



# Bulletin

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## POSSIBLE CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN SPACE PROGRAMS

Mr. C.M. Drury, the President of the Treasury Board, addressed the Canadian Aeronautics and Space Congress and Exposition in Montreal on November 17. Some of his remarks follow:

The Canadian Aeronautics and Space Congress and Exposition is an international gathering *par excellence*. Among the audience tonight are the representatives of French, British and United States aerospace transportation industry, government officials, as well as scientific and technological experts from many countries. This fact offers me a unique opportunity to explore with you the kind of options which Canada could pursue in the near future in the field of space activities. My purpose this evening is to place our space program within its international framework in relation to Canadian resources and Canadian objectives. Most of my remarks will be exploratory and even hypothetical but I think you will agree with me that much hypothetical and exploratory thinking is necessary before actual decision-making is to take place, particularly when large sums of taxpayers' money may be committed by governments to highly expensive programs.

The conduct of space programs is very much a "rich-man's" game. Only the United States and the

Soviet Union have sufficient resources to apply to a comprehensive program without unacceptable sacrifices of other objectives. Only a few other countries (Britain, China, France, Germany, Japan) have devoted resources to the development of a satellite-launcher capacity. India recently announced the intention to do so but it remains to be seen whether this is an over-ambitious aspiration. An additional small group of countries has engaged in space activities without embarking in the luxury of attempting launcher development and, among these, Canada's achievements have been recognized internationally as occupying a leading position.

### PROBABLE ACTION

Now that man has actually gone out into space, several conclusions can be expressed as reasonable certainties:

- (1) that space activities will continue on an increasing scale;
- (2) that the overall expenditures will continue to rise;
- (3) that increased effort will be devoted to developing useful applications for space technology in parallel with scientific investigation;
- (4) that world space activities will continue to be dominated by the United States and the Soviet Union.

In the situation which I just described, those technologically-advanced countries desiring to pursue active space programs appear to have three practical options open to them in the short and medium term:

- (1) individual countries could work out bilateral co-operative arrangements with one of the super powers (the Canadian *Alouette* program, the proposed earth resource satellite "read-out" arrangements and the proposed launch of a domestic communications satellite are typical of this kind of co-operative endeavour with the United States);
- (2) a number of countries could join forces to

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