

with the United Nations Environment Program.

I also wish to take this occasion to commend the Agency for the very useful work it has undertaken with respect to the application of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes. Canada fully supported the conclusion of the final declaration of the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, which declared the Agency to be the appropriate international body through which potential benefits from peaceful applications of nuclear explosions should be made available to non-nuclear-weapon states and urged the Agency to expedite work on identifying and examining the important legal issues involved in, and to begin consideration of, the structure and content of the special international agreement or agreements envisaged in Article V of the non-proliferation treaty. We share the view of the review conference that the Agency should broaden its consideration of this question to include, within its area of competence, all aspects and implications of the practical applications of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes. We welcome the establishment by the Agency of an Advisory Group on Peaceful Nuclear Explosions, and shall follow its work closely.

While Canadian international development-assistance policy continues to be based, as in past years, on a preference for central funding of United Nations activities, we have once again pledged our full assessed share to the Agency's Voluntary Fund for Technical Assistance in 1976. Such an increase from the previous year (in which I am happy to note that we were able to contribute somewhat in excess of our assessed share) is justified, in our minds, by the growing needs of the developing countries for support by the Agency and the unfortunate erosion that inflation has wrought over the past year in the resources available.

In a statement to the NPT Review Conference, Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, noted:

"Canada will continue to play its full part in contributing to the International Atomic Energy Agency's General Fund for Technical Assistance and to the United Nations Development Program, which also finances projects implemented by the Agency."

He went on to say, however:

"It is Canada's intention to provide, within its overall aid criteria and priorities, increased amounts of technical assistance in the nuclear area, bilaterally or through appropriate multilateral channels such as

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