

Mr. Speaker,

I would like to inform the House today that the Government has decided that further nuclear cooperation with India is not possible. The decision has been difficult. It has challenged the Government, as indeed it has challenged all thinking Canadians, to review a number of fundamental principles.

Canada's nuclear cooperation with India began in the context of the Colombo Plan. It has as its basis, the belief that nuclear power could be vital to the equitable economic growth of a number of developing countries. The energy crisis, and the serious dislocations it has brought with it, have tended to reinforce this belief and the genuine success achieved by Indo-Canadian Cooperation in the development of nuclear power for energy, agriculture and medicine has proved the practicality of this approach.

India's detonation of a nuclear explosive device in 1974 made it evident that Canada and India have taken profoundly differing views of what should be encompassed in the peaceful application of nuclear energy by non-nuclear weapon states. Canada is one of the