

An important aspect of RADARSAT, less readily quantifiable but very significant in the Committee's view, relates to the issue of Arctic sovereignty. RADARSAT will over-fly the Canadian Arctic every 24 hours, providing detailed information on sea-ice and sea-state conditions, on surface-ship movements in the region, and on the geology of the Arctic land areas. This continuous flow of high-quality information, which has resource-management value, will enhance this country's claim to sovereignty over the Arctic.

Canada's resource industries are, and will remain, vitally important to this country's economy. As we move towards the 21st century, there will develop a growing reliance on information technologies and the economic benefits that will be derived from them. In this Committee's opinion, the RADARSAT project effectively bridges the gap between our traditional reliance on resource industries and our concurrent need to develop high-technology industries to move our economy towards the information society.

The Committee has been informed that a positive decision must be made soon on RADARSAT or the project may have to be abandoned, because our two international partners will direct their attention to other projects. An additional constraint on the United States is their current difficulties with their launch schedule in the wake of the space shuttle disaster. *The Committee believes there is an urgent need for an early and positive decision on RADARSAT by the Federal Government.*

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the RADARSAT project, in its revised version, be approved and funded by the Federal Government, with funding to commence in fiscal year 1987-88.

It is this Committee's view, also, that the RADARSAT project should go ahead in addition to, not at the expense of, the presently-approved activities of the Canada Centre for Remote Sensing of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that the remote-sensing program (exclusive of RADARSAT) of the Canada Centre for Remote Sensing continue to be funded at the level described in the 1986 Space Plan.

In contrast to the RADARSAT project, the testimony we have received on Canada's participation in the U.S. Space Station has been contradictory and often controversial. Indeed, much of the testimony we have received accurately reflects the continuing debate carried by the popular news media. A project of the scope and magnitude of the U.S. Space Station, with its almost infinite complexity and enormous cost, cannot easily avoid controversy. Beyond that general statement, there are a number of issues of significant concern which the Committee has attempted to address.

The Committee accepts the essential validity of the following statement, which was made by MOSST in May 1986 when the new Canadian Space Plan was announced:

For industry, Space Station provides the opportunity to enhance technical and managerial capabilities, to maintain and forge new links with domestic and foreign industry and for