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INTERIM AGREEMENT RELATING TO CANADA-UNITED STATES NUCLEAR CO-OPERATION

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Don Jamieson, announces the conclusion of an interim agreement relating to nuclear cooperation between the Government of Canada and the Government of the United States of America. The interim agreement, embodied in an Exchange of Notes signed today by Mr. Jamieson and U.S. Ambassador Thomas Enders, meets the immediate requirements of both countries and will permit continued nuclear cooperation and trade between the two countries. It will permit Canadian uranium to be used in U.S. civil nuclear reactors. It will complement provisions of the 1955 Canada-U.S. Nuclear Cooperation Agreement and a March 1976 Exchange of Notes on this subject, and will remain in force until a new cooperation agreement, for which negotiations will begin immediately, is in place.

In the agreement the United States acknowledges Canada's leadership role in matters of non-proliferation. The text also refers to both countries' commitment to peaceful uses of materials transferred under the agreement and to the application of IAEA safeguards, provisions consistent with Canadian requirements on reprocessing or retransfer from one country of nuclear material originating in the other; and the United States' awareness that exports from Canada of technology and certain items of equipment will take place only under safeguards, and that provisions dealing with these matters will form part of the negotiation of the new cooperation agreement.

Concerning Canadian material transferred from the United States to third countries, there is provision for the application of Canadian controls before the U.S. agrees to the third country retransferring or reprocessing the material.

The agreement concluded today is a further step in implementing Canada's nuclear export policies announced in 1974 and 1976. Canada will continue to pursue these objectives both in nuclear negotiations with other countries and within the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation exercise where, in concert with the United States and other developed and developing countries, Canada will study the implications of the wider use of sensitive technologies to meet world energy needs with a view to developing a more adequate international safeguards regime.