

the Board and is the principal channel of communication from the Agency to the Department of External Affairs and other departments and agencies of the Government interested in atomic energy matters. As in past years, Canada continued to provide highly-qualified atomic experts to serve on the Agency's staff and to assist it in its technical-assistance activities.

Canada's bilateral atomic energy relations also continued to develop during the year and there were exchanges of visits and visits of atomic specialists with several countries.

The outstanding "start-up" performance of the first two units of the Pickering generating station on Lake Ontario in 1971 marked a significant achievement by Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL). Both Pickering I and II passed steam from the reactor to the turbine in record time. Both reactors also achieved full power in excellent time, and Pickering I is already among the leading plants of comparable size anywhere in the world producing electricity. Pickering's success is expected to give a boost to AECL's export promotion of the CANDU reactor.

Canada continues to attach the greatest importance to the development of adequate international safeguards to ensure that nuclear materials and equipment for peaceful purposes are not used to make nuclear weapons. All Canada's general bilateral agreements relating to the transfer of nuclear equipment and materials provide for such safeguards. During the year, safeguards inspections were carried out in accordance with the provisions of Canada's bilateral agreements, and consultations on safeguards matters were held with a number of governments and with the European Atomic Energy Community.

During the past year Canada, India and the International Atomic Energy Agency concluded a trilateral safeguards agreement providing for Agency application of safeguards on the two nuclear-power reactors being built at the Rajasthan Atomic Power-Station by India with assistance from Canada and on the Douglas Point Nuclear Generating Station on Lake Huron constructed by AECL. Bilateral safeguards between Canada and India will now be suspended in favour of IAEA inspection on both stations. This reciprocal safeguards agreement is unique. The conclusion of the trilateral agreement reflects a longstanding Canadian Government policy of turning over bilateral safeguards arrangements to the IAEA for the development of an international system of safeguards.

Under the Treaty for the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Canada and over 60 other adherents are obliged to conclude safeguards agreements with the IAEA by next spring. A number of such agreements are already in force for some states and Canada is expected to conclude its agreement with the Agency before the end of the year.

In September 1971, the Japanese Atomic Energy Agency and AECL met in Tokyo for their biennial conference. An agreement was signed to facilitate the exchange of unclassified information on the development of nuclear-power reactors using heavy water as a moderator.

Canada sent a large scientific technical delegation to the fourth United Nations Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, held in Geneva from September 6 to 16, 1971. The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the