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CANADA SCRAPS LAUNCHING PROJECT

Mr. C.M. Drury, the Minister of Industry, recently issued the following statement regarding the Government's position on the McGill High Altitude Programme (HARP):

...Unfortunately, all the scientifically interesting proposals which the Government receives cannot be accorded support within the limitations of available resources. Realistic judgments as to spending priorities must be made primarily on the basis of Canadian needs and interests.

In the case of HARP it has not proved possible to justify a continuing expenditure for duplicating our existing probe-launching systems in preference to support for other aspects of space research or the competing demands of other equally important scientific fields of more direct economic or social significance to Canada.

OUTLAY UNWARRANTED

The essential facts relating to the support provided under the Defence Export Development Programme to the HARP project have already been given to the House of Commons in various statements over the past year. In brief, the Department of Defence Production provided some \$4,300,000 from 1964 to 1967 in the expectation of developing equipment and services for export sale. However, after an exhaustive review early in 1966, it was concluded that these expectations would not be realized sufficiently to warrant the outlay involved, and the Space Research Institute was advised in April 1966 of the Government's decision to terminate support.

As transitional assistance, a sum of \$1.2 million has been provided over the past year to enable the McGill Space Research Institute to reorient its programme and to become self-sustaining on contract income (which the Institute Director stated could be accomplished within one year). The HARP-McGill project was an adjunct to the much larger High Altitude Research Programme carried out by the U.S. Army. The Space Research Institute was unable to attract any other major sponsor and thus the unexpected withdrawal of U.S. Army support in June of this year apparently precipitated a financial crisis for the Institute.

HARP provided an alternative to already developed rocket-launch systems for certain purposes, but the scientific tasks at present being undertaken have little relevance to Canadian national interests or environment.

OTHER FEDERAL PROJECTS

The Federal Government is already supporting a substantial space research programme currently costing in the neighbourhood of \$15 million a year, a significant portion of our total science expenditures. Although modest in scale relative to the efforts of the National Aeronautics and Space Agency in the U.S., the Canadian programme has already achieved some notable successes. The *Alouette I* and *Alouette II* satellites developed by the Defence Research Board, which were launched in 1962 and 1965 respectively, are among the most successful