

The sub-committee recommends that the government consider adding \$75 million to the capital budget of DND for procurement of essential training aids; upgrading of accommodation for some existing Naval Reserve units; and construction of four new Naval Reserve divisions.

There is, quite obviously, a costly requirement for reserve vessels — and the sub-committee wishes to make the most urgent plea for them. They are invariably described as vessels that should and could perform *bona fide* wartime missions; minesweeping is frequently mentioned. As noted in chapter V, the sub-committee believes orders for minesweepers and fast patrol boats should be placed immediately. Failing this action, Reserves could perhaps be helped to acquire hands-on experience at sea by serving aboard existing civilian government ships. This would be especially useful if a number of units in the Coast Guard and the Fisheries and Oceans fleets could, in case of hostilities, be equipped with lift-aboard weapons and detection systems and be transformed into adequate craft for rounding up enemy merchant and fishing vessels and for Arctic or other coastal patrolling as recommended in chapter IX.

The sub-committee recommends that the Naval Reserve be provided with suitable training vessels on a priority basis and that, to the maximum extent possible, reservists be trained in peacetime aboard classes of vessels which they would be called upon to operate in wartime.¹¹

The third set of problems, related to training, will be brought much closer to a solution if questions of personnel and equipment are treated as discussed above. Additional improvements could be achieved if more assiduous efforts were made to convince employers to release reservists for annual training periods without using up their vacations and inconveniencing their families.

The sub-committee recommends that, in order to encourage all other employers to grant leave for reserve training, the Government of Canada make it mandatory for federal departments and crown corporations to allow reservists up to two weeks special leave a year for purposes of reserve training.

Cost of an increased Naval Reserve

The costs associated with the preceding recommendations should be low. The long overdue minimum investment in Primary Reserve facilities and equipment calculated for the sub-committee by Captain (N) (R) Fox-Decent and acquisition of four additional Naval Reserve divisions — perhaps in the communities where they were closed some years ago — would require the already noted non-recurring expenditure of up to \$75 million. But additional personnel, operations and maintenance costs could be kept to \$15 million a year.¹²

¹¹ If the earlier recommendation to acquire minesweepers and fast patrol boats (some of which would be assigned to the reserves for training purposes) is not implemented, DND's capital budget should make provision for the construction of 6 new training vessels for the reserves, at an estimated total cost of \$114 million. (See the document cited in footnote 9 above).

¹² Figure derived from information provided to the House Sub-committee on Armed Forces Reserves (Proceedings, p. 2A:26, 22 October, 1981) and in *1983-84 Estimates — Part I: The Government Expenditure Plan*, ISBN-0-662-52328-8, p. 33.