

The Coast Guard maintains a 133-page Catalogue of Marine Aids Equipment. The description of the equipment includes a photograph or drawing, the manufacturer, the physical and operating characteristics and other relevant information. Equipment is selected for use to meet particular designs and service requirements.

In addition to the documentation regarding automated navigational and weather systems provided by Transport Canada, Environment Canada includes the following:

- a concise summary of significant studies that have been undertaken to test the performance of AWOS and its sensors, over the years, and
- a summary of the purchasing history of the AWOS (previously referred to as READAC) project covering Phases I, II, and III.

In the time since this question was raised in the Senate, considerable information relating to this subject has been provided to Senator Carney as Chair of the Standing Senate Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources. Additional information, responding to questions raised at the June 6, 1995 information session of that standing committee, was forwarded to the committee's clerk in June.

SEARCH AND RESCUE—REPLACEMENT OF SEA KING AND
LABRADOR HELICOPTER FLEETS—EFFECT OF REPLACEMENTS
ON VIABILITY OF CANADIAN FORCES BASE SHEARWATER—
PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR REPLACEMENTS

(Response to question raised by Hon. J. Michael Forrestall on March 21, 1995.)

The project offices for the Canadian Search and Rescue Helicopter (CSH) and the Maritime Helicopter Project (MHP) were established this summer. They will be charged with managing all aspects of replacing these two helicopter fleets. To date, work on both CSH and MHP has been accomplished using staffs who normally deal with the day-to-day operational and equipment requirements of the Sea King and Labrador helicopters.

The 1994 federal budget directed that Canadian Forces Base Shearwater would be reduced in size with the movement of 434 Squadron to Canadian Forces Base Greenwood. Furthermore, Shearwater is to be consolidated as a detachment of Canadian Forces Base Halifax. There have been no other statements made concerning further reductions to Canadian Forces Base Shearwater by the Government.

The cancellation of the New Shipborne Aircraft (NSA) and New SAR Helicopter (NSH) projects resulted in a re-evaluation of the operational requirement for both the Marine Helicopter Project and the Canadian Search and

Rescue Helicopter Project. In the case of the Marine Helicopter Project, changes have occurred to reflect the new defence policy as outlined in the 1994 white paper. For the Canadian Search and Rescue Helicopter Project, while capability requirements have been reduced from the EH-101 specification, they will still provide for an ample overall level of SAR service in Canada.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

RELATIONS WITH EUROPEAN UNION—IMPACT ON LOCAL INDUSTRIES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

(Response to question raised by Hon. Gerry St. Germain on May 9, 1995)

On the general issue of trade irritants, the government is currently pursuing the resolution of several disputes with the European Commission, and with EU member states where appropriate. Canada will not hesitate to use the dispute settlement options open to us within the World Trade Organization if required.

With respect to pulp and paper exports, the government is indeed concerned about the activities of certain environmental groups across Europe who are criticizing forest practices in Canada. Several of these groups have recently changed their tactics, and are now targeting customers of Canadian producers, threatening to publicly boycott newsprint which contains the product of Canadian old growth forests.

The approach taken by the Canadian government to respond to these activities has been to focus efforts on acquainting all parties with the facts relating to Canada's success in developing solutions to the challenge of achieving sustainable forest management.

Canada is an environmentally responsible nation, and continues to lead the world in its efforts to develop internationally agreed rules and standards which will ensure a global balance between economic and environmental interests. The positive results achieved at the recent meeting of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development are a good illustration of these activities, where the important decision to initiate an inter-governmental panel on forests was in large measure the result of preparatory work completed by Canada in the FAO and other multilateral fora.

It is Canada's view that the existence of a recognized international approach to sustainable forestry, developed by international consensus through the normal processes of a credible international organization, would end the uncertainties prevailing in this industry regarding the acceptability of various forestry practices. It is the current