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LETTER TO MS. MARGARET LAURENCE

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs today released the following text of a letter to Ms. Margaret Laurence:

"Dear Ms. Laurence,

I have read your open letter concerning possible tritium exports from Canada and believe that a number of the misleading allegations therein should be refuted. In my view allegations of that nature do not contribute to the informed and comprehensive discussions desirable on matters of government policy and merely serve to confuse and mislead those exposed to them.

First, you make sweeping statements about past and current nuclear cooperation by Canada without making any effort to point out that Canadian Government policy and activities in this field have evolved significantly, not least of all in response to India's misuse of Canadian nuclear technology in 1974. Thus Canadian nuclear cooperation now only takes place within the framework of a comprehensive non-proliferation policy which requires, as a condition for nuclear cooperation with Canada, that all non-nuclear-weapon states must make a binding international commitment to non-proliferation, either by adhering to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) or by taking an equivalent step, and must accept International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards on all their peaceful nuclear activities, current and future. In addition all of Canada's nuclear partners, whether non-nuclear-weapon states or nuclear-weapon states, must conclude with Canada a nuclear cooperation agreement specific to clearly identified Canadian material, nuclear material, equipment, and technology and incorporating a number of non-proliferation and safeguards provisions. The Canadian Government has learned from its experiences in the field of nuclear