

- that a significant mine-countermeasure capability be acquired by MARCOM;
- that more diesel-electric submarines be acquired by MARCOM;
- that missile-equipped fast patrol boats be acquired;
- that the existing Auroras be equipped with air-to-air and air-to-surface missiles, and the Trackers with rockets;
- that the Oberon-class submarines receive sub-surface-to-surface missiles and a more modern torpedo and that the ten newest DELEX destroyers be equipped with a surface-to-surface missile and a close-in defence system.

The sub-committee recommends that two studies be undertaken without delay by DND, for tabling in Parliament. The first should analyze the relative merits of providing Tactical Air Group with anti-shipping attack aircraft or equipping Tactical Air Group and Fighter Group CF-18s with Harpoon or other air-to-surface missiles. The second should examine the feasibility in the Canadian context of fitting several merchant vessels to accommodate the helicopters and other weapons necessary for ASW escort duties.

A note of caution

Cmdre Hendy drew to the sub-committee's attention the following quotation:

The requirement for the unhindered use of its contiguous waters and continental margin may well become Canada's main defence requirement. The creation of a substantial naval capability in peacetime will necessitate a revolution in Canadian political and defence thought, but it may prove to be the most beneficial form of Canadian defence activity for the remainder of the century and well into the next.²⁴

The sub-committee agrees with this assessment, feeling only that it is too tentatively expressed. For this reason, its members wish to emphasize that, even though each of the preceding recommendations has been assigned a priority, none could be set aside without danger.

²⁴Brian Cuthbertson, *Canadian Military Independence in the Age of the Superpowers*, as quoted by Commodore Hendy, *Proceedings of the Senate sub-committee on National Defence*, 22 March, 1983, p. 43:38.