

It seems that, based on the excellent co-operation that has been pursued in the space sector, co-operation could be profitably diversified and extended to new programs. Consequently, possibilities of future co-operation were raised during a visit to France by Dr. R. Bondar concerning microgravity, space biology and astronaut exchanges. Moreover, a recent mission of the CNES to Canada examined the possibilities of developing a program of co-operation between French and Canadian industries in fields of activities associated with remote sensing.

Under the heading of commercial and industrial co-operation the TELESAT decision to award the 1990 launch of its two satellites, ANIK E1 and E2, to ARIANESPACE, should also be noted.

Biotechnology

Co-operation in this sector has been exemplary and primarily involves the INRA on the French side and the Department of Agriculture on the Canadian side. A dozen projects, most involving exchanges of researchers within the framework of the Scientific and Technical Co-operation Program (Mois-Chercheurs) have been successfully conducted. This co-operation was characterized by the continuity of research topics selected.

Moreover, four other projects, concerning membrane dynamics in particular, were carried out within the framework of the CNRS/NRC accords. It was hoped that the creation of the new Biotechnology Institute of the National Research Council in Montréal (an industrial institute) would further increase opportunities for co-operation in the field of biotechnology. Such co-operation would also require a greater diversity of partners, especially industrial partners.

New Materials

This sector entails some of the most active co-operation between the CNRS and the NRC. It was identified in May 1986 as a sector in which the possibilities of co-operation remained to be explored. The French industrial mission on composite materials which was to return to Canada in September 1986, headed by Professor Le Bideau, could not be carried out. However, in June 1987, an exploratory visit by Mr. G. Taylor, Head of the Materials Sector of the Ministry of State for Science and Technology, visited several ministries and research centres in Paris.