

International nuclear commerce and nuclear non-proliferation

Within the framework of Canada's international nuclear policies, the Canadian nuclear industry actively pursued nuclear sales with a number of countries during 1981. Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. (AECL) entered into a contract with the Romanian state trading company, Romenergo, to cover the supply of engineering and other services for a second CANDU reactor (contracts for the first reactor were signed in 1978). A major CANDU marketing effort was launched in Mexico which had invited comprehensive bids from a number of international nuclear suppliers, including AECL, for nuclear reactors with a generating capacity of 1800-2600 MW. A Japanese government study of CANDU as a possible component of that country's nuclear program was upgraded into a comprehensive technical evaluation. Other possible CANDU markets that received attention were Yugoslavia, Korea and Indonesia.

Uranium exports were significant despite a considerable softening of the international uranium market. Canada produced 7,746 tonnes of uranium in 1981, about 90 per cent of which was exported. Canada's major uranium customers continued to be Japan, Western Europe and the United States.

Canada's non-proliferation policy was reflected in nuclear co-operation agreements with a number of new nuclear partners. An agreement with Australia was signed on March 9 and one with the Philippines, on June 19. Exchanges of diplomatic notes with Euratom and Sweden which implemented a long-term approach to the reprocessing of Canadian origin nuclear material took place on December 18. Discussions on a similar agreement were initiated with Japan. Comprehensive nuclear co-operation agreements were discussed with Mexico and Indonesia, and a proposal was made to Korea to broaden the existing nuclear relationship through a series of arrangements implementing co-operation in areas such as nuclear regulation, nuclear safety and radiation emergency response procedures.

Multilaterally, Canada was an active participant on the International Atomic Energy Agency's Committee on Assurance of Supply (CAS) as well as the expert groups on International Plutonium Storage (IPS) and International Spent Fuel Management (SFM). These groups are charged with the elaboration of international procedures and structures to improve the safeguarding of nuclear materials. Canada began preparations for the UN Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (PUNE), which is to take place in 1983.

Multilateral environmental policy

Canada continued its efforts to sustain the constructive nature of international efforts on both national and global environmental problems, such as acid rain, pollution of the seas, long-range transboundary air pollution, deforestation, toxic chemicals, the disposal of hazardous wastes and ozone depletion. Important fora for these activities included the OECD,