

# Canada Weekly

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## Modernization nod one feature of Armed Forces year

During 1977, the Armed Forces were able to see their way clear to acquiring new fighter aircraft and new warships — to add to their new maritime patrol aircraft and battle tanks now on order. Also ordered are new armoured vehicles, new air-traffic-control radar systems and modern facilities for the naval dockyard at Halifax, Nova Scotia.

In March, Cabinet authorized the Defence Department to obtain proposals from manufacturers for new fighter aircraft to replace the *CF-101 Voodoos* and *CF-104 Starfighters*, which entered service in the late 1950s and early 1960s, and the *CF-5s* which will be converted to advanced trainers.

Six companies are involved: the fighters being considered are the Grumman *F-14*, McDonnell-Douglas *F-15* and *F-18A*, General Dynamics *F-16*, Northrop *F-18L*, all of the United States; the *Panavia Tornado* from a British-German-Italian consortium and a version of France's Dassault Bréguet *Mirage*.

The aircraft will be bought "off-the-shelf" at an estimated cost of \$2.3 billion in 1977 dollars, spread over about ten years. Apart from the operational requirement, an important factor in the selection

of an aircraft will be the extent of industrial, technological and economic benefits offered by the manufacturers and the source nation.

## Canadian patrol frigates

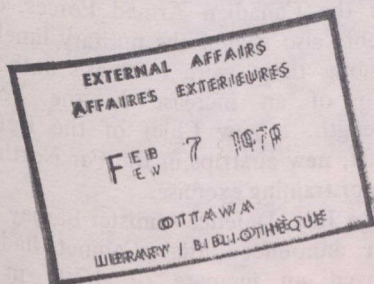
On December 22, 1977 Cabinet authorized the Defence Department to proceed with the first stage of a four-year program to obtain new fighting ships for the Navy.

The department, in concert with shipbuilders, will complete the design and detailed costing of the first of a new series of six Canadian patrol frigates. Construction of the frigates, which would replace the six 20-year-old St. Laurent Class destroyers, should begin in 1981 after assessment of the first phase is completed.

Defence Minister Barney Danson said a Canadian shipbuilding program would have a significant impact on the Canadian economy, producing directly and indirectly, about 4,500 man-years of employment annually for eight years.

## Patrol aircraft and tanks

The main contract to build 18 *CP-140 Aurora* long-range patrol aircraft was signed with Lockheed Aircraft Corpor-



HMCS Fraser is one of six, aging St. Laurent Class destroyer escorts which will be replaced by new Canadian patrol frigates when the construction phase of a shipbuilding program gets under way in 1981.

Ten years ago today, Yellowknife became the capital of the Northwest Territories.

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