

"International Canada" is a paid supplement to *International Perspectives* sponsored by External Affairs Canada. Each supplement covers two months and provides a comprehensive summary of Canadian government statements and of political discussion on Canada's position in international affairs. It also records Canadian adherence to international agreements and participation in international programs. The text is prepared by *International Perspectives*.

Bilateral Relations

USA

Nuclear Waste Repository

The US released a draft report in mid-January on its program to locate a site for its second nuclear waste repository. Of the twenty sites identified for further study (twelve as proposed and eight as candidates), none were within twenty-five miles of the Canadian border. (The US Department of Energy indicated its intention to narrow the list through further field study and intensive investigation in order to make a final selection in 1998.) However, External Affairs Minister Joe Clark noted that one site, located in Maine and known as the Bottle Lake complex, was just outside the minimum distance. As well, several others were near drainage basins eventually flowing into Canada (those in Minnesota and Wisconsin). Canada would examine the information provided by the US government on those areas "for indications of potential effects" on the health and property of Canadians. The remainder of the proposed sites would be assessed for possible effects from groundwater movement (External Affairs statement, January 16).

Both the federal and provincial governments would present their concerns to US representatives following assessment of the draft report. (A joint consultative group had previously been established.) These concerns, added Mr. Clark, would also be registered with the US administration at the Cabinet level. Canada would firmly oppose any development "that could present a transboundary threat to . . . the integrity of the Canadian environment."

The US government had assured Canada that the 15-year screening process would ensure that no harmful effects resulted on either side of the border. The US also agreed that no site would be selected should field work or sampling in Canada prove necessary. According to the US Department of Energy, no selected site would permit radioactive waste to move to an "accessible environment" (such as a well or lake) through the groundwater (*Globe and Mail*, January 24). Tests would be conducted over the next decade to determine direction and speed of underground water flows. Existing criteria call for maximum travel of five kilometres over 10,000 years — the estimated length of time required for the breakdown of radioactive waste.

Cruise Missile Testing

As part of a 5-year weapons testing agreement between Canada and the US, another unarmed cruise missile flew along the Mackenzie River-Rocky Mountain corridor in Alberta January 22 — a path used in previous tests in 1984 and 1985. The first of this year's tests (with three more planned for early 1986) was designed to test interception techniques. Studies would be conducted to determine the ability of fighter aircraft to intercept cruise missiles as a class (*Globe and Mail*, January 20). While in previous years protests against cruise testing had been both widespread and highly visible, this January's test received far less coverage (see "International Canada" for December 1984 and January 1985). However, such groups as Greenpeace, the Ottawa Disarmament Coalition and the Alberta Citizens Anti-Cruise Committee did mount some form of protest.

While the testing was delayed for twenty-four hours due to problems in the aircraft tracking the cruise missile, the test went forward January 22. Although Defence officials called the flight "successful," they gave no reason why the missile "terminated" five minutes before schedule and off the designated target (*Globe and Mail*, January 23). US Strategic Air Command Major Fred Harrop stated that the missile "performed planned manoeuvres at the appropriate times." He noted that the malfunction occurred during the recovery phase of fuel burn-off.

Responding to a request in the Commons January 23 from Pauline Jewett (NDP, New Westminster-Coquitlam) to participate in the process of arms de-escalation by ending cruise missile testing in Canada, External Affairs Minister Joe Clark stated that the government did not view a breaching of an agreement by Canada as "a contribution to the de-escalation of arms build-up in the world." For that reason, he added, the cruise testing would continue. Speaking to reporters later, Mr. Clark stated that allowing the cruise tests to continue was an important part of maintaining the "solidarity of the West" (*Globe and Mail*, January 24).

Following the crash of the first 1986 test missile, Canadian and US officials cancelled the second test, scheduled