

# News Release

# Communiqué

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## CANADA/USSR AGREEMENT CONCERNING THE PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, announced today the signing in Moscow of an agreement between Canada and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics covering the enrichment in the Soviet Union of Canadian uranium.

Most of Canada's nuclear cooperation partners operate nuclear power reactors which require enriched uranium for their fuel. As there are no uranium enrichment facilities at present in Canada, largely because the CANDU power reactors used in Canada employ natural uranium in their fuel, uranium purchased by Canada's customers must, where necessary, be enriched outside of Canada. Such enrichment normally takes place at enrichment facilities in the USA or Western Europe but on some occasions Canada's customers, for commercial reasons, arrange for the enrichment in the Soviet Union of uranium purchased from Canada and the subsequent retransfer of the enriched uranium (and the depleted uranium tails created in the enrichment process) to one of Canada's nuclear partners. So far, this practice has been followed only by countries in Western Europe. In 1987, 130 tonnes of Canadian uranium were enriched in the USSR representing approximately 1% of Canadian uranium exports for that year.

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Secretary of State  
for  
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État  
aux  
Affaires extérieures

Canada

The practice of enriching uranium purchased from Canada in the Soviet Union is fully consistent with Canada's nuclear export and non-proliferation policy, and has been taking place for several years with the full knowledge and prior consent of the Canadian Government based on the condition that the enriched product and depleted uranium tails are retransferred from the Soviet Union to one of Canada's nuclear partners. Although this practice does not require any non-proliferation and legal framework particularly as both Canada and the USSR are signatories to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, both countries have wanted to establish such a framework in the interests of ensuring a thorough non-proliferation regime. The nuclear cooperation Agreement signed in Moscow today accomplishes this objective. The Agreement stipulates that Canadian uranium shipped to the USSR shall not be used for any nuclear explosive device or other military purpose. It also provides for the direct exchange of information between Canada and the USSR on the transfer of Canadian uranium into and out of the Soviet Union.

Canada's Ambassador to the USSR, Mr. Vernon G. Turner, signed the Agreement today on behalf of Canada.