

say about Dieppe, Generals McNaughton, Crerar and Simonds, Donald Creighton, and Mackenzie King — his comments are usually brief and contain little that is fresh. Lack of sustained commentary weakens the book. Unfortunately, these flaws take away from the book's strengths and will disappoint admirers of Stacey's earlier and better work.

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Voyage into the Unknown: The Search for and Recovery of Cosmos 954. C.A. MORRISON. Stittsville, Ontario: Canada's Wings, 1982. 154 p. ISBN 0-920002-20. \$17.95

This is the story of Operation Morning Light, the search and recovery of the debris from the Soviet satellite Cosmos 954 which ploughed into Canada's Northwest Territories in the early hours of 24 January 1978. The author was well suited to undertake this task as he was an active participant in the operation as well as being assigned to the researching and writing of the episode for the Directorate of History, Department of National Defence. The book, despite its unimaginative title, is an intricate tale of a very recent event and the problems attendant upon a search which had, to that date, no precedent in terms of the dangerous cargo of radioactive materials that were scattered after impact. Complications arose from a number of sources: the vastness of snow-covered wilderness terrain, the logistics of mounting and co-ordinating the effort, the uncooperativeness of the Soviets. There were never any serious problems with American authorities who gave full-hearted support and technical expertise; the situation summoned forth the best in Canada-United States relations and cooperation. As well, it brought forth the best in the pilots and ground personnel who hazarded their lives in arctic conditions, and those individuals in a number of government agencies in more southerly climes who gave their all during the crisis. The pat on the back is well deserved.

This being said, there are some difficulties with the book. Originally, the manuscript was intended as an official in-house history of Operation Morning Light, an occasional paper for the Directorate of History, DNDHQ, containing politically sensitive material and critical comments. Colin Morrison has drawn upon the actual operational diaries of those involved, official logs, squadron flight records, the minutes of interdepartmental meetings, and so forth. The author has noted that he did succeed in having much material declassified in order that the study reach a wider audience. But, given the nature and tone of the final product, a substantial amount of rewriting would have resulted in better reading without sacrificing content and story line. This is still a technical report for the lay reader who would certainly succumb to the myriad of acronyms that appear page after page in the first chapters: RORSAT, SDC, DGMPO, NAST, NEST, NEVOO, and so on. And some of the minute details involving time zones and the intricacies of command might leave, one must assume, the readers of "Canada's Wings," the series in which this title appears, as cold as the country befouled by Cosmos 954. For the professional researcher who may wish to use some of the declassified material quoted, there is a problem — no footnotes, an omission which may have been instigated by the express wishes of the military, or the editors of the series.

The appearance of such a work on what can only be described as “contemporary history” raises some questions for users of sources at the Public Archives of Canada and of Canadian government departmental records housed, for example, within External Affairs and the Department of National Defence. In other words, can the run-of-the-mill, ordinary, researcher expect similar access to such material before it is declassified? Can he or she examine it, with special permission, before declassification? Or must he or she request it be declassified first — hoping against hope that his or her wishes will be granted? Despite the usually excellent cooperation given to ordinary researchers, there is an understandable tendency to be cautious with requests for classified material, be it, say, twenty-five years old or younger. In many ways the “good stuff” will elude the researcher and only surface when the time is considered safe and appropriate. Perhaps it just has to be this way, particularly if one is dealing with more than his or her own government’s actions. To do otherwise could very well alienate a foreign government and, theoretically, lead to a reticence on its part to share information. Morrison was in an enviable position. He was part of the search team; he worked for the Directorate of History; and most importantly he knew the people to know. This, plus the possibility that the epic of Operation Morning Light could provide some well-deserved credit and publicity for the Canadian military and cast a shadow on the Soviets, meant that documents which might have remained classified were allowed, after some vetting, to see the light of day. One cannot be certain that the average researcher would receive such attention, even though those in charge of such records may attempt to be accommodating. It is a recurring problem for the researcher, one that will doubtless not go away, especially in matters of military and external policy, both of which will likely continue to be safeguarded by the careful provisions of the new Access to Information and Privacy Acts.

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Technologies of Freedom. ITHIEL de SOLA POOL. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1983. 291 p. ISBN 0-674-87232-0.

In most democratic societies, communications policy analysts generally reject the extreme positions of rigid government control and administrative *laissez-faire* in favour of a middle-of-the-road approach to the relationship between the mass media and the state. Between the extremities there still remains a wide range of available options. In Canada the public presence is significantly greater than in the United States which has weaker regulatory agencies, an absence of supportive programmes for indigenous publishing, and lack of publicly-owned broadcasting facilities. But the assumption in both countries has long been that some kind of system of countervailing forces is necessary to keep the channels of communication reasonably honest and open. Constitutional protection, competitive markets, the law of libel, press councils, freedom of information provisions, mixed systems of ownership, and regulatory agencies are among the many mechanisms that have been used by democracies to try to keep propaganda or mass manipulation in its many forms to a minimum.