

## Data from French satellite

The federal Department of Energy, Mines and Resources (EMR) will operate a new satellite receiving station in the Gatineau Hills, near Ottawa, to receive data from France's first remote sensing satellite, SPOT, which will be launched in October 1985.

The Gatineau satellite station, along with EMR's existing Canada Centre for Remote Sensing (CCRS) station at Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, will provide complete SPOT coverage of Canada and the United States.

The new station will be situated on a cleared hilltop provided by the city of Gatineau. It will consist of a large parabolic antenna of 16 kilometres diameter set on a concrete base, and a prefabricated building to house the reception and recording facilities.

"Quicklook" real time images will be developed at the site but data will be sent to the production facilities at Prince Albert for processing into high-quality computer tapes and photographic products. Some five technologists will be required at the station to handle operations.

SPOT sensors are expected to give very high-resolution images of the earth's surface, similar in appearance to aerial photography. The sensors are able to distinguish objects 16 kilometres across, and provide three times the detail currently obtained from



A satellite receiving station like the one which operates in the Gatineau Hills to receive data from France's first remote sensing satellite SPOT.

the US LANDSAT satellite now in orbit.

Canadians will be able to exploit a wide range of new remote sensing applications with SPOT images, particularly in mapping, geology and agricultural monitoring of the small fields in eastern Canada. SPOT can tilt its sensors on command, thus providing a unique stereo coverage for topographic surveying and mineral exploration.

### Upgrading possibilities

In response to future developments in the national remote sensing program, the Gatineau

satellite station could be upgraded in a few years to receive experimental imagery from the European Space Agency's (ESA) ERS-1 remote sensing satellite scheduled for launch at the end of the 1980s. Canada is a full partner with the 12 ESA nations in the design and construction of ERS-1, primarily an ice, ocean and meteorology satellite using microwave sensors.

The station could also be expanded to receive data from Canada's own first remote sensing satellite RADARSAT, proposed for a 1990 launch.

## Additional troops for NATO force in Norway

During his visit to Brussels, in December, Defence Minister Robert Coates announced that Canada would send 5 000 servicemen to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) base in Norway in 1986.

The announcement was made during the autumn ministerial sessions of NATO's Defence Planning Committee. The meeting convenes twice a year and provides defence ministers with the opportunity to examine major issues, policies and goals that affect the NATO alliance.



Robert Coates

Mr. Coates also told NATO's defence planning council in Brussels that the new Canadian government "does not consider itself to be bound by ceilings set by its predecessor, on the number of Canadian Forces personnel stationed in Europe in peacetime".

In addition, Mr. Coates promised that Canada would meet the NATO target of a 3 per

cent increase in defence spending, over and above inflation in 1985-86. In keeping with the government's commitment to rebuilding Canada's armed forces, Mr. Coates outlined plans to improve North American air defence in conjunction with the United States.

In his visit to London Mr. Coates met with British Aerospace PLC and he said he hoped joint ventures with the big British defence and aircraft manufacturer could be worked out with Canadian firms.

### Visit to Turkey

In an earlier visit to Ankara, Turkey Mr. Coates met with the country's Minister of National Defence, Zeki Yavusturk, and other government representatives to discuss trade matters, defence and general issues.

Mr Coates offered to give 20 of Canada's aging CF-104 fighter aircraft to Turkey as well as to Greece. The deployment of Canada's new and sophisticated CF-18 fighter aircraft with its forces in Europe will make the CF-104s surplus and they are being offered to the two NATO allies as part of a standing commitment to the alliance, he said.

## Employment equality report

*Equality in Employment: A Royal Commission Report* was recently tabled in the House of Commons by Minister of Employment and Immigration Flora MacDonald.

The report, which was prepared by Judge Rosalie Silberman Abella, recommends:

- legislation enacting mandatory employment equity for employers under federal jurisdiction;
- urging the federal government to encourage legislation in the provinces covering the sector under provincial jurisdiction;
- failing this action, contract compliance legislated by the federal government;
- a three-year period before employers would be required to file reports. The time period would allow data not yet in existence to be compiled; and
- an independent enforcement agency.

Miss MacDonald said "the report is well researched and provides an excellent overview of the current employment situation of women, native people, disabled persons and visible minorities". The government will review the recommendations, their cost, impact and necessary legislation, she said.