

When do you wish to speak?

STATEMENT IN PLENARY BY

H.E. AMBASSADOR J. ALAN BEESLEY

DELEGATE OF CANADA

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May I begin, Mr. Chairman, by extending my thanks and that of the Canadian Government to the Brazilian authorities for their generosity in offering these magnificent facilities for the 20th General Conference of this Agency. I would also like to offer my congratulations to you, Mr. Chairman, on your election to the high office of President of this Conference. You have amply demonstrated the wisdom of our choice through the skill and wisdom with which you are discharging the duties of your office during this Conference.

I should, in starting, also like to welcome the newest member of the Agency, Nicaragua, whose admission not only furthers the principle of universality in the Agency, but whose contribution, I feel certain, will be a positive force in the future work of the Agency.

I would also like to pay tribute to the work of the Director General who, through the last twelve months, has displayed leadership through example in meeting the challenges of his office with vigor, ability and good judgement. I pledge the full support of Canada to him as he leads the Agency in its complex and often difficult duties. I will, as in past years, take the opportunity during the course of this brief intervention, to touch on some of the key issues raised by the Director General in his most stimulating remarks at the beginning of our deliberations.

First, however, some general remarks. The more than four-fold increase in the price of fossil fuels in the last few years and the

increasing urgency of finding alternatives, continue to provide considerable impetus to the nuclear power generation programmes in both the industrialized and the developing nations of the world.

Canada's own commitment to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, where it is the most appropriate alternative, is undiminished. It is tempered of course by the recognition of the special concerns inherent in nuclear technology, in particular the over-riding need to ensure that nuclear power be safe for the human environment and second, that it contribute to an increased energy stability in world affairs but not be allowed to become a destabilizing factor through diversion to nuclear arms.

The Agency itself is founded on these same general concerns and operates in pursuit of these objectives. It does so through its programmes: to promote adequate planning of nuclear energy through assistance, advice, training and information exchange; to develop constructive and dynamic safety and environmental protection programmes; and to enhance international security and protection of health and the environment through constantly improved safeguards programmes and the development of adequate standards for the physical security of nuclear material.

Canada's support for the Agency's programmes is already well known. I would like today to highlight a more generalized concern that covers all three main areas of the Agency's activities and which I think reflects some of the concerns raised by the Director General in his own opening remarks.

As I noted above, Canada continues to support the expansion of the world's peaceful nuclear programmes where these are demonstrated to be the most appropriate option for diversifying from a generalized reliance on fossil fuels.

Some of the factors which must be considered in choosing this option, for instance the need for economics of scale, of course apply to any

energy decision involving massive capital outlays.

But nuclear energy is like none other with which mankind is familiar on a day-to-day basis. The decision to adopt and expand the nuclear alternative involves consequences with which we are only now becoming familiar. It is essential that decisions to enter or expand nuclear power programmes also take into account the special "nuclear issues". Self reliant nuclear programmes require secure sources of fuel and more uranium will be necessary to satisfy increased demand. Skilled technical personnel must be trained to operate the plants, regulatory mechanisms must be in place to ensure their safety, waste management systems to receive the potentially lethal by-products.

In terms even of economics, fundamental choices based on comprehensive data, are essential. In some areas there are indigenous energy resources that might effectively be harnessed, on a more economic basis, or patterns of consumption that could be redirected.

Intensive work will continue to be required to evaluate these and a myriad of other questions involved.

I mention these general considerations in no sense in a negative way. Rather they are challenges to our societies as they seek to fuel their economic developments. The introduction of any new technology implies the introduction of new problems and challenges. International pooling of effort is essential however because of the quantity of the energy choices we are all forced to make. In the analysis and the solution of these problems, Canada looks to the Agency for leadership.

Canada has been gratified by the number and diversity of the Agency's technical training programmes, consultants' meetings and symposiums dealing with power project planning. In this light, this is an obvious benefit to those countries now developing nuclear power programmes, now as

well as to the totality of the world community seeking the means to allocate

It is our hope that the Agency will expand its efforts to assist countries in the early stages of a decision about alternative energy sources, that it will put unnecessary resources at the disposal of decision-makers wrestling with the evaluation of energy options, as well as the costs and benefits of the nuclear cause.

The Agency will also continue to play a vital role in allowing an effective implementation of such a cause if it is taken.

In this respect it is with pleasure that I note the attention given by the Agency in the past year to the areas of nuclear safety, training of personnel and the provision of economic and advisory services to Member States, particularly developing states. Total resources available for technical assistance approached the \$10 million mark for last year and the Annual Report makes note of the corresponding increase in large-scale projects undertaken by the Agency. It has become apparent that as more nations make long-term commitments to nuclear power, the Agency has undertaken to provide the resources and training programmes needed by these nations to ensure adequate and efficient management of their nuclear programmes.

Canada is pleased by the interest being shown by the Agency in the exploration, mining and development of uranium and other radioactive resources. This is an area of particular interest to Canada as a major uranium producer but is also of importance to all countries with nuclear power programmes. The growth of nuclear power in the world recently has added great impetus on the need to find new sources of uranium and provide assistance in the management of present stockpiles. Canada's expertise in uranium production could be of great benefit to the Agency's programmes in this field. We hope that the Agency will continue in the future to work in close cooperation with

other international agencies active in this field in order to maximize the effectiveness of its efforts.

Canada has always sought to cooperate actively with the Agency in such programmes and will continue to do so.

In the context of Technical Cooperation, I am pleased to note that the Canadian Government will contribute to the Voluntary Fund at its assessed level again this year. I am also pleased to announce the intention of the Canadian Government to make additional resources available to the Agency. This contribution shall commence this year with a fund of \$300,000 in a multi-year programme for the Agency's technical assistance programme. I should note that the only major condition being attached by Canada to this additional voluntary contribution is that it should assist with the programmes of countries party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty to which Canada and over 100 states, the large majority of the Agency's membership, adheres.

I may note that this contribution will be available ~~whenever~~ for disbursements either inside or outside of Canada at the Agency's discretion and is in no way tied to Canadian procurement. It is our hope that this kind of flexible support and cooperation will make a reasonable contribution to the Agency's ability to respond to the needs of developing country member states in the peaceful applications of nuclear power. We trust that it will be used in bilateral and regional contexts. We were pleased again to see this year the intensified activity by the Agency in the area of nuclear safety. The Agency is sending an increasing number of missions to member states to advise on nuclear law and safety regulations and safety measures relating to plant locations. We are happy to see that the draft codes on siting and operation are progressing satisfactorily and we hope that within a short while a final set of codes will be available for application. Canada believes that internationally acceptable codes and guides on siting and safety operation are imperative if national nuclear programmes are to be consistent with the development needs of a nation and are to develop within safe parameters. . . . /6

Canada is actively facing in the problem of waste management, not only from an international point of view, but also because of our own national need for an adequate waste disposal system. I would like to point out Canada's continuing participation in the London Convention on Sea Disposal, the 2nd series of meetings of which are taking place this month. Canada believes in the management and retriability of significant waste material rather than their disposal, be it at sea or by deep burial. Canadian experts are continuing to participate in the work of the Agency in this field.

Canada actively supports the continuing Agency study of regional fuel cycle centres. Such systems have been discussed at previous meetings. It is clear to Canada and, we believe to any others here today, that intensive efforts are essential to find the most economic and easily managed nuclear structures for the future. Clearly many difficulties yet remain to be resolved, but given the possibilities and efficiencies of new focus of organization, it is Canada's belief that work in this area must continue at full speed. We are impressed with the thoroughness of the experts work under Agency auspices in this field and will examine with great care the work that has been done both at the question of regional plants and the international management of surplus plutonium mentioned by the Director General.

It is apparent that one of the challenges which continue to face the Agency is the continuing debate in some countries, including Canada, over the environmental implications of nuclear power. The fact that the debate continues unabated would seem to indicate that the public remains uninformed and confused about nuclear power and its application. Last year I called for continued Agency participation in the examination of the environmental impact of not only nuclear power, but also alternative energy sources. Canada continues to favour the most open and vigorous discussions of this vital element in public acceptance of nuclear power and fully supports the Director General's efforts in this direction.

Another perhaps even more profound concern is posed by the potential of nuclear power programmes to produce the materials for nuclear explosives. The fear that diversion of nuclear materials to non-peaceful purposes could lead to additional^{al} nuclear confrontations has been a critical element of the "nuclear debate" in many countries and threatens the expediency of nuclear power programmes throughout the world. A basic concern in this respect, as the Director General has noted, is whether the Agency's safeguards mandate and resources are adequate to the task. We believe that the answer is "yes". The growth in the Agency safeguards function has reflected the growth in international nuclear power programmes. Technical advances have been and continue to be significant and impressive. The safeguards inspectorate continues to be expanded and we are pleased to see the establishment of a second division of safeguards operations which reflect the dramatic increase in the concept of regional field offices is a welcome aid and will constitute significant safeguards affecting Canada. In this respect, the work of SAGSI will be vital and is looking to that group for expert advice. Safeguards mechanisms of course are not enough. ~~Safeguards mechanisms~~ to prevent nuclear proliferation. The issue is more complex and deeply rooted than can be adequately attacked on a technical level. Other complimentary instruments and commitments as an essential^{base} for the effort to forestall the changes. The NPT is the international community's major instrument to prevent such a spread and Canada intends to continue to do all that is consistent with its international obligations to further adherence to the treaty.

In this connection, I would like to congratulate Japan for its most important decision earlier this year to ratify the NPT. A safeguards agreement to implement the relevant obligations of the treaty is of course already in place and ready for putting into action. Of profound ~~importance~~ importance also has been the decision of the United Kingdom and the United States to implement their voluntary ~~offers~~ offers to apply the Agency's safeguards to their civil

nuclear programmes. The spirit of responsibility and concern demonstrated by their action is, to our minds, a most encouraging one for non-proliferation. At presents, on the practical level, a challenge for the Agency's safeguards system. It is a challenge, we are confident, that the Agency can fully meet and are well worth the effort.

Canada's own nuclear programme is under full safeguards, the first country to have implemented its NPT obligations to do so. On the basis of the experience we have gained thus far, I can say that while effective, the Agency safeguards mechanisms operate in a flexible and non-obstructive manner.

At this point I might make a brief comment on PNEs. Canada is participating fully in the IAEA's intensified study of the technical, legal, safety and environmental aspects of the application of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes and of the possibilities for devising international arrangements to regulate such explosions that are in full conformity with the NPT. We hope that this work will bear fruit in the not too distant future.

I would in closing like to express my hopes for the work of the Agency in the coming years. It goes without saying that the coordination of the activities of many nations in such a complex field is indeed a difficult one, and the Agency has been able to achieve a consensus often under difficult circumstances. Its effectiveness has been a result of the care and commitment of all member states to dedicate themselves to solutions for difficult, technical problems. It is obvious from our own deliberations that the political aspects cannot be downgraded. Nonetheless, while we should not shrink away from these problems, neither should we ignore the good work we have done in the past by turning our attention to questions that are divisive in nature and counter-productive in application. International cooperation is indispensable in solving the problems associated with the application of the atom. In this regard, the Agency has been a most effective mechanism; yet to remain effective, it must have the same cooperation from its member states that it has had since its inception. Anything less than the total cooperation will end the Agency's role as an instrument of the international community. We must not lose sight of the purpose for which we have come together. Again, I pledge the full support of Canada for the activities of the Agency and its program for the future.