

VII. INVESTMENT IN SPACE

Awareness of the U.S.'s invitation to other countries to participate in the space program was not high among the participants. Overall, the prospect of Canada being involved in the program was extremely attractive to the groups, with the advancement of technology, the creation of jobs, and growth in national pride mentioned among the list of benefits volunteered.

There seemed to be no doubt in the minds of the participants that Canada's lack of investment would not adversely affect our relations with the U.S. This was based on a conviction that if they were not to participate the U.S. would have no shortage of other willing partners. Some felt, however, that Canada's investment in the program may, in the long run, actually improve our relations with the U.S.

Somewhat surprisingly, almost everyone in each of the groups recognized the fast paced nature of the competition in the development of new technologies, and agreed that Canada needs to be aggressive in this area. Many volunteered that we had an advantage based on our experience in building satellites and the Canadarm, and stressed the need to maintain it as further support for our participation.