



International Atomic Energy Agency

## INFORMATION CIRCULAR

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### COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA REGARDING THE SUPPLY OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL THROUGH THE AGENCY

1. On 17 April 1975 the Director General received a letter dated 15 April from the Resident Representative of the United States of America to the Agency providing information in connection with contracts and other agreements signed by or on behalf of the United States Atomic Energy Commission for the supply of nuclear material through the Agency. An excerpt from the letter is reproduced below.

"The Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA) was officially established as of January 19, 1975, pursuant to Public Law 93-438 (The Energy Reorganization Act of 1974). The Energy Reorganization Act transfers to ERDA certain functions of the Atomic Energy Commission, National Science Foundation, Environmental Protection Agency and Department of the Interior, and states that all AEC contracts relevant to the functions transferred to ERDA are binding upon ERDA."

2. On 11 June the Director General received a further letter dated 9 June from the Resident Representative providing information on new United States requirements with respect to the physical security of significant quantities of certain nuclear material that is to be transferred abroad. Excerpts from that letter are reproduced below.

"The United States Government must be satisfied that adequate physical security arrangements exist in a recipient country prior to authorizing any transaction involving the export or transfer of the following nuclear materials of United States origin, and that these physical security measures would be applied to such materials: uranium-235 (contained in uranium enriched to 20 per cent or more in the uranium-235 isotope), uranium-233, or plutonium, alone or in any combination, in a quantity of 5000 grams or more computed by the formula, grams equals (grams contained U-235) plus 2.5 (grams U-233 plus grams plutonium). Such assurances will also be required by the United States Government in cases involving the supply or transfer of a quantity of the foregoing types of nuclear materials (alone or in any combination thereof) which, when added to existing stocks of the same types of United States origin nuclear materials in a country, (alone or in any combination thereof) would equal or exceed the 5000 gram figure computed by the same formula.

"The United States Government is evaluating the adequacy of specific physical security measures in effect in other countries in connection with the implementation of this policy. The United States Government uses the physical security standards employed in the United States for licensees and those set forth in the IAEA physical security guidelines[1] as a major factor in determining the adequacy of the measures in effect in a given country. The current U.S. standards for U.S. licensees are set forth in Title 10, Part 73 of Code of Federal Regulations. . . ."

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[1] A reference to a booklet entitled "Recommendations for the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material - Produced by a panel of experts working under IAEA sponsorship in Vienna 6-10 March 1972", which is now being revised.