

INTRODUCTION

At the present time Canada lacks definitive long-term plans in several areas of national importance which are changing rapidly, and for which inaction could lose valuable opportunities, or, at worst, be extremely damaging during the next ten to fifteen years.

One of these areas is national defence. The current welcome atmosphere of superpower detente and disarmament should allow substantial reductions in a number of defence activities. But a government responsible for the long-term security of its citizens must face the possibility that troubles may arise in the future, for which disciplined, well-trained, and adequately equipped armed forces will be needed. What is required today is a plan for the Canadian Department of National Defence that will give it the capability to keep up with military technology as it develops in future years, and to be able to expand rapidly should the need arise.

Another field of change is the widespread growth in the use of high technology in many areas, civilian as well as military. Industrial competition is and will continue to reward those nations able to master and exploit technology, and to penalize those that fail to do so. Already Canada is falling behind many other countries in the developed world.

Associated with both of these questions is the need for a country to be able to observe what is going on within its own territory. In Canada's case, the territory is immense, most of it is sparsely inhabited, and beyond the central land mass. There are extensive regions over which surveillance has been impossible in the past, but will become increasingly more desirable in the future.

Recent advances in the technologies of sensors and of space vehicles offer opportunities for Canada to address all three of these above-mentioned problems, provided that we act in time. Surveillance is needed for defence, and modern technology is making it feasible to provide a degree of surveillance over Canada and its surrounding approaches far beyond anything heretofore possible. Once provided for the purposes of defence, surveillance will be able to make valuable contributions to many other services of national