

...the long awaited and much welcome news of the contract for the Polar 8 icebreaker will not address the larger and critical issue of foreign militarization of the Arctic....<sup>9</sup>

Liberal leader John Turner asked about the nature of the contract: "...the announcement was tentative at best. It was an announcement, as I read the document, of an intent to negotiate."<sup>10</sup> The Minister of Transport, John Crosbie, replied:

Yesterday we gave [Versatile Shipyards] a firm proposal. So long as they are able to meet the financial and technical requirements, it is a firm proposal under which they will have a contract....<sup>11</sup>

Considerable controversy and parliamentary debate occurred when the Government awarded the CF-18 maintenance contract to Canadair in Montreal. Questions centred on possible government interference with the contracting process and then on why the contract had been awarded to Canadair rather than Bristol Aerospace in Manitoba.<sup>12</sup> The Government stated that the issue of technology transfer was one of the most important criteria for the decision and that they felt technology transfer "could be better done through the existing facilities of Canadair."<sup>13</sup> Opposition members questioned Canadair's ability to carry out the contract successfully and asked that the matter be referred to the Auditor General.<sup>14</sup> The maintenance contract for the CF-5 was later awarded to Bristol Aerospace.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Commons Debates, 2 Mar. 1987, p. 3725. Other statements: Commons Debates, 2 Mar. 1987, p. 3714; 3 Mar. 1987, pp. 3760-3761.

<sup>10</sup> Commons Debates, 3 Mar. 1987, p. 3762.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid. See also: Commons Debates, 4 Mar. 1987, p. 4025.

<sup>12</sup> Commons Debates, 22 Oct. 1986, p. 615; 23 Oct. 1986, pp. 659, 669; 30 Oct. 1986, p. 904; 31 Oct. p. 945.

<sup>13</sup> Commons Debates, 31 Oct. 1986, p. 947.

<sup>14</sup> Commons Debates, 4 Nov. 1986, p. 1056; 5 Nov. 1986, p. 1093; 6 Nov. 1986, p. 1141; 28 Jan. 1987, p. 2769; 9 Feb. 1987, p. 3264.

<sup>15</sup> Commons Debates, 21 Jan. 1987, p. 2507; 23 Jan. 1987, p. 2623.