

Canada's future in uranium is secure

"Canada will continue to be a reliable uranium supplier and will strive to make non-proliferation controls — which are absolutely essential to uranium commerce — as workable as possible," Canadian Energy Minister Marc Lalonde told the Uranium Institute in an address in London, England, September 4.

The Canadian government has a "strong and continuing commitment to nuclear power, but the solutions to the industry's problems in Canada and in other countries will not be easy", said Mr. Lalonde.

High standards needed

Nuclear power and uranium developments must maintain high standards to ensure the safety of workers and the public, he told the institute. Governments must also continue to educate the public about the risks of the nuclear fuel cycle relative to other energy sources, said the minister.

Canada is engaged in research into the disposal of high-level nuclear fuel wastes, which are a major concern in many countries, said Mr. Lalonde. At present research is being conducted into the feasibility of deep geological disposal of such wastes in the stable rock formations of the Canadian Shield. The wastes would be sealed from the biosphere by a series of engineered and natural barriers: the matrix in which the fuel is immobilized, the container, the buffer material, the backfill, and the natural geological barrier.

"Since its inception our program has provided for safe, cheap and reliable storage at the reactor site for several decades so that we are under no urgent pressure to dispose of the wastes in the near term. We can take the time to investigate this problem thoroughly," said the minister.

On the subject of proliferation of nuclear weapons, Mr. Lalonde said that an effective and comprehensive non-proliferation policy is necessary to maintain public support for nuclear power.

Commitment to controls remains

"Canada's commitment to effective non-proliferation controls remains unchanged. But we recognize that the procedure for implementing these controls can frequently be improved and made more efficient. We certainly plan to do everything we can in this regard," he said.

Mr. Lalonde noted that Canadian nuclear co-operation agreements with other countries contain provisions where

by reprocessing is subject to mutual agreement by both parties.

The minister added that a recent assessment of Canada's uranium resources indicated that while the estimated quantities of uranium in known Canadian deposits are nearly the same as last year's, there has been a significant net increase in these estimates since 1974. This increase is equivalent to more than three times the amount of uranium approved for export during the same period. "The resource base which underpins our capability as a supplier is secure," said Mr. Lalonde.

French-language TV extended

An Ottawa area television station has become the centre for broadcasting French-language programs *via* satellite to the remote regions of Canada.

CHOT-TV broadcasts programs, produced by the member stations of the TVA network, which has been offering nationwide programming in French since last February.

There are two programming schedules, or approximately 60 hours of broadcast programs produced by the nine stations of the TVA network: CFTM Montreal, CFCM Quebec, CJPM Chicoutimi, CHLT Sherbrooke, CHEM Trois-Rivières, CFER Rimouski, CHOT Hull, CIMT Rivière-du-Loup, and CFEM Rouyn-Noranda.

Every week the affiliated stations send their best local programs with entirely Canadian content to CHOT-TV, which broadcasts them by *Anik* satellite. Programming also includes regional broadcasts and House of Commons debates.

Communications system planned

Canadian government scientists and engineers are testing a new satellite communications terminal for Canadian Forces ships.

The flexible, low-cost UHF (ultra-high frequency) satellite terminal, which may be ready for widespread use by 1984, will be used by Canada's navy.

The experimental shipborne terminal is expected to provide reliable radio communications for Canadian Forces ships and, at the same time, be operated with various types of UHF radio equipment used by allied navies.

The system transmits a variety of data rates, making it compatible with transmission from Canada's proposed MSAT satel-

lite or from the American FLTSATCOM, GAPFILLER or LEASAT satellites.

A key feature of the system is that the terminal is computer controlled making it more flexible. The unit can be tuned over a wide range of frequencies for transmitting and receiving signals, so it can be used within the frequency range of a particular satellite. The entire terminal consists of one rack of equipment installed on the ship and a similar rack for the ground installation.

Testing on the system began in 1979 and it was used also as part of a successful voice circuit demonstration between Halifax and Adelaide, Australia using two satellites — FLTSATCOM and GAPFILLER. The system is currently undergoing further testing by the Department of National Defence (DND) which has funded the project. The department hopes to transfer the technology to Canadian industry through contracts for development of an industrial prototype and equip Canadian Forces ships with the terminal starting in 1984.

Contribution to UN relief agency



Canada's Ambassador to Austria and Permanent Representative to the International Organizations in Vienna Maurice Copithorne (left) presents a cheque for \$2.4 million (U.S.) to Olof Rydebeck, Commissioner-General for the United Nations Relief Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). In addition to the cash contribution, Canada is giving the agency flour valued at more than \$3.7 million in 1981. Since UNRWA began operations in 1950, Canada has contributed more than \$56 million to the agency as of the end of 1980.