

Canada's own achievements in space are quite considerable. In September 1962, with the launch of Alouette 1, we became the third country, after the USSR and the USA, to launch a satellite in space.

In 1972, Canada became the first country to operate a domestic telecommunications satellite system using a satellite in geostationary orbit. This was the first of three "Anik A" satellites.

In August 1982, we launched our first commercial satellite built by a Canadian private contractor, Spar Aerospace of Montreal, which is of course involved in our activities this weekend. Later that same year, the Canadarm, or remote manipulator system, was declared operational after being tested successfully on several space shuttle missions.

And in October 1984, Marc Garneau became the first Canadian in space when he was a crew member aboard the space shuttle Challenger. At the present time, the Government of Canada is creating a National Space Agency.

The widely-cited Canadian thinker Marshall McLuhan spoke of technological advances having transformed the world into a global village. In this global village we live in, these peaceful uses of outer space have helped us create a sense of community that is tangible and real. This understanding that we are neighbours provides an important impetus to all our arms control and disarmament efforts.

Here in Montreal this weekend, and in the Conference on Disarmament, our particular focus is to find ways to prevent an arms race in outer space.

Your efforts at the Conference on Disarmament to deal with the outer space issue come at a critical time in the international political and strategic environment. The unrelenting forward march of the application of science and technology to military ends, along with the constantly shifting political dynamics of the international scene, are forcing the outer space issue to the forefront of the deliberations of the international community, both in the bilateral and multilateral forums. This trend is also reflected, here in Canada, in a heightening of public awareness of the outer space issue.

In light of these developments, we were particularly encouraged by the decision of the Governments of the United States and the USSR in January 1985 to make "the prevention of an arms race in space and its termination on earth" one of the agreed objectives of their bilateral negotiations in Geneva. This agreement demonstrates the recognition by the superpowers of the importance and urgency of dealing with the outer space issue, a concern that is shared equally by the Canadian