

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** In so far as the Department of External Affairs is concerned: 1. Canada is a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and therefore subscribes to the principles of the statute of the organization. The IAEA has not established a convention on the safeguarding of fissionable materials. However, the sale of plutonium to France has been made in accordance with the Canadian government's long standing policy on "peaceful uses" of atomic energy which is wholly consistent with the principles underlying the IAEA.

2. The sale of plutonium to France from Canada is to be carried out under the provisions of the agreement, dated October 6, 1959, between Canada and the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM) for co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy, which provides for the application of the system for safeguards and control established by the Community in accordance with the treaty establishing EURATOM, and for consultation and the exchange of visits between the contracting parties to give assurance that the Community's safeguards and control system is satisfactory and effective.

3. The report of the Secretary General of the United Nations, dated October 10, 1967, on the effects of the possible use of nuclear weapons and on the security and economic implications for states of the acquisition and further development of these weapons, estimates that some eight kilograms of plutonium containing 95 per cent of the fissionable isotope 239 is required for the construction of one nuclear warhead with a yield around 20 kilotons. The exact quantity of plutonium involved in this sale and the percentage of the 239 isotope contained therein will not be known until after the irradiated fuel from Canadian reactors has been processed at the Eurochemic nuclear fuel reprocessing plant at Mol, Belgium. It can be estimated, however, that this amount of plutonium might produce up to 20 bombs with a yield of 20 kilotons each. However, the French government has agreed that the plutonium will be used for peaceful purposes only, and it is subject to suitable safeguards arrangements under the Canada-EURATOM agreement.

4. The agreement between Canada and India providing for Canadian assistance in the construction of the Canada-India reactor was signed on April 28, 1956 before the

establishment of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Under the agreement the government of India undertook that the reactor and any products resulting from its use will be employed for peaceful purposes only.

The agreements between Canada and India dated December 16, 1963, December 16, 1966 providing for Canadian assistance in the construction of the two reactors of the Rajasthan atomic power project (RAPP), stipulates that bilateral safeguards will be applied on the Rajasthan atomic power station and on the Douglas Point nuclear generating station in Canada, of which RAPP is a copy. The two governments have further agreed that the International Atomic Energy Agency shall be asked to administer the safeguards responsibilities of the agreement between the two governments, when either a reactor in each of the two stations has operated at full power for one year or 15 months after a reactor in each of the two stations has first achieved criticality, whichever is earlier.

#### TRANS-CANADA HIGHWAY TO STRAIT OF CANSO

##### Question No. 653—Mr. Forrestall:

1. When completed, what will be the length of the Trans-Canada Highway between the Quebec-New Brunswick border and the Strait of Canso?
2. Of this total, how many miles of highway are of Trans-Canada Highway standards?
3. Of this total, how many miles represent new construction, and how many miles represent improvement of existing roads?
4. In the case of new construction, what has been the average cost per mile?
5. In the case of improvement of existing roads, what has been the average cost per mile?
6. When is it expected that the entire section referred to will be of Trans-Canada Highway standards?

##### Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Public Works):

1. 533.5 miles.
2. 517.5 miles.
3. New construction, 293.9 miles; Improvement of existing roads, 223.6 miles.
4. \$355,220 per mile.
5. \$184,100 per mile.
6. October 1969.

#### \*RECRUITMENT ABROAD FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

##### Question No. 676—Mr. Code:

1. Is it the policy of the Government of Canada to recruit candidates in other countries for positions in the federal public service for which no qualified Canadians are available?