

PRESS RELEASE



COMMUNIQUÉ

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CANADA

MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

No. 59

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1967.

Statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin

NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY SAFEGUARDS

Canada welcomes the constructive statement of President Johnson of December 2 reiterating United States support for the non-proliferation treaty. More particularly, we welcome President Johnson's announcement that, when such safeguards are applied under the non-proliferation treaty, the United States will permit the IAEA to apply safeguards to all nuclear activities in the United States, except those with direct national security significance. On December 4, a corresponding announcement was made by the British Government, which declared that, once non-proliferation treaty safeguards are put into effect, Britain will accept similar safeguards on its nuclear activities subject to exclusions for national security reasons only.

These announcements are significant for a number of reasons. First they will contribute to a fair balance of obligations as between the nuclear and the non-nuclear parties to the non-proliferation treaty and will help to carry forward the current negotiations. The non-nuclear countries now have public assurances that in accepting safeguards on their own peaceful nuclear activities, they will be joined by two of the three major nuclear powers.

These announcements also mean that another step has been taken in extending international acceptance of the IAEA safeguards system. The purpose of that system is to ensure that nuclear materials and equipment intended for peaceful purposes are not diverted to military uses. For some time, Canada's policy has been to apply international safeguards to all exports of Canadian nuclear materials.

Finally, they confirm the Canadian view that the safeguards envisaged in the treaty will not interfere with the peaceful nuclear activities of any country party to the treaty.

We hope the United States and British examples will soon be followed by other nuclear powers.