

Figure 6 Safeguards As Seen Through the Eyes of a Canadian Former IAEA Inspector — Mr. Allen Rose

Although the next inspection trip is three weeks away, there is little enough time to prepare. A trip of three weeks will entail inspections at perhaps nine different facilities and cover perhaps three different countries. The itinerary is never the same two trips in a row. Travel and accommodation arrangements have to be made. Visas have to be obtained. Immunization has to be looked into. Fortunately, the IAEA has an excellent support staff for looking after the details but you have to tell them where and when.

With that taken care of, the actual inspection task can start. Some of the facilities involved will likely be new to you. Facility design information must be obtained from the Agency's registry and studied to the point of familiarity. You must appear to know what you are doing in front of the operator; otherwise his superiors will hear about it and so will yours. It is vital for cooperation not to waste the operator's time. After all, you're not a productive element in his day.

Once the facilities' designs are familiar, it's time to recall the reports from the last inspection. These tell you what procedures were followed by the last inspector. A cooperative operator will have the necessary documentation ready for you on the basis of what happened last time. The past reports tell you two things. First, the hard facts of inventories, material types and locations, and the instrumentation required to verify the numbers. Second, the unofficial notes of the previous inspector. Sometimes the