

Mr. Jay observed that about 100 countries now adhered to the NPT. These countries, he said, had "clearly rejected the mistaken notion that either the possession of nuclear weapons or the retention of an option to acquire them is a guarantee of security in some way essential to national sovereignty and the reinforcement of national prestige".

"It is cause for the deepest concern", he said, "that this encouraging perspective is not yet shared by certain other states advanced in nuclear technology or in the process of acquiring that technology". He appealed to such states to "reassess their reasons for not making a firm commitment to the non-proliferation objective either by adhering to the NPT or in some other equally binding and verifiable way".

Safeguards

Mr. Jay declared that Canada was "determined to ensure that Canadian nuclear assistance would be used solely for peaceful non-explosive purposes" and that Canada would continue to press for the further strengthening and broadening of the scope of nuclear safeguards. "In Canada's view", he said, "safeguards will not be fully effective until they cover all peaceful nuclear activities in all states."

Peaceful Nuclear Explosions

Mr. Jay noted that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was giving detailed study to the application of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes. Canada nonetheless remained to be convinced that there are significant potential benefits in so-called peaceful nuclear explosions and doubted "that any benefits that may exist would outweigh the inherent risks".

"Certainly there can be no question", he said, "that such explosions would have crucial arms control implications". It had been clearly recognized in previous UN resolutions that it was not possible to develop such devices for peaceful application without at the same time acquiring nuclear weapons capability. Canada sought international arrangements to govern peaceful nuclear explosions that are fully consistent with the NPT and other international legal instruments.

Nuclear Weapon Free Zones

Mr. Jay confirmed Canada's support in principle for the nuclear weapon free zone concept. He stressed, however, that the value of a specific nuclear weapon free zone proposal or arrangement would depend on the support of most countries of the area concerned including the major military powers of