

technical route to the development of nuclear explosive devices, it is not the only, nor the most efficient, route. A political decision to proliferate would be better served by installing facilities dedicated solely to that objective. Controls on the diversion of nuclear items from civilian facilities are necessary, but it is clear that if a country has a sufficient political incentive, such controls would by themselves not stop that country. Any industrialized country and many developing countries could develop, if they so decided, a nuclear explosive capability. A general political commitment by a country not to proliferate is, therefore, as important as the specific controls that prevent diversion.

II Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

The immediate postwar period was a time in which the states involved in the Manhattan Project (the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada) and others tried to formulate a way of "entirely eliminating the use of atomic energy for destructive purposes and promoting its wider use for industrial and humanitarian purposes" ("Agreed Declaration on Atomic Energy", November 1945). In January 1946, after discussions between the United States, the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union, the United Nations passed a resolution creating the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission. Meanwhile, the United States adopted a national policy on atomic power, which was reflected in its Atomic Energy Act of 1946 and which placed an embargo on the export of nuclear materials and information.

During these years, however, it became evident that it would not be possible to prevent the spread of nuclear technology. This fact was recognized in the "Report of the International Control of Atomic Energy" (the "Acheson-Lilienthal Report"), which was prepared by a group under the leadership of Dean Acheson and David Lilienthal. President Eisenhower's speech to the UN General Assembly in December 1953 proposing the establishment of an international agency which would be devoted entirely to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy marked a further step in this process. On December 4, 1954, the General Assembly unanimously adopted an "Atoms for Peace" resolution calling for the establishment of such an agency. After two years of negotiations, the Statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was unanimously approved and signed in October 1956. It came into force on July 29, 1957. It should be added here that one of the IAEA's functions, as stated in its Statute, is to "to establish and administer safeguards designed to ensure that special fissionable and other materials...are not used in such a way as to further any military purpose". The application of safeguards by the IAEA has from the beginning been one of the fundamental tenets of Canada's non-proliferation and safeguards policy.