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New directions for Canadian space policy

As part of an expansion of Canada's space policy, the National Research Council of Canada has begun discussions to explore possible Canadian participation in the United States space-shuttle (launch vehicle) program. This step, together with the Federal Government's decision to allocate \$1 million to fund studies of the project, was announced on July 16 by Mme Jeanne Sauvé, Minister of State for Science and Technology. Passages from her statement follow:

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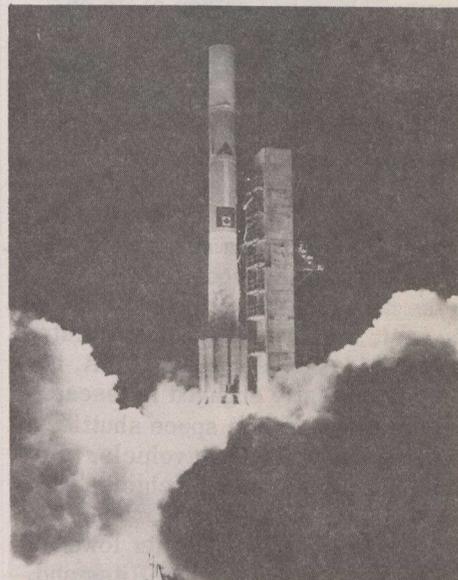
Canada's geographical size and social complexity have made the development of a sophisticated space technology essential. We have already made substantial progress towards this goal. What began with research into rocket propellants and an upper atmosphere research program attained maturity with the *Alouette-ISIS* series of scientific satellites.

In 1968, the Government conducted a review of the major factors involved in the establishment of a domestic communications system using satellites. On the basis of that review, it was decided to proceed immediately with the establishment of such a system.

Since that time, Canada's satellite program has concentrated on communications and is currently focused on the Communications Technology Satellite (CTS) program. In addition, the *Anik* domestic communications satellites now provide national radio and television program distribution in both French and English in most areas of the country.

International co-operation

Internationally, Canada has co-operated with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in the United States and with the European Space Research Organization. Part of this co-operation is evident in the earth-resources surveillance activities of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources which, through its establishments in Prince Albert and Ottawa, monitors the Earth Resources Technology Satellite launched by NASA in 1972. Canada has also participated significantly in the United Nations Committee for the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space as well as in several sub-committees.



Telesat Canada's *Anik 1*, the world's first domestic communications satellite in synchronous orbit, was launched on November 9, 1972.

When compared with the major powers' space programs, of course, Canada's program seems rather small. I believe it is appropriate, however, to look at our own aspirations. Canada has developed significant expertise in some areas of space systems technology and this must be maintained.

The future holds even greater promise in this field. Activities such as multiple access, two-way, point-to-point communications, direct broadcasting, weather forecasting, aeronautical and marine navigation are essential to Canada's future development and, for this reason, we are destined to become large users of space systems. If we are to make effective use of such systems, however, certain prerequisites must be met. For these reasons Canada's space policy has been redefined and expanded. Basic to all activities