

and 23 April to 4 May 1990), are scheduled to be held prior to the Review Conference.

Canada has always played a leading role in the quest for strict non-proliferation measures. While Canada assisted the US in the development of the world's first nuclear weapons during World War II, it was also the first nation to forego the option of developing them despite possession of the capacity to do so. One of the three states participating in the Agreed Declaration on Atomic Energy in 1945, Canada also took part in the negotiation of the IAEA, its statute, and the Non-Proliferation Treaty itself. The maintenance and strengthening of the non-proliferation regime has been articulated as one of the six specific arms control goals of the Canadian Government.

CURRENT CANADIAN POSITION

Present Canadian policy on nuclear non-proliferation is based on changes introduced by Ottawa in 1974 and 1976, imposing tighter controls over nuclear exports.

Under this policy, nuclear cooperation will be allowed only with those non-nuclear weapon states that have made a general commitment to non-proliferation by either ratifying the NPT, or accepting full-scope IAEA safeguards on their nuclear activities. Moreover, Canada will export nuclear materials only to those states (both nuclear and non-nuclear) which have undertaken to accept, in a formal agreement, a number of additional requirements designed to minimize proliferation risks. Such states must assure that Canadian-supplied nuclear items (e.g., nuclear material, heavy water, nuclear equipment, and technology) will not be used in connection with the production of nuclear explosive devices. In addition, they must be willing to accept fallback safeguards in the event that a situation arises where the IAEA is unable to continue to perform its safeguard functions. These fallback safeguards include controls over the re-transfer of Canadian-supplied nuclear items, and the reprocessing of spent fuel of Canadian origin.¹ Since 1976, these requirements have been negotiated with the United States, Euratom, Australia, Japan and the Republic of Korea.

In 1978 Canada also began work on an extensive programme aimed at developing and improving the verification mechanisms of the NPT. This initiative, known as the Canadian Safeguards Research and Development Programme, was designed to assist the IAEA in the development of safeguards systems for CANDU reactors. Work under this programme, which received a five-year budget of approximately \$11 million, is reported to be well-advanced.²

On 28 July 1988, Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark strongly reaffirmed Canada's support for the NPT. Recalling that July marked the twentieth anniversary of the Treaty, Mr. Clark noted that it continued to be of major importance, providing for legally binding commitments to prevent nuclear proliferation and the facilitation of international cooperation on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

¹ Department of External Affairs, "Canada's Nuclear Non-proliferation Policy," 1985, p. 13.

² "Canada's Role in Verification," *The Disarmament Bulletin* (Supplement, Summer-Fall 1987), p. 3.