

CHAPITRE XV/CHAPTER XV
ÉNERGIE ATOMIQUE
ATOMIC ENERGY

673.

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*Le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
à l'ambassadeur aux États-Unis*

*Secretary of State for External Affairs
to Ambassador in United States*

TELEGRAM ET-25

Ottawa, January 7, 1960

CONFIDENTIAL. OPIMMEDIATE.

Reference: Your Telegram 3163 December 30.

Repeat Vienna, London, Geneva, T&C (Information).

SAFEGUARDS: USA NOTE OF DECEMBER 29¹

As you are aware, the present situation of the Canadian uranium industry requires that we give increasingly careful scrutiny to any proposals that may appear to impose extra or discriminatory restrictions on the industry in its search for export markets, even though such proposals may be intended to further our objective of achieving a generally accepted and workable system of controls for nuclear exports. Owing to their current heavy schedule of meetings, Ministers have not had an opportunity to consider the USA note and we are therefore unable for the present to make any formal reply. You may, however, speak informally to the State Department along the lines given below, emphasizing that Ministerial approval has not been given and that the following comments represent the preliminary reaction of officials.

2. As regards the proposal for the registration of nuclear exports, there are several points on which we consider that some clarification would be desirable. In the first place, we should be interested in knowing whether the USA proposes that the supplier nations seek agreement by all Agency members "to register sales of natural uranium" for any sizes of transaction or only for transactions above some established exemption limit. The question would then arise whether the safeguard exemption limit is to be established on the basis of total imports by any one state and if so, at what stage it is proposed to register the transaction, since it is possible to envisage a case where a bilateral uranium sale would have to be suspended in mid-course because the Agency had discovered that its completion would raise the importing country's cumulative total above the exemption limit. The problem would not occur if the exemption limit were based on the cumulative total of exports by one specific state to another. Another point on which we are not entirely clear is what is meant by the stated willingness of the USA to register exports "subject to USA safeguards," since all parties to an agreement of the kind proposed would presumably have to use the same criteria, whether Agency safeguards, USA safeguards, or some other agreed criteria.

3. With further reference to the proposal for registration of nuclear exports, we note that, except as it applies to the USA, it is confined to sales of natural uranium. We would question

¹ Voir/See Volume 26, document 479.