

Such a construction program would also give the shipbuilding and allied industries long-term stability, since it would continue over a twelve-year period. Afterward, even if no further increases in force levels were contemplated, mid-life updates would begin for the vessels then in service and a long-term replacement program would have to be initiated. For example, the force of sixteen ASW surface vessels envisaged would include the DDH-280s which by then would be near retirement. Likewise, the Oberon submarines would be reaching the end of their design life and would require replacement. Many permanent jobs would result. Henry Walsh, President of the Canadian Shipbuilding and Ship-Repairing Association (CSSRA), estimates that "for every dollar spent in the shipyards, another two dollars is generated in the grocery store, and . . . employment is stimulated at about the same" rate.²² The six CPFs alone "represent 7,000 person-years of shipyard work (over 10 years)" and an "estimated . . . 24,000 . . . or over three times that of shipyards" in allied industries.²³

If the six CPFs would produce 31,000 person-years of work over a ten-year period, then the building program being suggested by the sub-committee would, conservatively estimated, produce at least another 100,000 jobs in shipbuilding, aerospace and allied industries.

As noted above, the first two or three of the new class of submarines might have to be built abroad, using existing designs in order to speed their acquisition. The designs of other vessels might also have to be purchased off the shelf, for production in Canada, so as to reduce lead-times and to take account of likely shortages of trained project management personnel in the early stages of the program.

Equipment recommendations

As noted earlier, many of the suggestions in this chapter have been advanced rather tentatively by the sub-committee, especially those of a highly technical nature, because of a lack of expertise. However, there are a number of areas where the sub-committee feels confident in making concrete recommendations.

To arrest the continuing decline in the status and readiness of our maritime forces, the sub-committee recommends that, as an increment to funding required for replacement of current equipment on a one-for-one basis, an extra \$550 million per year, in constant 1983 dollars, be dedicated to the acquisition of capital equipment for MARCOM. This would represent a 7 per cent real increase in the defence budget, a 0.64 per cent increase in the national budget, and an increase in defence expenditures as a percentage of GNP from the current just over 2 per cent to about 2.2 per cent.

The sub-committee's general recommendations for a balanced fleet are, in order of priority:

- that contracts be let immediately for the CPF program *and* for the follow-on program;
- that orders for eighteen more Aurora aircraft be placed immediately, in order significantly to improve MARCOM's capabilities in the shortest possible time, and to provide an ongoing, enhanced capability;

²² *Proceeding of the Senate sub-committee on National Defence*, 8 March, 1983, p. 40:6.

²³ *Ibid*, p. 40:12.