

to acquire nuclear-explosive capacity or devices even for peaceful purposes, while reserving their right to obtain whatever benefits there may be in the peaceful application of nuclear explosives from nuclear-weapon states parties to the treaty, under appropriate international observation and procedures, through an appropriate international body and pursuant to a special international agreement or agreements. The Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference strongly reaffirmed the provisions of Article V. It concluded that the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) was the appropriate international body through which potential benefits of peaceful applications of nuclear explosions could be made available to non-nuclear-weapon states. It called on the IAEA to broaden its consideration of this question to include, within its area of competence, all aspects and implications of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes and to begin consideration of the structure and content of the special international agreement or agreements contemplated in Article V. It attached considerable importance to consideration by the CCD (Conference of the Committee on Disarmament) of the arms-control implications of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes. Canada fully supports these conclusions.

The scope for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy poses another crucial question, a question of particular importance to all states in a position to make nuclear materials and technology available to others. The promise foreseen 30 years ago that nuclear energy could be an important tool for the economic and social benefit of mankind is well on the way to fulfilment. But do we have the wisdom to recognize and take action to ensure that the diffusion of nuclear technology, equipment and materials throughout the world for peaceful purposes can be achieved without compounding the danger of nuclear-weapons proliferation and of nuclear war?

Canada's response to this question was given recently by Prime Minister Trudeau. He saw it in terms of obligations. As an economically-advanced country, Canada wishes to do all it can to help the less-developed countries of the world gain a handhold on the technological age. But, at the same time, the Canadian Government has an obligation to ensure that nuclear materials, equipment or technology from Canadian sources are not diverted to the manufacture of nuclear-explosive devices. That is why Canada strongly supports the application of effective safeguards through the International Atomic Energy Agency. Canada firmly believes that efforts by both exporters and importers of nuclear materials, equipment and technology to achieve more effective safeguards on international nuclear co-operation and commerce will greatly facilitate the worldwide development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.