

Senator Vaillancourt has always been exceptionally devoted to the common people. He was deeply bent on the advancement of social and financial conditions of labour classes.

He has been a true champion of co-operation. In that field, he made an indelible mark on the co-operative movement in the province of Quebec; because of that, he has made history in the field of social development in my native province during his very lifetime.

I thank him deeply for the affection he has always showed me. I will never forget the many conversations I had with him about national matters, about patriotism. He is a remarkable man. I have great admiration for him; indeed I hold him in veneration. I hope his health will improve.

[English]

### NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY

STATEMENT BY GOVERNMENT LEADER

**Hon. Paul Martin:** Honourable senators, shortly before Parliament recessed last month, my colleague the Secretary of State for External Affairs announced the intention of the Government to take immediate steps to effect Canadian accession to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Honourable members will be aware that during the recess, on January 8, Canadian representatives in London, Moscow and Washington deposited the instruments of ratification with the three governments which had been designated as depositories for the treaty when it was opened for signature last July 1. Canada thus joined Britain, Denmark, Ireland and Nigeria in this expression of confidence in the treaty, and faith that by providing leadership we might exert a favourable influence on other governments not yet fully committed to the principles of non-proliferation as expressed in the treaty itself.

For years Canadian negotiators have been working with those of other nations attempting to achieve the optimum reconciliation of divergent national interests which would halt the spread, the proliferation, of nuclear weapons and thus reduce the threat of worldwide nuclear catastrophe. Canada welcomed the agreement on a draft treaty which was reached at a special session of the United Nations General Assembly last June. Canada was among the first nations to sign the treaty. Our support for the basic objectives of this

treaty has been unwavering, and the leadership we are attempting to give in ratifying this important treaty is fully consistent with our attitude since the beginning of negotiations. We hope that additional countries will recognize the importance of bringing the treaty into effect at the earliest possible date, and that all nations of the world will accept the obligations embodied in the treaty.

We recognize that this treaty is not a panacea for all the problems facing a world that threatens to become a nuclear armed camp, but we expect it to make a significant contribution towards controlling the dissemination of nuclear weapons. Its provisions and prohibitions represent important concessions by all signatories.

Articles I and II are the most significant operative sections of the treaty, which I propose to table. They prohibit nuclear parties—the countries now in possession of nuclear weapons—from transferring these weapons to other nuclear explosive devices, or control over them, to non-nuclear parties. These articles also prohibit the non-nuclear parties from manufacturing or otherwise acquiring such weapons and devices. These articles of the treaty are supplemented by certain security assurances which were approved by the Security Council of the United Nations on June 18, 1968. These assurances recognize aggression with nuclear weapons, or the threat of such aggression, as requiring immediate action by the Council and immediate assistance to the victim of such an act. At that time, Canada supported these assurances as the best that could be obtained and as an adequate basis for promulgation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Article III of the treaty requires the non-nuclear parties to accept international safeguards on their nuclear programs. It binds all parties which export special nuclear materials and equipment to non-nuclear states to require that such materials, and those used or produced in such equipment, be placed under international safeguards. This is intended to provide for verification that source and special fissionable materials are not diverted from peaceful purposes to the production of nuclear weapons. In my opinion, one of the principal benefits of this treaty is the worldwide system of safeguards which it portends.

Article IV guarantees and facilitates the right of non-nuclear parties freely to exploit nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Many developing nations considered this to be their *quid quo pro* for surrender of their nuclear