

May 1974. More stringent safeguards covering the export of Canadian nuclear material, equipment, facilities and technology to all countries, whether they possessed nuclear weapons or not, were announced on December 20, 1974. These additional non-proliferation assurances and controls must be accepted in a formal bilateral agreement with Canada before nuclear exports can go ahead. From 1974 to 1976, examination of the policy continued and in December 1976 the government announced that any new nuclear co-operation would be authorized only for non-nuclear weapons countries that had either ratified the NPT, and thereby accepted IAEA safeguards on all their present and future nuclear activities, or made an equally binding commitment to non-proliferation by accepting NPT-type full-scope safeguards.

One repercussion of the Indian nuclear explosion was the impetus given to consultations among the world's major nuclear technology exporters, who became known as the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG). While Canada failed to obtain the agreement of the Group to impose rigid controls like those applied to Canadian nuclear exports, a set of "Guidelines for Nuclear Transfers" did emerge in 1978 from these

consultations which effectively ended significant transfers of sensitive nuclear technology to countries not accepting safeguards on the imported items. The NSG Guidelines require that IAEA safeguards cover any transfer of nuclear material, equipment or technology. They do not require the recipient country to join the NPT or make any equivalent commitment to non-proliferation. In 1978, the trigger list associated with the Zangger Committee was clarified in order to bring it into conformity with the NSG Guidelines.

The NSG Guidelines were a significant non-proliferation advance but left Canada with a more stringent set of non-proliferation requirements than the other major nuclear reactor vendors, who now pursue markets in a number of non-NPT countries that remain under a Canadian nuclear embargo.

#### **International Atomic Energy Agency Safeguards**

The IAEA defines safeguards practices as follows:

*Safeguards practices can be summarized in one word: verification. To verify means 'to establish the truth of.' In safeguards, to verify is to establish the truth*

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