

Trade agreements with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria expired in 1969 and contacts were made with the governments of these countries in order to explore prospects for renewing the agreements. During the year, Canada initiated discussions with Tunisia and Cameroun with a view to concluding trade agreements; and on April 22 Canada and Thailand exchanged notes concluding a *modus vivendi* to regulate commercial relations between the two countries.

Transport, Communications and Energy Division

Atomic Energy

During the past year, Canadian officials and scientists continued to participate in a variety of conferences and symposia relating to various aspects of nuclear energy, including the thirteenth general conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which was held in Vienna September 23 - 29, 1969. Canada was again designated to hold one of the five seats on the Board of Governors reserved for the members most advanced in the technology of atomic energy, including the production of source materials. Canada has been a member of the Board of Governors every year since the Agency's inception and has given it active support in all of its activities. From 1966 to 1969, Mr. J.A. McCordick, the Canadian Ambassador to Austria, served as Canada's representative on the Board. He will be succeeded early in 1970, both as Ambassador to Austria and as Canadian Governor on the Board, by Mr. N.F.H. Berlis. Canada's representative on the Board provides the principal channel of communication from the Agency to the Department of External Affairs and other departments and agencies of the Government interested in atomic energy matters. As in past years, Canada continued to provide highly-qualified atomic experts to serve on the Agency's staff and to assist the Agency in its technical assistance activities.

Canada's bilateral atomic energy relations with other countries also continued to develop during the year and there were visits and exchanges of atomic specialists with several countries. Uranium sales continued throughout the year as Canadian uranium-mining industries announced arrangements to sell substantial amounts to European and Japanese customers. The Canadian-designed nuclear-power station (CANDU) is attracting growing interest in other countries contemplating the construction of nuclear reactors to generate electrical energy, and Atomic Energy of Canada Limited is active in international competitive bidding in this field. Of particular interest in 1969 was the sale of a 40-megawatt nuclear research reactor by Atomic Energy of Canada Limited to the Chinese Atomic Energy Council in Taiwan. It was the first commercial sale of a reactor since AECL assumed responsibility last year for marketing Canadian reactors abroad. The reactor is under the safeguards system of the International Atomic Energy Agency to ensure it is used for peaceful purposes only. The Taiwan research reactor will be an updated and improved version of the NRX reactor at Atomic Energy of Canada Limited's Chalk River Nuclear Laboratories and the *Cirus* reactor, built co-operatively by Canada and India near Bombay for the Indian Department of Atomic Energy.