

The International Atomic Energy Agency, an autonomous intergovernmental organization with membership in the United Nations system, has two major purposes:

- (a) to speed up and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world;
- (b) to ensure, so far as possible, that assistance provided by it or at its request or under its supervision or control is not used for any military purpose.

The origins of the IAEA lie in the "Agreed Declaration on Atomic Energy" issued in November 1945 by the heads of government of the United States of America, Britain and Canada, which proposed the setting-up of a commission of the United Nations to prepare recommendations for "entirely eliminating the use of atomic energy for destructive purposes and promoting its widest use for industrial and humanitarian purposes". With the support of the U.S.S.R., a resolution was adopted by the United Nations in 1946 creating the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission. On December 8, 1953, President Dwight D. Eisenhower of the U.S., addressing the UN General Assembly, proposed the establishment of an international agency devoted exclusively to the peaceful use of atomic energy. This

proposal came to fruition in October 1956 with agreement on the statute for such an agency. When the statute came into force on July 29, 1957, the IAEA was in existence.

The organization is directed by a Board of Governors, consisting of representatives from 34 states, and a General Conference that meets annually and represents the membership of 110 states. As one of the nine members most advanced in the technology of atomic energy, including the production of source materials (i.e., uranium), Canada is a designated member of the Board of Governors and, as such, has been represented continuously on that body since the founding of the organization.

In its pursuit of its two objectives, the IAEA has devised over the years a far-ranging and comprehensive work program. From a level of approximately \$4 million (U.S.) in 1958, the budget of the organization has steadily increased to a level of \$59.8 million in 1978, the bulk of this increase occurring between 1972 and 1978. Canada is paying 3.18 per cent of this total, or approximately \$1.6 million (Canadian) in 1978. The program financed by these funds can be