

ALL MEXICAN ATOMIC WORK TO BE SAFEGUARDED



Mexico has become the first nation which has agreed to place its entire nuclear programme under the Agency's supervision to ensure that the work is entirely for peaceful purposes. It has taken this step in accordance with the Treaty of Tlatelolco, under which 21 States in Latin America agreed in February 1967 to create a nuclear-free zone by banning nuclear weapons.

An agreement putting Mexico's acceptance of safeguards supervision into effect was signed in Vienna on 6 September by the Mexican Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Alfonso García Robles. Seated with him are Dr. Sigvard Eklund, Director General and Mrs. Amalia G. C. de Castillo Ledón, Mexican Ambassador to Austria. Standing behind them are Mr. Alfonso Estrada-Berg, Counsellor to the Mexican Embassy in Austria and Mr. Antonio González de León, Director General of the Diplomatic Services of Mexico.

The total number of safeguards agreements is now 40 and involves 30 Member States. During the General Conference Turkey accepted control of its co-operative atomic activities with the USA, which have been in progress since 1955. Ambassador Hassan Istinyeli, Member for Turkey of the Board of Governors and Resident Representative to the Agency, Ambassador H. D. Smyth, USA Member of the Board of Governors and Dr. Eklund were the signatories.