

will increase at an exponential rate. Before long, 120 tons of plutonium will be lying around in the world.

The question is not so much how we are to deal with the situation today, which seems to concern the Secretary of State for External Affairs: it is, what are the long-term implications of this build-up and is there an alternative?

Dr. Frank Barnaby, writing in the *New Scientist*, estimates that in ten years the 120 tons of plutonium will increase to about 1,400 tons. Testifying on United States nuclear non-proliferation policy before a Senate committee of the United States, Secretary Kissinger said:

—we support the worldwide goal of finding alternative sources of energy to reduce reliance on oil.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs alluded to this. Secretary Kissinger went on to say:

Yet a progressive pattern of proliferation could set back, if not cripple entirely, the continued growth of peaceful nuclear energy to service mankind's needs, as exporters and importers alike came to lose confidence in the ability of the international system to find effective techniques for realizing the peaceful benefits of nuclear energy while eliminating its inherent security risk—

Mr. Kissinger, whose country is involved with the exporting of nuclear technology and materials, has expressed far greater caution than that expressed by the minister in giving the sort of assurances he gave us this afternoon.

Miss Bégin: My goodness; what is that? You are wrong.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): My goodness; I am right.

Miss Bégin: No, you are wrong.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): I hope we shall hear the views of the parliamentary secretary later in this debate.

Miss Bégin: Be assured, you will.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Perhaps she can correct her mentor, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, and give the kind of assurances he could not give this afternoon. Unlike a few other countries, we are not exporting nuclear weapons per se. Yet we are certainly trafficking in the nuclear hazard and the potential for destruction. Proliferation does not merely mean that there is to be a spread of nuclear weapons to more nation states who to a varying degree have a stake in the present international system; proliferation means that there is a greater likelihood of such weapons falling into the hands of disenchanting individuals or terrorist groups. I did not hear the Secretary of State for External Affairs allude to this fact which is of growing concern to many countries—not merely to those directly involved in the export of nuclear technology, materials and equipment. He did not speak about the danger which would arise if this technology were to fall into irresponsible hands.

An hon. Member: Sheer rubbish.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, an hon. member opposite says, "Sheer rubbish." He is ridiculing the views of responsible scientists who know the possibilities of misuse.

An hon. Member: What responsible scientists?

Nuclear Proliferation

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Surely hon. members opposite cannot ignore the views of increasing numbers of responsible people who have been involved in nuclear development. Surely hon. members will not fly in the face of established facts. Increasingly, we face the situation in which the spread of nuclear technology increases the likelihood of nuclear terrorism and blackmail.

An hon. Member: Come off it.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): The October, 1975, conference sponsored by the Stanley Foundation listed five consequences of proliferation. First, there is the possibility of theft of nuclear weapons. I did not hear the Secretary of State for External Affairs give assurances to alleviate our fears about the possibility of nuclear theft. If hon. members opposite think this is not a danger, I hope they can provide better assurances than were provided by the Secretary of State for External Affairs and his officials to set at rest the concern of many countries about these matters. In recent years we have become only too familiar with acts of terrorism. In years to come, nuclear materials will become more plentiful. Stockpile depots will become more abundant. If there is no effective control with respect to security, the likelihood of these materials falling into irresponsible hands is obviously that much greater. I would have thought that, in addition to the possible use of nuclear technology and materials for terrorist activities, the prospect of the theft of plutonium for contamination purposes would in itself be serious. In addition, I do not think any attention has been paid to the possible sabotage of nuclear powered plants or to waste storage facilities being properly established to prevent the release of radio activity, or to the growing threat of pollution problems which have been a matter of concern even in this country, one which has taken the lead in developing this whole technology.

● (1730)

It strikes me as ludicrous, if it were not so tragic, that on the one hand the minister can argue that we have in a sense led the field in the development of nuclear technology, while on the other we are apparently not really concerned about adequate standards in the long term for the safe disposal of waste products in countries which have little sophistication in the nuclear field.

Some three or four weeks ago I asked the Secretary of State for External Affairs a question with respect to one specific safeguard which might, on an interim basis at least, offer some protection. I understood from the answer I received that either the government was unaware of the suggestion or that it was not under active consideration. I was referring to the suggestion by U.S. Secretary of State Kissinger that regionally controlled nuclear fuel centres might be established, to include centres for fuel classification, plutonium reprocessing, waste management and storage.

In the comments the Secretary of State for External Affairs made with respect to safeguards it was obvious he avoided dealing with the most basic element in any effective safeguard system, which is the question of enforcement. He did not tell us what, if any, sanctions or penalties existed for non-compliance with the safeguards. He did not refer to any sanctions or to any penalties, or to any means