

do all the tasks they have done in the past plus many others and are lacking the infrastructure of support so necessary to the successful discharge of their responsibilities. The lack of career positions in the space sciences over the past 15 years has led to a significant drop in the number of young people prepared to pursue a research career in that area. We do have some soft money postdoctoral positions available within our community, but there are no qualified applicants to be found in Canada. In short, it is my opinion that the scientific community of space researchers in Canada is in no position to effectively participate in major new initiatives such as Space Station.²⁶

The problem in Canada of an insufficient supply of scientists and engineers is multi-faceted and long-standing and is not confined to the field of space science and research. As frequently noted by the Minister of State for Science and Technology, part of the difficulty stems from Canada's lack of a "science culture", a societal problem which results in too-few qualified candidates entering university programs in science and engineering. In the past, Canada has relied heavily on imported technical and scientific expertise, but this is an option of diminishing relevance in an increasingly competitive world.

The Committee views the situation with concern. We make the following recommendation.

Recommendation 17

The Committee recommends that the Canadian Space Agency, in consultation with the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), carry out a comprehensive study of the training and supply of space scientists and engineers and develop mechanisms to ensure an appropriate supply of qualified personnel for future years.

We were also informed by a number of witnesses that the funding policies of NSERC, while invaluable to the university Space Science community, are often not conducive to productive interaction between university and government scientists, and industry. The situation is not helped by the current level of investment in R & D by Canada's major space contractors. The Committee believes that the new Space Agency, established with the comprehensive authority that we have recommended, should seek ways to increase the level of interaction. The *Centre d'adaptation de la main-d'oeuvre aérospatiale au Québec* made the following statement which is pertinent to this discussion:

We believe that the Space Agency must have a mandate, in addition to its co-ordination of space programs, to promote, whenever possible, closer ties between university researchers and private enterprise. This agency must serve as a catalyst, and create multiple links of cooperation and joint action between the representatives of these two milieux.²⁷

Recommendation 18

The Committee recommends that the Canadian Space Agency, in consultation with NSERC, develop mechanisms to fund university space research that would be complementary to NSERC funding and that would encourage greater interaction between university and government scientists, and industry.

⁽²⁶⁾ Dr. Gordon Rostoker, Brief to the Standing Committee on Research, Science and Technology, May 27, 1987, p. 8.

⁽²⁷⁾ *Centre d'adaptation de la main-d'oeuvre aérospatiale au Québec*, Brief to the Standing Committee on Research, Science and Technology, June 1987, p. 5.