

4) International plutonium storage

This represents an attempt to establish a scheme in which plutonium will be deposited in an international depository until it is required for nuclear energy production. The international discussions have shown that there are technical and political complexities that will need to be resolved before a viable scheme could emerge.

5) The UN Conference on Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy

In 1983, a UN Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy will be convened. In these discussions attention may well focus on the "North-South" aspects of nuclear energy (e.g. technical assistance; training; codes of conduct; technology transfers; etc.) but the nature of the non-proliferation and safeguards framework within which international nuclear co-operation should take place will also be discussed. The latter discussions will probably continue to be difficult and a major effort will be needed to try to ensure that a more effective and comprehensive international non-proliferation régime will be the result or, at the minimum, that the elements of the current régime will not be weakened.

IX Conclusion

Canada's non-proliferation and safeguards policy has two objectives: 1) to promote the emergence of a more effective and comprehensive international non-proliferation régime; and 2) to assure the Canadian people and the international community that Canadian nuclear exports will not be used for any nuclear explosive purpose. By emphasizing the key role of the NPT, by promoting reliance upon and improvements in the IAEA safeguards system, by treating nuclear weapon and non-nuclear weapon states alike regarding Canadian nuclear exports, by working for new approaches covering the sensitive phases (e.g. reprocessing) of the nuclear fuel cycle, Canada's policy promotes attainment of the first objective. The latter objective is served through the network of bilateral nuclear agreements that Canada has put into place with its nuclear partners. Those agreements provide assurance that Canada's nuclear exports are used solely for legitimate, peaceful, nuclear energy production purposes.

At the same time, Canada, having formulated its non-proliferation and safeguards policy during the period 1945 to 1980, has recognized that it has gone as far as it can on its own in this field and that from this point on any further changes should be made on the basis of international