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Canada Signs Safeguards Transfer Agreement with Japan and the International Atomic Energy Agency

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, today announced that the Canadian Ambassador in Vienna, Miss B.M. Meagher, had signed on behalf of Canada an agreement under which the International Atomic Energy Agency assumes responsibility for administering the safeguards incorporated in the Canada-Japan Agreement of 1960 for co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy. These safeguards ensure that nuclear materials transferred between Canada and Japan are employed for peaceful purposes only. Similar provisions are a standard feature of all the agreements which Canada has with other countries for co-operation in the peaceful application of the atom.

Canada has consistently supported the development of the IAEA-administered system of safeguards. The conclusion of the present agreement between Canada, Japan and the IAEA marks a significant step in the implementation of Canadian policy in this field, said Mr. Martin.