

signed by Prime Minister Mulroney and Soviet President Gorbachev during the Prime Minister's visit to Moscow, scheduled for November 1989.¹⁸

The release of a new budget by the Government in late April 1989 brought with it the cancellation or curtailment of a number of programmes envisaged in the Defence White Paper as contributing to sovereignty protection in the Arctic. Cancelled were: 1) plans to acquire ten to twelve nuclear-powered submarines; 2) the purchase of six additional Aurora long-range patrol aircraft; 3) plans to modernize two squadrons of older Tracker patrol planes; and 4) the purchase of thirteen to twenty-eight CF-18 jet fighters. In addition, the planned purchase of 820 all-terrain vehicles designed to operate in the Arctic was cut by over fifty percent (to 400), and was expected to be delayed until at least 1995-1996.

In an interview, on 27 April 1989, Defence Minister Bill McKnight remarked that as a result of the budget cuts, Canada might in future be forced to place greater reliance on cooperation with its allies (i.e., the United States and Britain) for the protection of sovereignty in the Canadian Arctic.¹⁹ Commenting that "[t]here are better ways of defending northern sovereignty," the Minister added: "unfortunately we cannot afford those ways."²⁰

On June 1989, Defence Minister McKnight announced the purchase of three Arctic and Maritime Surveillance Aircraft for the Canadian Forces. To be called the Arcturus, the aircraft will be used primarily for military, environmental, maritime and Arctic surveillance, as well as for fisheries patrols.²¹ In addition, they will serve as a back-up for search and rescue. The aircraft are to be built to Canadian military specifications and share the same airframe and engines as the Aurora aircraft (although unlike the Aurora they will not be equipped with submarine-detection equipment), thus allowing significant savings in maintenance and training costs for both. Mr. McKnight described the purchase as "a cost-effective measure to address the need to effectively patrol Canada's coastline and enforce Canadian sovereignty."²²

PARLIAMENTARY COMMENT

On 16 September 1988, NDP Member Margaret Mitchell raised questions concerning the Government's plan to construct the Polar 8 Icebreaker. Speaking in the House, Ms. Mitchell noted:

In 1985 the Secretary of State for External Affairs announced that a Polar 8 ice-breaker would be constructed to protect our Arctic sovereignty. Since then,

18 "PM to Visit Soviet Union in Late Fall," *Globe and Mail*, 18 April 1989, p. A1.

19 Paul Koring, "Defence of Arctic Left to Allies by Budget Cuts," *Globe and Mail*, 28 April 1989, p. A2.

20 *Ibid.*

21 Department of National Defence, *News Release*, 30 June 1989, p. 1.

22 *Ibid.*, p. 2.