

SECURITY OF MATERIAL SECURITY OF MATERIAL

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE

To assist Member States, through training, expert assistance, equipment and exchange of information, in the protection of nuclear and other radioactive materials against forcible seizure, theft and other criminal activities and to provide them with the knowledge and tools for detecting and responding to incidents of trafficking should they occur.

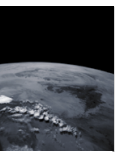
OVERVIEW

The focus of the programme on the security of material was to assist Member States in the establishment of systems necessary to prevent nuclear material and other radioactive sources from being diverted to unauthorized purposes. Further enhancements to the information exchange process were accomplished during the year and the number of States participating increased from 60 in 1998 to 68 in 1999. Training programmes specifically tailored to address the needs of State regulators, customs officials and border police were held. Building upon prior joint efforts, WCO, INTERPOL, the European Commission and the Agency provided training in Vienna and Malta. Laboratory tests of detection and monitoring equipment were completed, and field testing started. The development of international standards for the physical protection of nuclear material were addressed in numerous meetings and seminars, all with the goal of enhancing the strength and uniformity of these standards.

The narrative that follows focuses on the security of nuclear material. Information on Agency activities related to the security of radioactive material other than nuclear material — the protection of which is primarily a safety concern — can be found in the chapter on 'Radiation Safety'.

INFORMATION

As part of its efforts to encourage Member States to participate in the Illicit Trafficking Database Programme, the Agency organized a regional seminar in



Kazakhstan in December. The seminar demonstrated the determination of the Central Asia and Caucasus region to co-operate in combating illicit trafficking; in addition, the seven participating States announced their intention of joining the Illicit Trafficking Database Programme.

Major upgrades were made to the software used to maintain the illicit trafficking database. These upgrades reflect the expanded scope and content of the database, which allows for an increased level of reporting from multiple sources. Additionally, the retrieval and dissemination capabilities of the database were enhanced. While past years have seen a decrease in the annual number of incidents reported, this has not been the case in the last two years. A detailed analysis is being carried out to identify the reasons for this increase.

PROTECTION OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL

The Agency's programme to enhance the protection of nuclear material is a recent development. It started with Board of Governors approval in 1995 of activities to assist States and for the provision of extrabudgetary funds for this purpose. The programme continued to advance in 1999, with States providing more regular budget funding. In addition, INFCIRC/225/Rev.4 was published. A number of actions are being taken to provide additional guidance to States and enhance the global implementation of the recommendations contained in it. In other work, the Agency convened an expert meeting to consider whether there is a need to revise the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. This effort will continue with a thorough review to determine the basis for possible revision. Finally, a design basis threat workshop was conducted in Prague at the request of the Czech Government.

The Agency continued to receive requests for International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS) missions to appraise the

national protection systems of requesting States. During 1999, there were IPPAS missions to Lithuania and Peru, plus a preparatory mission to Belarus. The Agency provided follow-up support to these and earlier IPPAS missions. Donors and recipients from the Newly Independent States met in March to ensure proper co-ordination of technical co-operation in the field of physical protection. Plans for addressing the needs of the individual States were also developed. At another meeting of the donor and recipient States, the 4th Annual Review Meeting for the Co-ordinated Technical Support Programme (CTSP), held in Vienna in November, a

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consensus was reached on the need to address the sustainability of nuclear control systems and for training and equipment to combat the illegal use of nuclear material.

A physical protection course on system design was held in the Czech Republic for individuals from eastern European States and the former Soviet Union. A workshop to provide an introduction to the field of physical protection was held in Cyprus for officials from the Middle East and North Africa. Regional workshops designed to assist States in strengthening their nuclear material control systems based on Agency safeguards were held in Belarus in May and in Uzbekistan in October.

The Agency contributed to the programme of the G-8 Non-Proliferation Experts Group (NPEG) by maintaining the NPEG list of State points of contact whose main function in a crisis situation would be to channel essential information to senior policy makers in a timely manner. A test of this system was carried out in June to identify possible improvements to the system.

