

W.M. Walker, Vice-President, Engineering & Chief Engineer B.C. Hydro & Power Authority

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen a very warm welcome to Vancouver, Canada and to the Fourth Pacific Basin Nuclear Conference. I hope your stay in Vancouver will be a pleasant one as well as a very worthwhile one.

My name is Bill Walker and I have the honour of being your Conference Chairman.

It is impressive to see such a number of people, many of whom have come great distances (from the United Kingdom, Europe, the Far East, Australia, Mexico and many parts of the United States and Canada) willing and keen to devote three and a half days to the discussion of the subjects of this Conference. The response to the announcement of this event, particularly in the present days of worldwide economic difficulties, is a clear indication of the intense and widespread interest about our energy problems in general and particularly those which involve nuclear power.

As you will see in the program the invited chairmen, speakers and panelists represent all the fields into which our discussions are likely to take us. The wide ranging program will examine the status, future plans and significance of nuclear developments for the Pacific Basin. We shall hear experts and specialists in a wide range of subjects. Sessions on economic and technical policy, seismicity, fuel cycles, waste management and radioisotopes will be conducted by invited international experts from a wide spectrum of peoples bordering the Pacific Ocean.

I suppose that anything that could be put under the heading of nuclear energy might be called fair game in this Conference but our time, of even three and a half days, is limited and the chairmen of the sessions may possibly have to exert their authority to place limits on the range and length of discussion if we are to keep on schedule.

In each session following the formal presentation there will be time for general discussion and it is our hope that all of you who wish to do so will have the opportunity to participate. With all the talent that has been assembled and with the time at our disposal what can we hope to achieve?

The heart of the matter is that we are here to share our experiences and knowledge together. Our objective is to enhance the knowledge of those who have to make recommendations and even may have the final say in developing energy policy - to enhance our knowledge relating to the production and application of radio-nuclides for the benefit of mankind.

The knowledge we speak of comes from scientific investigations. We can only gain access to this knowledge through the integrity, discipline and openness of mind of practicing scientists, engineers and technologists. Despite the great advances in physics and mathematics, in biology and genetics, in chemistry and metallurgy in this century we are still at the edge of understanding. Many recent developments will come to be regarded as little more than useful first steps in the direction of new technologies. We shall continue to explore the world of nature - its triumphs and disasters - and at the same time accepting that the growth of knowledge brings with it an endless chain of new questions about the universe and about ourselves.

It is in the nature of progress that we shall continue this journey of discovery, constantly challenged and amazed by our mastery of science and technology, but increasingly humbled by the realization of how little we really know and understand. While we may draw inspiration from the present state of our knowledge, we can go further.

In this Conference we should be able to bring out the important facts related to the various subjects under consideration. Where there are only possibilities or estimates we should be able to see them in some order of importance and priority. And where there may be difference of opinions we should be able to express the differing views clearly and logically so that others to follow may have something manageable to work on.

I am confident that we will have a successful Conference and again express my welcome to you and wish you well.

R. Després, Chairman, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited

It is an honour and a pleasure to welcome you to this 4th Pacific Basin Nuclear Conference, the first such international gathering in Canada.

I have the privilege, as well, to transmit to you the official greetings of the Government of Canada. Our Prime Minister, The Right Honorable Pierre Elliot Trudeau, our Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, The Honorable Jean Chretien and our Minister of International Trade, The Honorable Gerald Regan, have asked me to express their regrets at being unable to be with us at this important assembly. Today's reconvening of Parliament prevents them from being here. However, in extending their sincere hopes that our deliberations will prove fruitful they have made a number of observations which I would like to pass on to you.

Mr. Trudeau emphasizes that this gathering is especially welcome since it takes place at a time when world-wide debate on the future of the nuclear industry is becoming more impassioned. He stresses that it is important for decision-makers in government and in the business, academic and scientific worlds to work together to increase and enhance people's confidence in Nuclear Technology as a reliable and credible source of energy.

Mr. Chretien points out that Canadians have been committed to nuclear power for over a quarter century in the belief that it is important, not only to secure the energy supply of Canada, but also that of the remainder of the world. He cautions that it would be easy to misinterpret the apparent stability of the world oil situation as an indication that we can relax our efforts to develop alternatives with which to meet future energy needs. However, Mr. Chretien states, we share with most of you, the view that we are enjoying a brief respite before we must come to grips with an inevitable oil-deficient future.

Mr. Regan emphasizes the vital importance of trade in development of the economies of the countries which we all represent. Economic expansion, he notes, will surely bring with it greater demand for electric power and enhance the role which Nuclear Technology will be called upon to play.

On your behalf, I wish to thank Messrs. Trudeau, Chretien and Regan for their deep interest and best wishes for the success of this meeting.

All of us can take pride in the full representation of participating countries in the conference, not only as registered delegates, but as speakers and panelists. During the next 4 days, each of us will acquire both a deeper insight into a broad scope of issues and opportunities confronting the nuclear

sector, as well as an improved awareness of the many national perceptions of these issues. I would also like to compliment the coordinators of the program, who have identified an impressive list of topic areas to be addressed during our deliberations, and for their success in obtaining speakers who will contribute a full measure of international expertise.

For those of you who are visiting this city of Vancouver for the first time, I extend a special welcome to Canada's window on the Pacific. The dynamic growth of Vancouver in the past two decades is evidence of Canada's increasing cultural ties with its Pacific neighbours. A full 46 percent of shipping from the Port of Vancouver is destined to Pacific Rim countries, and it is the principal port of entry for imports from our Pacific neighbours.

When Expo 86 comes to Vancouver in 3 years, it will coincide with the opening of Canada's largest world trade centre in Vancouver. We Canadians will take tremendous pride in this exciting demonstration of international status, and the countries represented in this room have helped to make it possible.

In recent years, as we have developed increasingly closer ties with our Pacific neighbours, Canadians have been impressed with the achievements, not only in the industrialized Pacific countries, but in emerging and newly industrialized countries. We have been particularly interested to observe the close relationship between prudent economic development strategies, and expanded electrification of which nuclear electricity will play an increasingly important role. From 1970 to 1980, GNP real growth figures among the countries represented at this conference averaged from 3 percent to 9.5 percent and during the same period, the growth in electric power consumption among the same countries averaged from 3.8 percent to 8.9 percent. Electricity is playing an important role in the revitalization of world economies and nuclear technology is part of that success.

And as you will note from your conference agenda, countries in the Pacific Basin including Canada, have made real progress in the application of associated nuclear technologies for medicine, agriculture and industry. My company, AECL is proud to be part of this growing world market for nuclear life science technologies. Over 70 percent of Canada's exports in this field are shipped to customers in countries represented at this conference.

All of us have been required to re-examine our development projections in the face of a particularly challenging world recession and world economies are only beginning to stabilize. Like you, we Canadians

have used this period of slower growth to refine and re-direct our energies in the direction of long-term stability. Because incremental electrical power development must be based on a firm foundation of economic development momentum, it is perhaps to be expected that the nuclear industry will not be an early beneficiary of the current recovery. But it can certainly be expected, that in the medium term, there will be a revitalized commitment to nuclear power development, and part of our agenda over the next four days is to prepare to meet that commitment.

We have among us representatives of countries who have dramatically and successfully demonstrated the positive relationship between nuclear power programs

and long-term economic development and objectives, and we also have representatives of countries who will introduce this important option at a timely period during their development cycle. The sharing of experience between these groups is an important gesture in international understanding.

In closing I extend my sincere wishes for a successful conference, and express the hope that each of you individually will take advantage of your full share of opportunities which this meeting offers.



CANADA

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

MESSAGE DU PREMIER MINISTRE

The fourth Pacific Basin Nuclear Conference, to be held this year in Vancouver, is especially welcome since it takes place at a time when world-wide debate on the use of nuclear power is becoming more impassioned. Scarcely a day passes without public discussion between the supporters and opponents of nuclear energy. The first group emphasizes the economic and technological benefits that nations would enjoy by improving the conditions for nuclear power; the second group stresses such issues as waste management and storage, security of installations and non-proliferation.

It is important that decision-makers in government and in the business, academic and scientific worlds work together to increase and enhance people's confidence in nuclear technology as a reliable and credible source of energy for peaceful use.

Participants at this meeting are certainly faced with a difficult task. However, in providing an opportunity for hundreds of experts from numerous countries to discuss the best ways of stimulating co-operation between States on nuclear matters in a framework of peace and security, this Conference should help increase public awareness and thus enhance confidence.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of you, and sincerely hope that your discussions prove fruitful.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "P. Trudeau".

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Ministre de l'Énergie
des Mines et des Ressources

Minister of Energy,
Mines and Resources

Ottawa, Canada
K1A 0E4

AUG 25 1983
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Mr. R. Després
Chairman of the Board of
Atomic Energy of Canada Limited
275 Slater Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0S4

Dear Mr. Després:

I will not be able to attend the Pacific Rim Conference to be held in Vancouver from Sept. 11-14, 1983. Could you please ensure that the following message is passed to the delegates on my behalf.

"The past decade has been characterized by the strengthening ties and growing interdependence of my country with our friends and neighbours throughout the Pacific Basin. It is therefore with particular regret that I cannot welcome you personally to this important and timely conference.

Canadians have been committed to the peaceful applications of nuclear power for over a quarter century in the belief that it is important, not only to secure the energy supply of Canada but also that of the remainder of the world. It would be easy to misinterpret the apparent stability of the world oil situation as an indication that we can relax our efforts to develop alternatives with which to meet our future energy needs. However, we share with most of you, the view that we are enjoying only a brief respite before we must come to grips with an inevitable oil deficient future.

My government is committed to sharing the benefits of nuclear technology with those equally committed to non-proliferation. In this spirit, we welcome this conference - not only to cement old friendships but also to explore ways in which we can help one another to share the benefits of peaceful nuclear power.

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It remains to wish you well and to hope that your deliberations will be highly beneficial."

Yours sincerely,



Jean Chrétien

Minister of State (International Trade)



Canada

Ministre d'Etat (Commerce extérieur)

Ottawa, Ontario

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Mr. R. Després
Chairman
Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd.
275 Slater St., 21st. Floor
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0S4

Dear Mr. Després:

I would like to wish all those involved in the fourth Pacific Basin Nuclear Conference every success. This is the first time Canada has hosted the Conference, and my only regret is that I cannot be with you in Vancouver.

As the Minister responsible for international trade, I firmly believe that the transfer of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes is a key element in sustaining the levels of economic growth from which we can all benefit. Canada, for one, is committed to sharing its extensive nuclear experience with its neighbours on the Pacific Rim.

These are challenging times for nuclear power. I am confident that renewed economic growth will not only bring with it increased electricity demand, but will clearly demonstrate the positive role nuclear power can play in contributing to the security and diversity of energy supply. I am equally certain that gatherings like this one are critically important in enhancing the acceptability of nuclear power as a safe and efficient energy source.

I hope that your discussions are productive and will be following them with great interest.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Gerald Regan".

Gerald Regan