



# PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
OTTAWA - CANADA

NO 16

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 1959

THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ANNOUNCES THAT AN AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED TODAY IN VIENNA BETWEEN CANADA AND THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY. THIS AGREEMENT PROVIDES FOR THE SUPPLY TO THE AGENCY OF THE THREE TONS OF NATURAL URANIUM OFFERED BY THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT FREE OF CHARGE LAST DECEMBER. AT THAT TIME THE ACTING MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE ANNOUNCED THAT THIS URANIUM WOULD BE SOLD TO JAPAN BY THE AGENCY, WHICH WOULD USE THE RESULTING REVENUES TO CARRY FORWARD ITS PROGRAMME OF DEVELOPING AND EXPANDING THE USE OF ATOMIC ENERGY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES.

IN CONNECTION WITH TODAY'S SIGNING CEREMONY, THE PRIME MINISTER, THE RIGHT HONOURABLE JOHN G. DIEFENBAKER, HAS SENT THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY:

"ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIGNATURE OF THE SUPPLY AND PROJECT AGREEMENTS I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS BOTH MY GREAT PLEASURE AT THE PROMPTNESS AND DEGREE OF ACCORD WITH WHICH THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED HAVE ACTED TO ENABLE THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY TO MEET THE FIRST REQUEST OF A MEMBER GOVERNMENT FOR ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING FOR THE SUPPLY OF URANIUM FOR A RESEARCH PROJECT, AND ALSO MY SATISFACTION THAT CANADIAN URANIUM HAS BEEN SELECTED FOR THIS PURPOSE. THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT'S OFFER OF THIS URANIUM TO THE AGENCY FREE OF CHARGE WAS NOT ONLY DESIGNED TO ASSIST THE AGENCY BY PROVIDING IT WITH ADDITIONAL REVENUES BUT WAS A REFLECTION OF THE IMPORTANCE WHICH WE ATTACH TO ITS

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INTERMEDIARY ROLE IN ASSISTING MEMBER COUNTRIES, UNDER ARTICLE XI OF THE STATUTE, IN THE REALIZATION OF ATOMIC ENERGY PROJECTS. THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT IS MOST APPRECIATIVE OF THE CONFIDENCE IN THE AGENCY DEMONSTRATED BY THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT IN SEEKING TO MEET ITS REQUIREMENT FOR URANIUM FOR THE JRR 3 REACTOR IN THIS WAY AND IS CONFIDENT THAT THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH HAVE CULMINATED IN TODAY'S SIGNING CEREMONY WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A MOST FRUITFUL DEVELOPMENT IN THE AGENCY'S ROLE OF PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO MEMBER COUNTRIES."