

We interpret the Treaty to preclude parties from conducting such explosions themselves, although of course not from deriving full benefits of peaceful nuclear explosive technology. As Mr. Martin said on September 27 in respect of the draft non-proliferation treaty:

"There is no distinguishing between military and civil nuclear explosive technology, between the destructive power of the nuclear bomb and a nuclear excavating charge. A....provision for peaceful nuclear explosions would represent a fatal loophole by means of which non-nuclear states could acquire military nuclear technology. That is not to say that we should not expect nuclear powers, perhaps in this Assembly, to give an explicit undertaking to extend nuclear explosive services on reasonable terms upon request once they become technically feasible."

We think it should be possible to work out satisfactory arrangements in the context of non-proliferation negotiations in the Eighteen Nation Disarmament Committee of the United Nations.

In this same connection, I should like to emphasize that we interpret Article 17 of the Latin American treaty as guaranteeing parties unrestricted right to develop and apply nuclear energy for all legitimate civil purposes. As a country with an advanced peaceful nuclear capability, Canada is particularly conscious of the role nuclear energy is destined to play in the economic and social progress of the world.

Canada wishes to commend the states which brought the Latin American treaty into being. We think it is a unique achievement and an example of what can be accomplished in the sphere of nuclear arms control when the will to make progress exists. Let us hope we can all benefit from this example and go on to contain the spread of nuclear weapons through an international agreement of universal scope--through a non-proliferation treaty--which we shall subsequently be considering in this Committee.