



# Statements and Speeches

---

No. 76/31

## CANADA TIGHTENS ITS NUCLEAR CONTROLS

A Statement on Motions by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Don Jamieson, in the House of Commons, December 22, 1976.

I wish to announce a change in Canada's nuclear-export policy, a matter of central concern to the people and Government of Canada, raising as it does fundamental issues affecting world economic growth and world peace. In this Christmas season, our thoughts naturally turn to peace and the brotherhood of man. It is easy to pay tribute to these fundamental goals with words; it is more important that we do so with our actions. It is a challenge to the Government of Canada to respond to the demand of Canadian public opinion that this country exercise its influence towards the betterment of the global society in which we and our descendants must live. In the area of nuclear policy, there is no simple answer or it would have long since been adopted. It is rather the need to balance energy requirements, the advance of technology, that, regardless of what we do, will place nuclear capability within the reach of a wider and wider group of countries, and the need to establish a sound international framework that will curb the spread of nuclear weapons and yet take into account the legitimate economic aspirations of sovereign states. I wish to make quite clear, however, that the first priority -- indeed, the overriding priority -- is to prevent the spread of instruments of destruction.

In this context, I am pleased to announce that the Canadian Government has decided upon a further strengthening of the safeguards requirements that apply to the export of Canadian reactors and uranium. Shipments to non-nuclear-weapon states under future contracts will be restricted to those that ratify the Non-Proliferation Treaty or otherwise accept international safeguards on their entire nuclear programs. It follows from this policy that Canada will terminate nuclear shipments to any non-nuclear-weapon state that explodes a nuclear device.

This requirement is in addition to those outlined in December 1974. The purpose of Canadian safeguards policy is simple and straightforward. We wish to avoid contributing to the proliferation of nuclear weapons while, at the same time, satisfying the legitimate requirements for uranium and technology of countries that demonstrate the intention of restricting Canadian assistance only to peaceful non-explosive uses. Nuclear-export policy already requires binding assurances that what Canada provides will not be used for

---