

The practice of enriching uranium purchased from Canada in the Soviet Union is fully consistent with Canada's nuclear export and non-proliferation policy, and has been taking place for several years with the full knowledge and prior consent of the Canadian Government based on the condition that the enriched product and depleted uranium tails are retransferred from the Soviet Union to one of Canada's nuclear partners. Although this practice does not require any non-proliferation and legal framework particularly as both Canada and the USSR are signatories to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, both countries have wanted to establish such a framework in the interests of ensuring a thorough non-proliferation regime. The nuclear cooperation Agreement signed in Moscow today accomplishes this objective. The Agreement stipulates that Canadian uranium shipped to the USSR shall not be used for any nuclear explosive device or other military purpose. It also provides for the direct exchange of information between Canada and the USSR on the transfer of Canadian uranium into and out of the Soviet Union.

Canada's Ambassador to the USSR, Mr. Vernon G. Turner, signed the Agreement today on behalf of Canada.