

CHAPTER 3

Discussion and Recommendations

A. Program Objectives

The Committee has received extensive testimony on all aspects of Canada's Space Program. We have heard from those Federal Government departments and agencies that are most actively involved in space, from Canada's leading space-technology companies, from academic scientists and administrators, from Provincial Governments and from concerned members of the Canadian public. The Committee has been impressed by the variety and complexity of Canada's activities in space. It is appropriate, then, to consider the Federal Government's objectives in space.

In May 1986, MOSST listed four objectives for the Space Program:

- (1) to build on Canada's expertise in space;
- (2) to maintain Canada's position in international cooperation;
- (3) to ensure maximum economic and social benefits;
- (4) to ensure that Canada maintains a position of excellence in the worldwide scientific exploration of space.⁶

The Committee believes that these are admirable and practical objectives for the Space Program and it is appropriate that we should frame our evaluation of the program within the context of those objectives. Canada has been successfully involved in space activities for more than 25 years and we have achieved a notable expertise in certain areas. However, this country has limited financial, scientific and technological resources and we must employ those resources in the most economical and effective way.

B. Program Balance

In the Committee's view, *the most important issue to emerge from our hearings is that of an appropriate balance between the various components of the Space Program. The Committee feels that the 1986 Space Plan fails to strike an appropriate balance.*

⁽⁶⁾ Ministry of State for Science and Technology, *The Canadian Space Program: New Initiatives*, Ottawa, May 1986, p. 1.