



Statements and Speeches

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THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

A Statement in the Plenary Meeting of the Thirtieth Session of the United Nations General Assembly by Mr. W.H. Barton, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the Office of the United Nations at Geneva and to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, on November 12, 1975.

I should like to preface my remarks on the IAEA by welcoming the three new members of the Agency, the Republic of Tanzania, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar -- not only because of this further implementation of the principle of universality but because of the contribution we hope and expect will be made by these three countries to the work of the Agency.

The Agency has, since its creation, served to "enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world", primarily through its promotion of nuclear-energy programs, including assistance, training and information exchange, and through the development of constructive and dynamic safety and environmental-protection programs. It has, moreover, acted to enhance international security through the development of adequate standards for the physical security of nuclear material.

The acceleration of the demand for, and interest in, nuclear power as an alternative source of energy, brought about largely by the greatly-increased costs of oil and petroleum, has added a new dimension to the Agency's nuclear-power expansion programs and a new urgency to the Agency's safeguards work. Canada recognizes the need for the growth of nuclear power, particularly in the developing countries. At the same time, we are deeply concerned that this expansion be controlled, consistent with the obligation of the Agency to "ensure, so far as it is able, that assistance provided by it, or at its request or under its supervision or control, is not used in such a way as to further any military purpose".

I am pleased to note again this year that such a large proportion of the Agency's regular budget was dedicated to programs of direct interest to developing member states, and in particular to note the increased emphasis that the developing countries members of the Agency have placed on the introduction of nuclear power into their energy programs. It is becoming increasingly clear that, in a number of countries, nuclear energy provides a major alternative to hydrocarbons which are in short, unreliable and expensive supply. A sound
