

CANADIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS



CAUTION: ADVANCE TEXT

PRESS RELEASE No. 41

FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY

November 2, 1965

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Press Office
750 Third Avenue
New York
Yukon 6-5740

Canadian Position on Safeguards
for Atomic Reactors

Text of statement exercising right of reply
made in the First Committee by the Canadian
Representative, General E. L. M. Burns, on
Tuesday, November 2, 1965

In his statement on October 29th, in this Committee the distinguished representative of Pakistan made some remarks about the role of Canada in India's atomic energy programme. Although a number of points were presented in terms which could have left a misleading impression, I shall not attempt to discuss them in detail. To do so would inevitably lead to argument about highly technical matters which would be out of place here. Instead I shall deal only with the two principal matters raised which were that the bilateral safeguards arrangements for the Rajasthan power station are inadequate and that there is a serious risk of diversion of nuclear material to atomic weapons.

There can surely be no misunderstanding about the general Canadian position on safeguards. Canada was one of the pioneers in the development of the safeguards system of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Since the founding of the Agency, Canada has persistently devoted much effort to developing the system. The revised safeguards system only came into effect recently. During the period when the Agency's safeguards did not extend to large reactors, Canada was among those countries leading the way to acceptance of safeguards by concluding a number of bilateral agreements embodying strict safeguards provisions. Now that large reactors can be covered by the IAEA system we have started the process of transferring to the Agency the administration of safeguards under these bilaterals. The first such transfer (under our agreement with Japan) was announced at the IAEA Conference in Tokyo in September and there is reason to hope that others will follow soon.