

earliest and most vigorous proponents of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. A basic element of the Treaty, which guides Canadian policy in the field of nuclear exports and safeguards, is that it recognizes no technical distinction between nuclear explosives for peaceful and non-peaceful purposes.

Canada has foregone the possible benefits of developing so-called peaceful nuclear explosions on the basis that pursuant to the NPT, nuclear explosive services would be available from a nuclear weapon state at such time as need and feasibility are demonstrated. India, however, does not accept what it views as discrimination between the nuclear powers and other states and insists that all countries should be free to use all phases of nuclear technology for whatever they view as peaceful purposes.

Notwithstanding these differences, both countries agreed to explore together a negotiated termination of nuclear co-operation. These negotiations had, earlier this spring, reached a point where both sides decided that governmental decisions were required. The decision now taken by Cabinet takes into full account the issues that I raised when I spoke in the House on March 23. Canada has insisted that any cooperation in the nuclear field be fully covered by safeguards which satisfy the Canadian people that Canadian assistance will not be diverted to nuclear explosive purposes. This Canadian objective could not be achieved in these negotiations.