

Although these appear to be substantial sums of money, the Committee has received evidence that the funding for space science in Canada is actually shrinking, both in relative and absolute terms. The proportion of Federal Government expenditures devoted to space science in the five-year period 1981/82 to 1985/86 was 14.2%; for the period 1986/87 to 1990/91, the proportion will decrease to 9.6%. In absolute terms, funding will decline from \$21.5 million in 1984/85 to \$16 million in 1990/91. Moreover, there is no allowance for inflation over this period.

The Space Science Program, as articulated by the National Research Council, has the following objectives:

D. European Space Agency

First, to ensure Canada maintains a position of excellence in a world-wide context in the exploration of space.

Second, to ensure that through the European Space Agency (ESA) and other international organizations, Canada is able to participate in the most advanced and cost-effective space programs.

Third, to provide the major facilities and instruments required for the scientific study of the Earth and the solar system, to train young scientists and engineers to meet the needs of the program, and to ensure the highest quality of the program.

The May 1986 announcement stated that additional funding would be made available for space science from FY 1990/91 to FY 1994/95, and \$20 million over 15 years to FY 2000/01.

The program will continue to support a high quality research program in space science and technology, and to ensure that Canada remains a leading nation in the field of space science and technology.