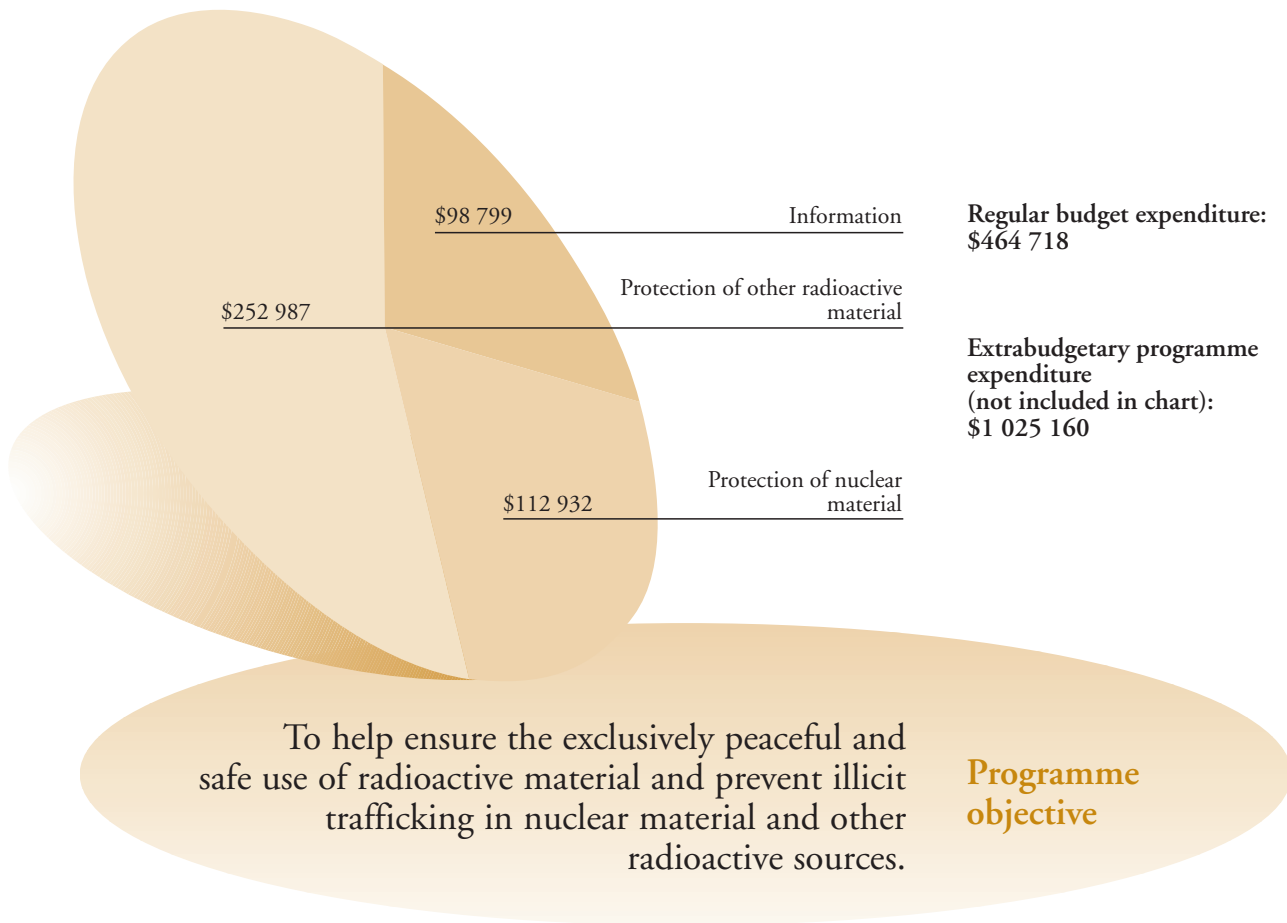


SECURITY OF MATERIAL



During 1998, the programme on the security of material continued to focus on activities aimed at assisting Member States to establish the systems necessary to prevent nuclear material and other radioactive sources from being used for unauthorized purposes, and to detect and respond to trafficking cases, should they occur. A programme of assistance was established to facilitate the exchange of information and continue the training of staff in State regulatory authorities, facilities and customs services. Joint training efforts with WCO took place. International standards for the physical protection of nuclear material were strengthened. In regular meetings with State representatives and international organizations, joint activities were established for further co-operation. Selected equipment was tested within a project with the Austrian and Hungarian authorities to evaluate equipment for border controls.

Information

Currently, 60 States participate in the Agency's Illicit Trafficking Database Programme. Out of 33 trafficking incidents which were added to the database as having occurred during the year, 9 involved nuclear material. As of 31 December 1998, the database contained information on 304 incidents, 237 of which have been confirmed by States. In April, the Agency convened a meeting of experts to review the database programme. The review resulted in an improved reporting document, revised terms of reference and agreed rules for maintaining the confidentiality of the information reported. Recommendations were also made for additional information to be included in the database. In addition, the experts suggested the development of a simple scale to convey the significance of incidents to the public. The Agency initiated an upgrade of the database software.

Protection of nuclear material

A review of INFCIRC/225/Rev.3, 'The Physical Protection of Nuclear Material', was carried out. The document was revised to incorporate strengthened requirements for physical protection during transport and to protect against sabotage at nuclear facilities.

The sixth International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS) mission was conducted. Arrangements were made through the Agency's technical co-operation programme to provide limited physical protection equipment to urgently upgrade the security at a research reactor. Earlier IPPAS missions had, in some cases, resulted in recommendations for modifications of physical protection systems. Such modifications were made through bilateral support.

The third annual review meeting of the Co-ordinated Technical Support Programme to the newly independent States of the former Soviet Union was held in Vienna in February. Through this programme, bilateral support to these States is co-ordinated and duplication of efforts avoided. The States requested assistance in establishing a methodology for performing self-assessments of their SSAC, and more focused training and evaluation of their State control systems. As a follow-up, two workshops were arranged. One, held in Vienna on nuclear export/import controls targeting the southern tier newly independent States, helped participants assess the strength of their current systems and prioritize specific needs for assistance in nuclear legislation, licensing, and customs and border controls related to nuclear material. The second workshop, held in Belarus on familiarization with Agency safeguards activities and non-destructive analysis measurement techniques, was a first attempt at using a local nuclear facility and equipment provided by a donor State in implementing the 'train the trainer' concept.

Protection of other radioactive material

A draft Safety Guide on preventing, detecting and responding to illicit trafficking in radioactive materials was completed and submitted to the Advisory Commission on Safety Standards for approval. This Guide will be supported by five technical manuals containing detailed information on the radioactive materials likely to be seized, prevention by enhancing

national legal infrastructures, detection at borders, response measures and training programmes. In order to derive practical performance requirements for border monitoring instrumentation, a pilot study was initiated involving equipment from 21 manufacturers from 15 countries. The study includes laboratory testing at the Austrian Research Centre at Seibersdorf and field testing at the Austrian/Hungarian border and Vienna airport for one year. The study is financed by the Austrian Government and is being carried out in co-operation with the Austrian Research Centre Seibersdorf, the US Customs Service and Los Alamos National Laboratory. Similarly, a peer review mission in Malta was conducted to assist in the implementation of a national programme for border monitoring.

An international conference on the safety of radiation sources and the security of radioactive materials, co-sponsored by the European Commission, INTERPOL and WCO, was held in Dijon. Hosted by the French Government and the French Atomic Energy Commission, it was the first conference devoted to this subject. The conference results highlighted the need for effective national systems of control for ensuring the safety of radiation sources and the security of radioactive materials, and provided the basis for a resolution of the General Conference (GC(42)/RES/12) on these issues that was adopted in September.

