

agreement with Argentina whereby they would pay us additional funds for the nuclear plant which has already been largely installed in Argentina. There was no new agreement involved. In fact, when the Argentinians raised with me the question of whether we would lower our standards in order to do further business with them, I told them quite straightforwardly that there was no possibility of that whatsoever, and that if that was what they wanted, they would not be able to purchase from us.

We are also in the process of strengthening our non-proliferation treaties with other countries. When Mr. Vance was in Ottawa, I was able to sign with him a treaty whereby the United States and Canada accepted further restraints in our use of nuclear technology and nuclear materials which we exchange from time to time.

The same was true of Japan. In that case, we had already signed the treaty, but one of the last acts of the Japanese Parliament before it dissolved for the election was to ratify the protocol which Japan had signed with us to upgrade these nuclear safeguards and we are now negotiating even with countries that we trust. We want to apply additional safeguards to everybody in the world. We can't pick and choose among countries, so we have to apply them to everybody.

We intend to place a great deal of stress on this issue in the months to come. We think that even at a time when it is more difficult than at other times to arrive at agreement on weapons, that we will be able to do it with respect to the non-proliferation of nuclear materials and technology.

Also, there are the mutual and balanced force reductions that are being discussed in Vienna. These are a good example of an arms-control activity in which Canada plays a direct role. Since 1973, NATO and the Warsaw Pact countries have been seeking agreement on ways to reduce the levels of the opposing forces in Central Europe. Although, we have not yet got agreement in these negotiations, both sides find the dialogue useful, and Canada certainly continues to believe that a reduction of forces in Europe by both NATO and Warsaw Pact countries would ease East-West tensions and improve confidence. Besides being important in itself, this could lead to further progress in arms control and disarmament.

The limitation of conventional arms transfers continues also to be a priority for Canada. Over the years we have implemented a restrictive policy on the export of military equipment, and this is a good example of an area in which Canada makes its own decisions. When we reflect on the large number of wars since 1945, all fought with conventional weapons, this obviously becomes an area requiring increased attention. Canada has urged greater involvement by the United Nations through — as a first step — the collection of information about conventional arms transfers through reporting by states. There is strong opposition to controlling the production and transfer of conventional weapons, but Canada will continue to press for greater openness and, subsequently, for agreed measures of control.

Canada is also contributing to current international negotiations and other disarmament work in other ways. We are still interested in pursuing the strategy of suffocation announced by the Prime Minister at the Special United Nations Session on

Conventional
arms policy