

not result in proliferation. This concept, and therefore the NPT itself, forms the base upon which Canada's non-proliferation and nuclear cooperation policy is built; this is a policy of major political and economic significance.

Consequently, Canada will work towards securing from the Conference a broad recognition of the crucial role the NPT plays in reducing the risks of proliferation while at the same time providing the necessary framework for nuclear cooperation to take place. Canada will actively promote the endorsement by the Conference of the principle of a comprehensive, binding non-proliferation commitment and NPT-type full-scope safeguards as an essential condition of nuclear supply.

Regarding Article VII, and consistent with Canada's policy of promoting an effective non-proliferation régime based on the NPT, Canada has been strongly supportive of the concept of nuclear-weapon-free zones (NWFZ) where they command the support of the countries in the area and promote regional and international stability. Such zones are not a fully satisfactory alternative to the ratification of the NPT by some of the countries of the areas concerned; nonetheless, in the absence of universal or near-universal adherence to the NPT, the creation of such zones can make a significant contribution to the objective of preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Canada has supported United Nations resolutions calling for such zones in Africa, the Middle East and South Asia and has welcomed the very important recent declaration of the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone. Canada has also backed measures which would consolidate the establishment of a NWFZ in Latin America in accordance with the Treaty of Tlatelolco, in spite of Canadian opposition to a provision in the Treaty which allows for the explosion of nuclear devices for so-called peaceful purposes.

In this regard, under Article V, we reiterate Canada's view that the economic value of the peaceful applications of nuclear explosions remains in doubt. We believe that the independent possession of peaceful nuclear explosive devices by non-nuclear weapon states would pose a threat to regional and international security.

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