

Parliament in the autumn of 1969. By the end of the year, a contract for program definition had been entered into. The launching of the Canadian domestic satellite is now planned for 1970.

Canada was represented at the plenipotentiary conference of the International Telecommunications Satellite Consortium (INTELSAT), which was convened in Washington, D.C., in February and March to develop an international agreement relating to definitive arrangements for INTELSAT. The plenipotentiary conference established a preparatory committee, on which Canada was represented, which held three meetings and produced a report that will be considered at the resumed session of the plenipotentiary conference in Washington in February and March 1970. Canada has been a member of INTELSAT since its beginning in 1963 and has played an active part in the development of the existing system, which has five satellites currently in operation over the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans (with a sixth in orbit but in reserve) providing transoceanic telephone, television relay and data-transmission services. Canada also continued to display its interest in other satellite programs through bilateral and multilateral meetings.

During the year, there was a further expansion of bilateral agreements with other countries on the reciprocal operation of amateur radio equipment. In addition, the Governments of Canada and the United States concluded an Agreement Relating to the Operation of Radio Telephone Stations, which, however, will not come into force until ratification takes place at some future date.

#### Civil Aviation

During the year, Canadian officials concerned with civil air transport, with the representatives of Canadian international airlines, held discussions with representatives of a number of countries relating to the establishment or alteration of international routes flown by Canadian airlines. No new bilateral agreements were signed during the year, but negotiations leading to the conclusion of a bilateral air agreement between Canada and Trinidad and Tobago were held. In addition, at the request of the Government of Israel, preliminary discussions relating to the possible conclusion of a bilateral air agreement were held. Discussions relating to existing agreements were held with civil aviation representatives of Britain, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, and the United States. The discussions with German officials led to amendments to the Canada-Federal Republic of Germany agreement. During the year, air-transport agreements between Canada and the Netherlands and Canada and New Zealand were abrogated on the initiative of the other government concerned.

Canadian officials participated in a number of international meetings dealing with hijacking, and in December Canada ratified the Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft (the Tokyo Convention).