FIRST SAFEGUARDS INSPECTION AT BRADWELL

**Bradwell nuclear power station,
one of the large generators of electricity in the United Kingdom
and the biggest yet to be placed under the Agency's Safeguards system,
has now been added to the growing list of installations
to which IAEA inspectors are making periodic visits.**

Mr. Allan D. McKnight, Inspector General, and Mr. Frank Arsenault of the Division of Safeguards and Inspection made an inspection of the station in the last week of October under the agreement signed with the UK in June, 1966. This visit was mainly intended to obtain an idea of the factors involved in ensuring that nuclear material there would not be diverted to military purposes, including the operating procedures at the installation and its bookkeeping methods. From now on, however, there will be a series of inspection visits, of which any or all can be unannounced, and in fact Mr. McKnight, when questioned by Press representatives, refused to give information of the future

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Mr. Allan D. McKnight, Inspector General of IAEA (left) and Mr. Frank Arsenault, an Agency Inspector (right) talking with the Station Superintendent, Mr. Alan Vowles (centre) while touring the Bradwell nuclear power station during the first Safeguards inspection there.

plans because he wanted to retain the element of surprise. He did say, however, that the inspectors could examine every aspect relevant to their task and that their duties could extend to physical checking and sampling.

Considerable interest was taken in the event, as was shown at Bradwell by the batteries of television, newsreel and newspaper cameras which the inspectors had to face and in London, by a well attended and inquisitive Press conference.

During the Press conference, at which many questions were asked about the purposes and application of the Safeguards system and its effectiveness in preventing proliferation of weapons, Mr. McKnight pointed out that within five or six years power stations built for civil purposes throughout the world would be producing something like 8000 kilogrammes of plutonium per annum. Assuming that it took something like five or six kilogrammes to produce a bomb, he thought it became axiomatic that some form of international verification as to the where abouts of this plutonium and its use was essential to the world. He also stated that there were now 57 reactors of various types under Agency control, in 25 countries — with some others under discussion.