

had grown more remote. The SALT talks seemed to be making progress. There was a loosening of the bipolar international system.<sup>17</sup> An "increase in stability in nuclear deterrence"<sup>18</sup> was predicted.

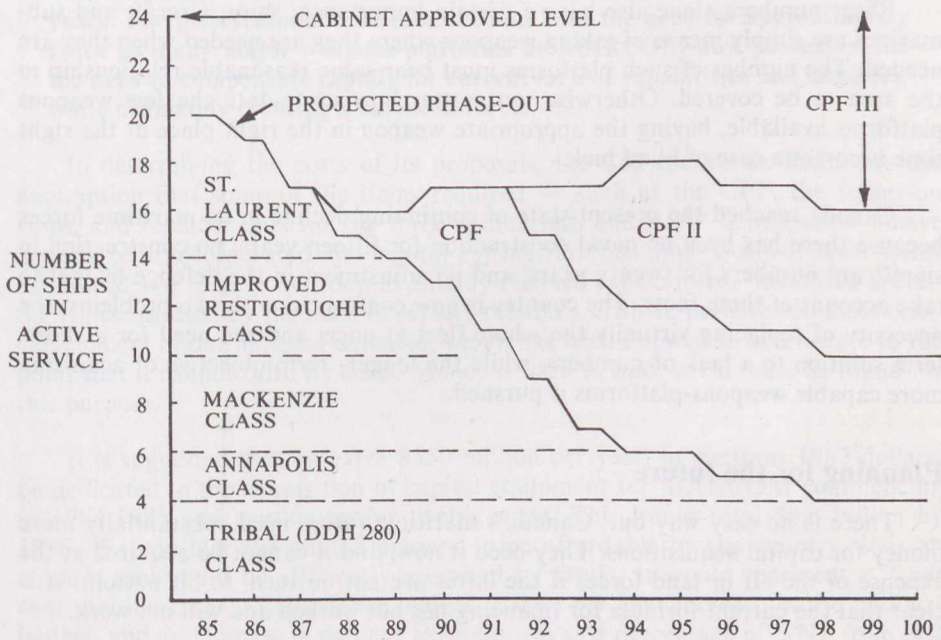
Then came Angola and increased Soviet activity around the Horn of Africa. SALT II collapsed. Afghanistan was invaded. Martial law was imposed in Poland. Confrontation once again began to characterize East-West relations. Successive oil crises and a world-wide recession shook confidence in the international economic system and threw national economies into disorder. The world was suddenly a much more dangerous place.

To give credit where it is due, the Canadian government attempted to respond to the changed situation. Equipment replacement programs for the armed forces were put into place. DND itself demonstrated real managerial skill in augmenting the portion of its total budget devoted to the capital program. However, the deterioration in capabilities had progressed too far to permit significant correction within the parameters of current budgeting constraints.

### Prospects for the future

Figure 2 illustrates one element of the current long-term spending projections. It shows that the decrease in Canada's surface maritime forces will not cease until

FIGURE 2  
PROJECTED SURFACE ASW FLEET



<sup>17</sup> *Ibid*, p. 5.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid*, p. 4.