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The Disarmament Bulletin

A review of Canada's arms control and disarmament activities

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Number 21 - Summer 1993

Canada Deplores North Korea's Withdrawal from NPT



International Atomic Energy Agency inspectors at work. North Korea's unwillingness to submit two suspected, but undeclared, nuclear facilities to IAEA inspection has prompted it to withdraw from the NPT.

IAEA photo

Canada has expressed grave concern about North Korea's decision to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). "By withdrawing from the NPT, North Korea is isolating itself from the international system put in place to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons," said External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall on March 12, the date North Korea deposited its notice of withdrawal with the UN Security Council. "Canada rejects as clearly ridiculous the North Korean government's rationale that the move is a measure against aggressive American military manoeuvres. I call upon North Korea to rescind this retrograde move."

The withdrawal will take effect June 12. In the meantime, North Korea remains subject to the NPT and to its associated safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Prior to its decision, North Korea had resisted the IAEA's efforts to conduct a "special inspection" of two suspected, but undeclared, nuclear facilities, as provided for under its safeguards agreement with the Agency.

On March 31, the IAEA Board of Governors met and passed a resolution — co-sponsored by Canada — finding North Korea in non-compliance with its safeguards agreement and referring the matter to the UN Security Council.

Nuclear Non-Proliferation: Progress and Prospects

One year ago, in a speech at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore (May 21, 1992), Prime Minister Brian Mulroney called for stronger international efforts to stop nuclear proliferation and outlined an agenda for action. This issue of the *Bulletin* looks at the progress made and the prospects for future action in a number of areas identified by the Prime Minister, including IAEA safeguards reform, preparations for the NPT Extension Conference, cuts in existing nuclear arsenals, controls on ballistic missile technology, a nuclear test ban and regional security cooperation.

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