

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity provided by the motion to comment on Canadian policy with respect to nuclear sales abroad and to underline the dedication and interest of the Canadian government in the cause of non-proliferation. As Honourable Members have said, nuclear proliferation is a danger in the world. It is a broad, political problem which arises from the transfer of one state's nuclear technology to another and also from the vertical proliferation in the arsenals of the superpowers of the world. It seems to me Honourable Members took a limited view of Canada's role in coping with the problem, particularly of the reasons for Canada's transferring nuclear technology in certain cases to other countries of the world in discharge of treaty obligations.

The subject is extensive. I should like to deal with it under the following headings: first, why are we in the business of transferring nuclear technology, nuclear material and nuclear equipment; second, what effect would the moratorium which has been advocated by all previous speakers have internationally and domestically; third, there is the safeguard system, what it can do and what it cannot do; fourth, what is Canada's role in the London club and what were the recent conclusions of the suppliers' group; and, finally, there is the special case of India.

As a country and as a signatory to the non-proliferation treaty we have undertaken to transfer technology to other countries for peaceful purposes. We all know that at present throughout the world nuclear power is the major alternative to hydro resources and fossil fuels. We also know that a number of developing countries and developed countries require nuclear power to further their economic and social development. So far in this debate not one speaker has mentioned the cry of the world's developing countries for access to nuclear technology. Most developing countries have adhered to the non-proliferation treaty. They say, "We have undertaken these obligations but developed, industrialized countries of the world are failing in their responsibilities to make available to us nuclear technology." That technology is urgently needed in certain developing countries as a source of power. It is not urgently needed in all of them, though it is in some.

When the Honourable Member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands recited our association with countries such as India, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, and Argentina, he failed to underline that each of those countries is a developing country urgently in need of additional power resources in order to maintain their development and inch forward a bit in humanity's struggle for an improved standard of living. About this aspect not one word was said. Every spokesman on the other side ignored it totally. The Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) put the matter clearly when he said in his speech to the Nuclear Association, in Ottawa on June 17, 1975: