



# communiqué

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## CANADA AND JAPAN SIGN AN AGREEMENT FOR REPROCESSING

The Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, signed today an Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Notes concerning the reprocessing by Japan of Canadian-origin spent nuclear fuel. Signing on behalf of Japan was the Japanese Ambassador, His Excellency Kiyohisa Mikanagi.

Canada and Japan have a nuclear relationship of long standing. The existing Agreement for Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy dates back to 1959. A Protocol amending this Agreement came into force in September 1980. The Agreement signed today determines how Article III of the Amended Agreement which, inter alia, provides controls over reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel and over the retransfer of spent fuel for the purpose of reprocessing, will be implemented by the two Parties on a long-term basis.

By obtaining an approval in advance for reprocessing to be carried out, Japan will be able to plan its nuclear fuel cycle activities with more certainty. The Agreement thus enhances energy security. Japan is Canada's largest uranium customer and this Agreement will make Canadian uranium yet more attractive to Japanese utilities because of its contribution to Japan's energy security.

Canada has signed similar Agreements with Sweden and Euratom.