STATEMENT OF
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4. Managing the Back End of the Nuclear Fuel Cycle

Now, the fourth and final pillar of our nuclear future concerns our managing the world's growing inventory of civil spent fuel and separated plutonium. Here are the realities:

- more civil plutonium is being separated than is being recycled in conventional nuclear power reactors;
- more than 200 metric tons of separated civil plutonium — all usable in nuclear devices — is stored around the world, with many tons added every year; and
- storage for stocks of civil spent fuel is nearing global capacity.

As stocks of civil spent fuel and plutonium rise, so do the proliferation risks. We need a unified vision to manage this "back end" of nuclear power production.

First, we should work together to ensure that adequate spent fuel storage capacity is available to reduce pressures for additional reprocessing. We should also consider concepts for consolidated, international storage of spent fuel and plutonium.

Second, we should work to implement the goal articulated in the International Plutonium Management Guidelines: **bring civil plutonium supplies and demand into balance.** In striving to achieve this balance, we will maintain current U.S. policy: we do not encourage the civil use of plutonium, but at the same time we will not alter our existing commitments in this area. For those who have not yet decided on how to manage their spent fuel, we urge them to consider the value of long-term storage and direct disposal as a means to address the growing accumulation of this material.

Third, we should explore long-term strategies to reduce existing stocks of already separated civil plutonium. Burning plutonium in mixed-oxide fuel reactors is one alternative. Immobilization and direct geologic disposal is another. The United States is working to develop this second approach, and we're prepared to share the results of our work. I propose a special international meeting be held next year to address the status of this technology and to set an agenda for future research.

In Denver, Colorado next month, the Department of Energy will host the international conference on geologic repositories that I announced from this podium last year. I expect it to inject new momentum into our dialogue on the safe, secure and transparent disposal of spent fuel and nuclear waste. I hope you'll join us.

Let me conclude by recognizing the enormous responsibilities we bear, but also the opportunities that lie ahead. When future generations look back 50 or 100 years from now, let them say that we seized the opportunities rather than let them slip away. Thank you very much.

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（抜粋・仮訳）

（１）民生用使用済み燃料とプルトニウムのストック量が増加しつづけていることは重大な問題。
（２）追加的な再処理への圧力軽減のため、適切な使用済み燃料貯蔵能力を確保すべく協力して取り組んでいく必要がある。また、使用済み燃料とプルトニウムについての包括的な（ consolidated ）、かつ、国際的な貯蔵の構想についても検討していく必要がある。
（３）国際プルトニウム管理指針で明確に示された民生プルトニウムの需給をバランスさせるとの目標を達成すべく努力すべきである。このバランスを達成するための努力において、自分たちは、米国の政策を維持していく。即ち、プルトニウムの民生利用を奨励しないが、この分野における既存のコミットメントについては、変更しない。使用済み燃料の取り扱い方法を決定していない国に対しては、使用済み燃料の蓄積増加に対応するための方策として、長期の貯蔵と直接処分を行うことの利点を考慮するよう要望したい。
（４）既に分離されたプルトニウムのストックを減少させる長期的戦略を検討する必要がある。MOX燃料でのプルトニウム燃焼は、その一つの方策であり、固定化（ immobilization ）と地層処分はもう一つの方策である。米国は第二の方策を追求すべく努力を行っており、米国の作業の結果を他国と共有する用意がある。この分野での技術の現状と将来の研究課題を討議する国際会議を明年開催することを提案する。