

I raised when I spoke in the House on March 23. Canada has insisted that any co-operation in the nuclear field be fully covered by safeguards that satisfy the Canadian people that Canadian assistance will not be diverted to nuclear explosive purposes. This Canadian objective could not be achieved in these negotiations.

Both sides have made a concerted effort in good faith to reach a basis for agreement. However, the Canadian Government has decided that it could agree to make new nuclear shipments only on an undertaking by India that Canadian supplies, whether of technology, nuclear equipment or materials, whether past or future, should not be used for the manufacture of any nuclear-explosive device. In the present case, this undertaking would require that all nuclear facilities, involving Canadian technology, in India be safeguarded. We should be prepared to reach agreement with India on this basis only. In view of earlier discussions, however, we have concluded that the Indian Government would not be prepared to accept safeguards on other than the RAPP reactors, which are already under international safeguards.

In making this statement regarding our nuclear co-operation with India, I should like also to refer briefly to the other aspects of our relationship. There is no question but that our nuclear differences are profound; nevertheless, nuclear affairs form only one part of what has been a broad and important relationship. The decisions reached by the Government concerning one aspect of our relations are not intended to preclude the pursuit of other elements of mutual interest in our overall links with India. The Canadian Government remains prepared to review these elements and to pursue our common objectives in both bilateral and multilateral fields because we believe that our ties with this important developing Commonwealth nation must not be allowed to lapse through any lack of will on our part.