

Canada welcomes the initiatives taken by the United States and the Soviet Union towards strategic-arms limitation, the SALT talks. The two nuclear powers have begun to carry out their obligations under Article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The task they have undertaken is both complex and difficult. The joint announcement by the United States and the Soviet Union on May 20 last that they had reached an understanding in principle to concentrate this year on working out an agreement for the limitation of the deployment of anti-ballistic missile systems and that, together with this ABM-systems agreement, they would agree on certain measures with respect to the limitation of offensive strategic weapons is heartening evidence of progress. We shall all watch with eager anticipation their efforts to translate this understanding into concrete agreements in the coming months. It is to be hoped that the SALT agreements will include measures to curtail the nuclear-arms race in its qualitative as well as its quantitative aspects.

The Non-Proliferation Treaty, which came into force on March 5, 1970, and the safeguarding procedures that have been recently worked out by the International Atomic Energy Agency's Safeguards Committee offer some hope that the further spread of nuclear weapons will be limited. The solemn declarations of states party to the treaty to renounce this kind of military force and their agreement to allow international personnel to inspect their nuclear installations justify a cautious optimism. There are, however, states that have not signed the treaty, and its effectiveness will be diminished if some important nuclear and so-called "near-nuclear" nations continue to stand aside. I am pleased to announce today that our negotiations are proceeding favourably and that Canada expects to conclude the safeguards agreement with the Agency before the end of the year.

The measure of confidence arising out of the Non-Proliferation Treaty will be strengthened if it is brought into smooth and effective operation. The states that have renounced nuclear weapons have done so in the belief that their own interests are best served by this renunciation; they recognize that they have less to fear from others when they show that others have nothing to fear from them. The mutual trust and confidence born of this renunciation will endure only to the extent that these same states now co-operate with the International Atomic Energy Agency and its inspectors in the operation of safeguards.

All of us must keep carefully-audited records of our production, movement and consumption of fissionable materials if we are to feel confident that we have good internal control. The records that we need for good housekeeping at home fulfil most, if not all, of the requirements for international inspection. For this reason, I do not believe that safeguards impose a great new burden. I know that some organizations fear that in submitting to detailed inspections their commercial secrets might be compromised, but the real commercial secrets lie in unaffected areas, such as the design and manufacture of components, and these fears are exaggerated. It is now in the interests of each state to be generous in its co-operation with the Agency's inspectorate and to demonstrate to the rest of the world community that its intentions are wholly peaceful.