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the Convention's Voluntary Fund for assistance to countries that suffer from the use, or the threat of use, of chemical weapons. Canada also demonstrated its Declarations computer software which was positively received by the OPCW and by States Parties. The Canadian National Authority contributed to the development of the proposed Terms of Reference for the OPCW Scientific Advisory Board.

The Second Conference of States Parties to the CWC was held in The Hague on December 2-5, 1997. Its proceedings, highlighted by the participation for the first-time of the Russian Federation, Iran and Pakistan as full members, focussed on the status of implementation and the OPCW budget. Also, Terms of Reference for the Scientific Advisory Board were approved.

CWC implementation gathered momentum as 1997 drew to a close. As of January 9, 1998, there were 106 states parties, making the CWC second in size only to the NPT. The inspections timetable has generally been respected, and inspections have for the most part gone well.

NUCLEAR SECTION

Bilateral and Multilateral Nuclear Co-operation

When the Nuclear, Non-proliferation and Disarmament Implementation Agency (IDN) came into being in 1996, Canada had in place 19 bilateral nuclear co-operation agreements (NCAs) with 33 countries (one agreement with EURATOM covers the 15 countries comprising the European Union). These agreements, which contain stringent nuclear non-proliferation commitments, are a prerequisite for bilateral nuclear co-operation. Canada continues to expand its program of peaceful nuclear co-operation. NCAs with Brazil, Slovakia and Slovenia came into force in the last year, as did an updated agreement with Argentina, replacing one negotiated in the 1970s. Agreements have been signed with the Ukraine and Uruguay, and await ratification by them.

Formal annual consultations on bilateral nuclear co-operation and multilateral nuclear issues took place with three of Canada's largest nuclear partners, namely EURATOM, Japan and the Republic of Korea. Korea, with four CANDU reactors on-line or under construction, continues to make the greatest commitment to Canadian nuclear technology outside Canada.

In early 1997, Taiwan Power Company (Taipower) announced that North Korea had agreed to dispose of Taiwan's low-level radioactive waste at a site approximately 90 kilometres north of Seoul. There was a strong outcry in South Korea against the proposal on environmental and safety grounds. Canada took the view that the shipment and disposal of radioactive waste should respect all relevant international standards and norms. Canada also underlined that it is not possible to be confident that North Korea has the wherewithal to ensure relevant standards and norms are respected. While Taipower has not cancelled the proposal, neither did it take any action.