

application of atomic energy to peaceful purposes is of enormous and ever-growing importance to the peoples of the world, its potential is incalculable and all countries have an interest in sharing the benefits of scientific progress in this area. The Agency has a vital role to play in this development, in a variety of ways, and we believe that its usefulness and authority are growing steadily as it demonstrates with each passing year its increasing capacity to serve the international community.

A notable contribution of the IAEA to nuclear cooperation, and one which can only be made at the international level, has been to draw up and promulgate international codes and standards which protect the health and safety of those who come in contact with nuclear materials and facilities. Another of its regulatory functions, and one which is of paramount importance, is the establishment of an international safeguards system to ensure that nuclear materials and facilities intended for peaceful purposes should not be diverted to military ends. Canada has given wholehearted support to all efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and, as a corollary of this policy, we have actively supported and participated in the development of the IAEA safeguards system.

The Agency's programme of scientific conferences, symposia and panels provides opportunity and encouragement for the exchange of information and experience on an international level in the various aspects of nuclear research and development. These meetings of scientists from many countries, including Canada, not only add to the storehouse of knowledge, but contribute to international understanding and cooperation in the nuclear field. Moreover, the dissemination of the results of such exchanges, as well as of other publications, increases the information on nuclear research and development available to all member States. Canada will continue to participate in this programme which provides a very useful service to the whole membership.

The IAEA, like other organizations of the United Nations system, has an active programme of technical assistance to developing countries. A significant part of this programme is related to the use of atomic energy in agriculture and health and it is a matter of satisfaction to the Canadian Government that considerable progress has been made in working out sensible measures of coordination with FAO and WHO in these fields. The Agency's technical assistance programme is financed by an operational budget which is dependent on voluntary contributions by member States. Unfortunately the target for this voluntary budget, which is modest in comparison to the needs of the developing countries, has never