for arms-control surveillance and verification. This is a very

important recommendation and one that would be supported by most Canadians, and one that is reflected by what most Canadians think should be the highest priority for Canada in respect of its involvement internationally, and that is helping to aid the peace process. It is in quite considerable contrast to how the military sees space activity in terms of activities which could conceivably get us involved in somewhat untoward American notions of how space should be used.

Another area concerns not only Canada but the entire world, and I note that the committee was very forward looking in respect of it, because it preceded the international recognition of the dangers of the greenhouse effect. The committee further recommended, with again a slight expansion of the technology employed, that RADARSAT should be used as a component in the global change project which is specifically directed at looking at the physical, chemical, and biological processes affecting the whole earth. Now people are more familiar with the issue, that could be used as a euphemism for a study of the greenhouse effect. I hope that one of the highest priorities that would be accorded to the space program by the space agency would be those two functions. Those of us on this side of the House would consider that type of involvement in space of such high priority and of such importance to Canada and the world that perhaps it should be supported in lieu of some other aspects of the activities in which the space program would be involved.

Earlier this morning we were talking about the general issues surrounding science policy. I would like to call your attention, Mr. Speaker, to Recommendation 17. In that recommendation it states: "The committee recommends that the Canadian Space Agency in consultation with the Natural Sciences and Engineering Council carry out a comprehensive study of the training and supply of space scientists and engineers and develop mechanisms to ensure an appropriate supply of qualified personnel for future years".

In part, the need for such personnel could be encouraged by ensuring, as the committee recommended, that increased funding be provided for space science. The answer to the question, whether there will be an appropriate supply of such engineers, scientists, and technolo-