

NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION AND SAFEGUARDS

During the past three years Canada has been renegotiating its nuclear cooperation agreements with its nuclear customers, a process begun late in 1974 following a review of Canadian nuclear policy in the wake of the Indian nuclear test. Agreement was reached last year with two uranium customers, Finland and Spain, and two reactor customers, South Korea and Argentina, and this year a Nuclear Cooperation Agreement was signed with another uranium customer, Sweden. Discussions have proceeded with EURATOM, Japan and Switzerland.

At the same time Canada has recognized that its bilateral efforts on the non-proliferation front would be ineffective unless the internationally acceptable minimum level of safeguards could be raised to a parallel level of stringency. To promote such international standards Canada has actively supported the activities of the International Atomic Energy Agency and has met with the nuclear supplier nations to discuss safeguards policy. In addition, Canada intends to participate in the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation proposed by President Carter at the London Summit which, over the next two years, will examine means of using nuclear energy to meet world energy needs while avoiding the danger of the spread of nuclear weapons.

The Government has continued to pursue its policy, outlined by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources on December 20, 1974, of selling uranium and CANDU reactors under strict safeguards to selected customers. Furthermore, on December 22, 1976, the Secretary of State for External Affairs announced in the House of Commons that 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 policy is in keeping with Canada's commitments under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to export nuclear items only under safeguards and to ensure that the benefits of lower cost energy which nuclear power promises is shared by all nations.