

CHAPITRE XI/CHAPTER XI  
ÉNERGIE ATOMIQUE  
ATOMIC ENERGY

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*Note du sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures  
pour le premier ministre*

*Memorandum from Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs  
to Prime Minister*

SECRET

[Ottawa], May 11, 1959

SAFEGUARDS ON NUCLEAR EXPORTS

It has been the policy of the Canadian Government to sell uranium abroad only to the United States, to the United Kingdom, and to countries with which we have concluded bilateral agreements providing for safeguards against the diversion of nuclear materials to military uses. This policy, which has been developed in the closest consultation with the Governments of the U.K. and U.S.A. and is, of course, also followed by them, has been designed primarily to prevent the indiscriminate spread — or indeed any growth — of nuclear weapons' capacity.

2. However as the development of atomic energy and the discovery of uranium progress, more and more countries must agree to apply the safeguards system if it is to be effective. Our aim therefore has been to establish a universal system through the International Atomic Energy Agency. The Agency has been working on this question, and it is now to be discussed at the June meetings of its Board of Governors.

3. In the meantime, we have been trying, along with the U.K. and U.S.A. authorities, to evolve a common position on safeguards and to bind other principal producing countries to it. Our aim has been to ensure that no such country sells nuclear materials without provision for safeguards and that we all take a common position when the matter is discussed in the IAEA. To this end, we have met privately with U.S.A., U.K., South African and Australian officials intermittently since the fall of 1957, and somewhat more formal meetings of these five countries were held in Ottawa in November 1958<sup>516</sup> and in London last February-March. These meetings reached certain basic conclusions. Although governments are not committed, it is now necessary to inform the other participants whether these conclusions are acceptable to the Canadian Government. This is necessary if we are to persuade the other principal suppliers of nuclear materials, particularly France, Belgium, Portugal and Germany, to agree to the same safeguards. A meeting of officials of the original five countries, mentioned above, plus the other main Western European suppliers is now tentatively arranged for May 27 in London.<sup>517</sup> (France and Belgium have both been rather elusive on this question. We have just learned that Belgium is selling about 2 ½ tons of uranium to India and a similar amount to Japan without safeguards.)

<sup>516</sup> Voir/See Volume 24, Document 567.

<sup>517</sup> La réunion a eu lieu du 27 au 29 mai./The meeting was held from May 27 to 29.