

Bilateral and Multilateral Co-operation

Canada will continue its extensive nuclear relationships with countries around the world, including Korea, Japan, Argentina, Brazil, the 15 member countries of EURATOM, the United States and China. In addition to consultations with China on implementation of the existing bilateral nuclear co-operation agreement (NCA) and on multilateral nuclear issues of mutual interest, discussions will be pursued to facilitate the export of nuclear-related dual-use items that are not covered by the provisions of the bilateral NCA.

On November 30, 1997, IAEA Director General Dr. Hans Blix (of Sweden) ended his term in office after 16 years at the Agency's helm. On December 1, 1997, Dr. Mohammed ElBaradei (of Egypt) assumed office for the next four years. He has established a Senior Review Group to look at IAEA priorities. A formal review also has been initiated on activities of the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA). Senior representatives from member states have formed an Advisory Group on the matter. The Advisory Group's conclusions and recommendations are expected in spring 1998, when a report will be submitted to the NEA Steering Committee for consideration.

Non-proliferation

Canada will negotiate a Protocol to its IAEA nuclear safeguards agreement. The IAEA's current approach to safeguards places a significant burden on the Canadian nuclear industry and on the nuclear industry of those countries that have made a commitment to CANDU technology. Although the terms of the bilateral Protocol are set out clearly in the model text negotiated in 1997, Canada will use the negotiation of the Protocol as an opportunity to press the IAEA to focus on increasing the efficiency as well as the effectiveness of its safeguards activities. The IAEA uses a system based primarily on the material accountancy of nuclear material, whereby the amount of safeguards activity is directly proportional to the size of a country's peaceful nuclear program and the amount of nuclear material used in the program. The objective is to move the IAEA in the direction of a safeguards system based on a more qualitative assessment of the risk of nuclear proliferation, which is believed to be more effective than the present system.

Disarmament

Work will continue towards the Canadian ratification of the CTBT. Domestic implementation of the International Monitoring System (IMS) by the end of 2000 is another step that is necessary to fulfil Canada's international obligations. IDN will work with partner departments, principally NRCan and Health Canada, to ensure progress on this front. IDN will work to ensure that Canadian companies have access to commercial opportunities provided by the CTBTO in contracting out work, and will continue to encourage Canadian companies to bid on contracts.

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