



IAEA inspectors at work in a nuclear power station.

IAEA photo

state appropriating this material could in theory manufacture nuclear weapons within a matter of weeks if all the non-nuclear components had been prepared in advance. In such a setting, safeguards cannot provide "timely warning" sufficient to allow the international community to react in advance of the *fait accompli*.

The IAEA itself has no authority to impose sanctions in the event of non-compliance with a safeguards agreement. The Agency's Board of Governors is authorized to notify the UN Security Council. It is then up to the Council to take appropriate action, if desired.

## Conclusion

The IAEA safeguards system is still evolving and incorporating advances in technology to improve containment, surveillance and other techniques. The system is not perfect and there remain many political, legal and technical difficulties to surmount.

Limitations notwithstanding, the deterrent value of safeguards remains strong, since would-be diverters could not have confidence that their misuse of nuclear materials would go undetected. It has been estimated that without the NPT and associated safeguards, there could be as many as 30 nuclear-weapon states by the year 2000, rather than the present five. While the cost of safeguards is appreciable — the IAEA's safeguards budget for 1991 was US \$65.1 million, out of a total budget of US \$196.9 million — it is a small burden to bear in comparison with the considerable contribution to international security that IAEA safeguards provide.

## Forecast

*Arms control and disarmament activities involving Canada, June through September 1993.*

**Ongoing:** CSCE Forum for Security Cooperation, Vienna

**Ongoing:** CFE Joint Consultative Group, Vienna

**Ongoing:** Open Skies Consultative Commission, Vienna

**May 24 - June 4:** meeting of experts on BTWC verification, Geneva

**May 10 - June 25:** CD in session, Geneva

**July 10 - September 2:** CD in session, Geneva

**September 13 - 27:** concluding meeting of experts on BTWC verification, Geneva

## Acronyms

- APEC — Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
- ASEAN (PMC) — Association of South-east Asian Nations (Post-Ministerial Conference)
- BTWC — Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention
- CD — Conference on Disarmament
- CFE — Conventional Armed Forces in Europe
- CSCE — Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe
- CTB(T) — comprehensive test ban (treaty)
- CWC — Chemical Weapons Convention
- EAITC — External Affairs and International Trade Canada
- GSE — Group of Scientific Experts
- G7 — Group of Seven leading industrialized nations
- IAEA — International Atomic Energy Agency
- INF — intermediate-range nuclear forces
- MTCR — Missile Technology Control Regime
- NACC — North Atlantic Cooperation Council
- NNWS — non-nuclear-weapon states
- NPT — Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
- ODA — (UN) Office for Disarmament Affairs
- ONUMOZ — UN Operation in Mozambique
- OPCW — Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
- SSAC — State System of Accounting and Control
- START — Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty
- UNDC — UN Disarmament Commission

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