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Change in nuclear export policy to safeguard spread of nuclear weapons

In an address to the House of Commons on December 22, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Donald C. Jamieson, announced that the Federal Government had tightened its policy on the export of nuclear reactors and uranium by requiring future buyers to accept controls on their entire nuclear program.

The minister pointed out that the existing policy did not cover nuclear equipment which a country received from other suppliers or that it developed itself. "The new policy," he said, "will close the gap." Mr. Jamieson's statement follows:

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In this Christmas season our thoughts naturally turn to peace and the brotherhood of man. It is easy to pay tribute to these fundamental goals with words. It is more important that we do so with our actions. It is a challenge to the Government of Canada to respond to the demand of Canadian public opinion that this country exercise its influence toward the betterment of the global society in which we and our descendants must live. In the area of nuclear policy there is no simple answer or it would have long since been adopted. It is rather the need to balance energy requirements, the advance of technology which regardless of what we do will make nuclear capability within the reach of a wider and wider group of countries, and the need to establish a sound international framework which will curb the spread of nuclear weapons and yet take into account the legitimate economic aspirations of sovereign states. I wish to make quite clear, however, that the first priority, indeed the overriding priority, is to prevent the spread of instruments of destruction.

In this context I am pleased to announce that the Canadian Government has decided upon a further strengthening of the safeguards requirements which apply to the export of Canadian reactors and uranium. Shipments to non-nuclear weapon states under future contracts will be restricted to those which ratify the Non-Proliferation Treaty or otherwise accept international safeguards on their entire nuclear program. It follows from this policy that Canada will terminate nuclear shipments to any non-nuclear weapon state which explodes a nuclear device.

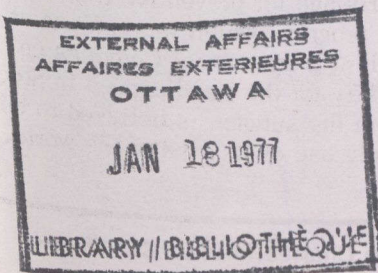
Unequivocal commitment

This requirement is in addition to those outlined in December 1974. The purpose of the Canadian safeguards policy is simple and straightforward. We wish to avoid contributing to the proliferation of nuclear weapons while at the same time satisfying the legitimate requirements for uranium and technology of countries which demonstrate the intention of restricting Canadian assistance only to peaceful non-explosive uses. Nuclear export policy already requires binding assurances that what Canada provides will not be used for explosive purposes. Existing policy, however, does not cover what a country receives from other suppliers or what it might do on its own. The new policy will close this gap. We will have, therefore, assurance by treaty that Canada's nuclear customers will have been selected from those countries which have made

Pakistan affected by new policy

At a press conference following the announcement of Canada's changed nuclear export policy on December 22, Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson announced that nuclear exports and technical aid to Pakistan would be terminated immediately.

Canada has wanted tighter controls, on a bilateral basis, with a further right to suspend all nuclear aid if Pakistan developed and exploded a nuclear device. Pakistan refused and, with the failure of negotiations, that country must now meet the requirements of Canada's new policy.



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