

IAEA/JAPAN NPT SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT (GOV/1727)

STATEMENT BY THE CANADIAN GOVERNOR

AMBASSADOR J. ALAN BEESELEY

BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

MARCH 5, 1975

Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to be able to indicate that the proposed safeguards Agreement and Protocol contained in document GOV/1727 are acceptable to my Government. Indeed, we very much welcome their successful negotiation and we look forward to their early entry into force.

We have noted the important condition contained in Article 2 of the proposed Protocol, which stipulates that the Japanese National System achieve and maintain a degree of "functional independence and technical effectiveness" equivalent to that of a group of states and, in similar vein, the requirement of Article 12(e) of the draft Protocol.

We are aware that the Government of Japan has already entered into a very wide range of INFCIRC/66 safeguards agreements with the Agency covering nuclear facilities in Japan and has made manifest its willingness to cooperation in the international community's efforts to safeguard the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The Agreement

and Protocol now before us are all the more welcome as a further step in this continuing process towards early ratification of the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

I have no specific comment to make on the draft Agreement and Protocol attached to document GOV/1727. I do, however, have one observation to make on paragraph 5 of the Director General's Memorandum, which refers to the Panel on Systems of Accounting for and Control of Nuclear Material, which met in Tokyo in November, 1973. That Panel, as Governors will be aware, produced the technical rationale and developed concepts relating to methodology, which, as the Director General's Memorandum points out, provide the technical basis on which the draft Protocol is formulated. Once the Agreement and Protocol now before us are approved-- and I have already made very clear that we believe that they should be approved--then the basic policy issues inherent in those technical considerations will have received the requisite approval of the Board. The distinction between technical considerations and their policy implications is often difficult but clearly all technical safeguards issues that do have fundamental policy implications should be brought in a timely way before this Board. I make this observation bearing in mind

particularly the announcement made by the Director General at our last meeting concerning his intention to establish an Advisory Group on the technical aspects of safeguards. I welcome the indication which he gave that he would keep the Board fully informed on the deliberations of these experts and refer to the Board all aspects which have significant policy implications.

In concluding, I should like to congratulate the Japanese authorities and the Director General on the successful outcome of their complex negotiations of this extremely important safeguards agreement.