

In general, the existence of a domestic accountancy and control system is a prerequisite to the application of efficient international safeguards, although of course a national accounting system by itself cannot replace the international safeguards applied by the IAEA.

In 1980, the IAEA employed some 150 inspectors who made about 500 visits to plants and scanned about six million photographs taken by sealed automatic cameras and affixed some three million seals.

As stated above, the objective of the Agency's safeguards operations is to detect diversion to any unknown use. If diversion conditions or non-compliance with a safeguards agreement is detected, the Director General of the IAEA informs the Agency's Board of Governors. The Board of Governors then calls upon the state concerned to remedy the non-compliance and may depending on the gravity of the situation also report to all members of the Agency and to the Security Council and General Assembly of the United Nations (Article XII.C of the IAEA Statute). The key point, however, is that it is the international response to the reported diversion or non-compliance that is considered to be the ultimate deterrent.

Canada has been a strong supporter of the safeguards operations of the IAEA, and Canadian technical experts have participated in advisory groups, technical committees and other gatherings convened by the Agency to improve those operations. Moreover, in support of the objective of IAEA safeguards, Canada established the "Canadian Safeguards Research and Development Program" in 1978 which is designed to assist the Agency in the development of safeguards systems for CANDU reactors. The program has received a five-year budget of approximately \$11 million and work under its auspices is already well-advanced.

VIII Current International Situation

As previously mentioned, 115 countries have acceded to the NPT and the major nuclear suppliers have agreed to certain minimum guidelines governing their nuclear exports. Furthermore, significant resources have been made available to improve the operation of the IAEA's safeguards system. However, there continues to be a general acknowledgment that the current non-proliferation régime is not without its faults and weaknesses. Improvements are necessary and several recent international discussions have focused on this objective. These include: