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CANADA/EURATOM EXCHANGE OF LETTERS ON NUCLEAR CO-OPERATION

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mark MacGuigan, announced that the Head of the Mission of Canada to the European Communities, Ambassador Richard Tait, and the Vice-President of the Commission of the European Communities, Wilhelm Haferkamp, today signed in Brussels an Exchange of Letters completing the process that began with the January 1978 Exchange of Letters amending the 1959 agreement between the Government of Canada and the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM) for Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy.

The Exchange of Letters, which incorporates a generic approach to reprocessing, represents an important advance in the application of Canadian non-proliferation and safeguards policy and will: 1) provide Canada with the non-proliferation assurances it requires for the reprocessing and high enrichment of Canadian nuclear material exported to Euratom; 2) give Euratom the long-term predictability it needs for using that material in its nuclear energy programmes; and 3) further, together with a similar agreement concluded with Sweden and others under negotiation, the evolution of the effective non-proliferation framework that is a major objective of Canadian policy.

Agreement with Euratom is a positive indication of the mutual confidence that exists between Canada and one of its major nuclear partners for more than twenty years. In 1980, Canada exported some 3,500 metric tons of uranium to Euratom member states worth more than 225 million dollars. Member states have invested more than \$1 billion in Canadian uranium resource development and a number of them are considering CANDU reactor technology.