

In co-operation with other international organizations, the International Atomic Energy Agency has promoted research in respect of the application of nuclear energy to food and agriculture, medicine, and radiation biology. It has also drawn up, promulgated and assisted in the application of international codes and standards to protect the health and safety of persons coming into contact with nuclear materials and facilities.

By means of scientific symposia and panels the Agency has continued to promote the exchange of information on nuclear research. Recognizing the importance of the trend toward the complete mechanization of information systems, the Agency is currently considering the possible establishment of an international nuclear information system which would integrate the main national and regional documentation centres.

Another Agency function, which is of paramount importance, is the establishment and maintenance of an international safeguards system to ensure that nuclear materials and facilities intended for peaceful purposes are not diverted to military ends. Canada has given wholehearted support to the Agency's activity in this area and to efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. It is the policy of the Canadian Government that contracts providing for the export of nuclear materials and equipment cannot be concluded without prior agreement with the Governments of recipient countries to ensure, with appropriate verification and control, that the material or equipment is intended for peaceful purposes only.

It follows, therefore, that Canada welcomed the statement of the Director-General at the Eleventh Session of the General Conference of the IAEA when he indicated that the Agency has an important part to play in the implementation of safeguards related to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons; and that the Agency would continually review its procedures and practices to ensure their maximum effectiveness and to take account of constantly changing situations. Canada also welcomed the statement of the President of the General Conference concerning the work of the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee in Geneva, and the task which the Agency might be called on to perform regarding safeguards arrangements. The President of the General Conference expressed the view that such a task was in keeping with the Agency's objective, and that he was therefore confident that the Conference would wish him to express the Agency's readiness to undertake that task and to make such preparations as might be necessary to enable it to discharge the wider responsibilities which would devolve upon it.