

Canada Weekly

Volume 8, No. 44

November 19, 1980



Ottawa, Canada

New directions for Canada's space program in the 1980s, 1

Measures to curb misreporting, 2

Canada participates in international oil emergency test, 3

Refugee relief provided, 3

Mexican minister leads trade mission on visit to Canada, 3

NRC conducts train research, 4

Agreement with France on communications research, 5

Governor General presents women's awards, 5

Wild life area donated, 5

Energy-efficient housing toured, 5

Funds to combat acid rain, 6

Satellite program extended, 6

Stocks can be windfall, 6

Northern Telecom wins award, 6

News of the arts — award, theatre, concert, TV, 7

News briefs, 8

New directions for Canada's space program in the 1980s

In a speech delivered from Vancouver by satellite to the first Canadian Conference on Astronautics in Ottawa, October 21, the Minister of State for Science and Technology John Roberts noted that the 1980s look as promising as the 1970s for Canada's space program.

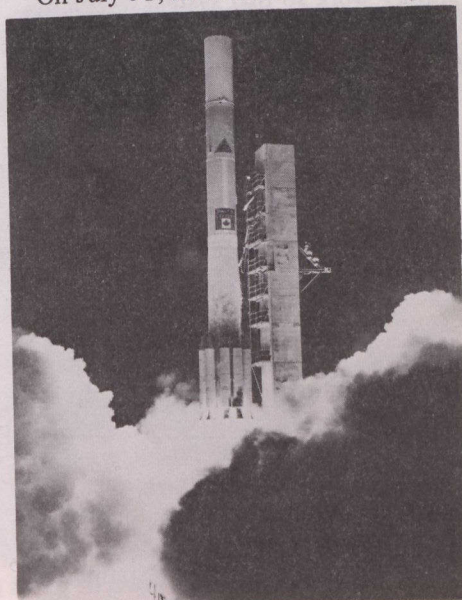
As the minister responsible for space research and development, Mr. Roberts said that to achieve this potential a restructuring of the government's space activities and extensive consultation and joint planning with industry is necessary. Excerpts from the minister's speech, outlining a new organization for space activities, follow:

...The federal government is restructuring its organization for space activities in order to move forward in a broad range of space applications. It will also be looking at a revised five-year plan.

These two major events — program decisions and government restructuring for space — are happening this fall and will be dominant factors in determining the Canadian space program in the 1980s.

The space program is certainly among the more successful science and industrial development programs undertaken by the government. Beginning only in the 1960s, its output now amounts to \$140 million; its exports total \$60 million and it employs 2,500 persons....

On July 31, the Prime Minister assigned



The space program is one of the government's most successful programs.

to me and my ministry two very important functions as the initial steps in the creation of a strong, central focus within the government for space and development.

Firstly, I have been given the responsibility for space research and development policy, the first time that a single minister has been given this role. This is probably the most significant step because it will enable us to give the focused attention required by the sector.

Secondly, as an aid in implementing our policy mandate, I am now responsible for co-ordinating all the government's space activities. To accomplish this, the chairmanship and secretariat of the Inter-departmental Committee on Space are now my responsibility.

With these first steps it now becomes possible:

- to develop policies and long-term strategies, plan program developments, and establish relative priorities, amongst projects competing for scarce resources;
- to develop a national space development program responsive to national needs as well as departmental needs; and
- to provide a greater degree of policy stability in pursuit of long-term objectives.

Organization's goals

The new organization in space will emphasize four key features.

It will have clear responsibility and authority for the definition, development and direction of a national space development program. It will have charge of a space budget with authority to recommend program priorities, scheduling and expenditures....

Seventeen years ago this week...

The discovery was announced of a vast reserve of asphaltic crude oil in northern Alberta; the reserve is similar to, but separate from the Athabasca tar sands.