

*Space Agency*

• (1150)

It was not until the second half of our own century that humanity was actually able to send objects and humans into space. It soon became apparent that the exploration and the understanding of the universe depended on bringing together all humanity's knowledge of the sciences, all humanity's engineering and technological knowledge and skills.

It soon became equally apparent that realizing the age-old dream of travelling to the stars was too massive an undertaking for one nation and that international co-operation is as much a part of space as the application of knowledge and science.

[*Translation*]

Among those who are listening to the debate today, some may have the impression that establishing the Canadian Space Agency is Canada's first step in space. That is certainly not the case. It is a step and an important one, but it certainly is not the first one in the long and distinguished history of our presence in space!

[*English*]

Canada's part in the exploration of space was underlined on September 29, 1962 when Alouette 1 was launched, making Canada the world's third nation, after the United States and the Soviet Union, to have an orbiting satellite. This remarkable achievement was built upon the ground-based scientific studies carried out by Canadian scientists, carried out since the early 1930s, and upon the advanced technology developed in Canada during and after the Second World War.

Since 1962, Canada has become a world leader in a number of space-related fields such as communications, remote sensing, and the development of space technologies such as the Canadarm. Canada's 60-year-old space activity has been marked by domestic and international partnerships; domestically between Governments, industry, and universities, and internationally between Canada and the United States, the European Space Agency, Japan, Sweden, and the Soviet Union.

In the 27 years since Alouette 1 was launched, Canada and Canadians have earned a reputation world-wide as a nation that is serious about scientific effort and about space. Canada has enhanced its reputation as a nation

committed to peaceful international co-operation for the benefit of humanity.

The Government's space effort is currently housed in several federal Departments and agencies. The Government's long-term Canadian space program represents a total investment of approximately \$3 billion over the 15-year period. That period is from 1986 to the year 2000.

The establishment of the Canadian Space Agency brings together under a new Department much of the space program activities of the Ministry of State for Science and Technology, the Department of Communications, and the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. The space division of the National Research Council will also become a part of the Canadian Space Agency.

The Agency will have direct management responsibilities of approximately \$2 billion of the Canadian space program. Departments which serve specific user or client needs through the use of space technology will retain that ongoing role. For example, the Department of Communications will retain responsibility for telecommunications in Canada; the Canada Centre for Remote Sensing will continue to serve its own client base with products of space-based earth observations; the Department of National Defence will continue to operate its own space program. However, the Canadian Space Agency will assist the Minister to co-ordinate those programs. Those other aspects of the Canadian space program will amount to approximately \$1 billion over that time period.

The object of the Canadian Space Agency will be the peaceful use and development of space to ensure that space science and technology provides social and economic benefits for Canadians.

I must stress the concept of the peaceful use and development of space. The Canadian Space Agency will be involved in only those activities which fall within Canada's international obligations as contained in the treaties in outer space to which we are signatories. It will ensure the development, transfer, diffusion, and absorption of space technology to Canadian industry by securing their active involvement, and also the active involvement of the academic and the research and development institutions of the country.