



Delegates assemble in the Festsaal of the Hofburg, the former Imperial Palace in Vienna.

Marked by the announcement of China that it intends to join the four other nuclear-weapon States by placing some of its civilian nuclear facilities under international safeguards, the IAEA 29th General Conference reaffirmed the importance of worldwide co-operation in the peaceful development of nuclear energy.

More than 600 delegates and representatives from 97 Agency Member States attended the Conference, which was held in Vienna from 23 to 27 September 1985. Elected President of the Conference was Ambassador Adonit Manouan of the Ivory Coast.

The Chinese announcement was made by Mr Zhou Ping, Vice-Minister in the Chinese Ministry of Nuclear Industry and Head of China's delegation to the IAEA General Conference. "In line with China's peaceful nuclear policy, we have conducted serious studies on safeguards over civilian nuclear installations," Mr Zhou said. "Now we wish to state here that the Chinese Government has decided to voluntarily offer to place some of its civilian nuclear installations under IAEA's safeguards at an appropriate time and will have consultations with the Agency on this matter."

Currently, four of the five nuclear-weapon States — France, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics — have "voluntary-

offer" agreements in force with the Agency that allow international safeguards inspections of some of their civilian nuclear facilities, as selected by IAEA.

Other actions

In other actions, the Conference passed resolutions concerning South Africa's nuclear capabilities; the consequences of the Israeli military attack on the Iraqi nuclear research reactor in 1981; the protection of peaceful nuclear installations against armed attacks; and the physical protection of nuclear material, among others. (See accompanying box.)

Conference delegates confirmed by acclamation the re-appointment of Dr Hans Blix for a term of four years starting on 1 December 1985. In his remarks to the Conference, Dr Blix underscored the Agency's central role in the world's non-proliferation regime and urged Member States to expand their mutual efforts, suggesting several ways in which international co-operation in nuclear-energy fields could be strengthened. (Highlights of his speech are in an accompanying article.)

The Conference also approved the Agency's regular budget for 1986, which calls for zero real growth and amounts to US \$98.68 million. Additionally, delegates set a target for 1986 of US \$31 million for the Agency's

Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund, which is composed of voluntary contributions from Member States. The amount represents about a 25% increase over last year's level.

Featured meetings

Featured meetings at the 1985 General Conference focused on nuclear safety issues and the topic of small- and medium-sized nuclear power reactors. The nuclear safety meetings, which brought together senior policy-making officials in the field from several countries, followed similar sessions held at last year's IAEA General

Conference and focused on issues of international importance.

At the other meeting — specially convened as a "scientific afternoon" — lectures were presented that reviewed national experience in the planning, construction, operation, and economics of smaller nuclear power reactors. A particular emphasis was placed on technology transfer, since such reactors could be more readily adapted to smaller electric grids in developing countries, fulfill requirements of low load growth, or serve remote locations or special purposes.

Further details on these meetings appear in *News in brief*, beginning on page 64.

Resolutions adopted

Resolutions adopted by the IAEA 29th General Conference addressed issues including:

- **South Africa's nuclear capabilities.** The resolution, adopted with no negative votes, demanded "once again that South Africa submit immediately all its nuclear installations and facilities to Agency safeguards" and requested the Director General "to continue taking the necessary measures in that connection". It also called upon all Agency Member States which have not yet done so "to halt all nuclear co-operation" with South Africa and particularly "to end any transfer of fissionable materials and technology and to stop all purchases of uranium" from the country. The resolution further requested the Agency's Board of Governors and the Director General "to follow closely the activities of South Africa and its evolution in the nuclear field" and to report to the General Conference at its 30th regular session.
- **Consequences of the Israeli military attack on the Iraqi nuclear research reactor.** The resolution, adopted by a vote of 30 in favour, 21 against, and 19 abstentions, considered the statement made by the Representative of Israel during the General Conference and noted "that Israel has thereby committed itself not to attack peaceful nuclear facilities in Iraq, elsewhere in the Middle East, or anywhere else". It further considered that "the safeguards system of the IAEA brings evidence of and an opportunity to review the peaceful nature of nuclear facilities subject to such safeguards". The resolution called upon Israel "urgently to place all its nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards".
- **Protection of peaceful nuclear installations against armed attacks.** The resolution urged "once again all Member States to make, individually and through competent international organs, further continuous efforts aimed at the prompt adoption of binding international rules prohibiting armed attacks against all nuclear installations devoted to peaceful purposes". It also affirmed the readiness of the IAEA to provide assistance as requested in technical and safeguards aspects of the matter.
- **Amendments to Agency Statute.** Two resolutions were adopted related to the representation of Member States on the Board of Governors. One concerned revision of Article VI of the Statute as a whole and the other just pertained to elected membership under Article VI.A.2. In regard to both resolutions, the Conference requested the Board to consider and submit its observations and recommendations at next year's General Conference.
- **Physical protection of nuclear material.** The resolution expressed the hope that the International Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material "will enter into force at the earliest possible date and that it will obtain the widest possible adherence". As of 27 September 1985, the resolution noted that the Convention had 40 signatories and 14 ratifications.
- **Agency staffing.** The resolution requested the Director General to continue taking steps to increase adequately the number of staff members at all levels drawn from developing countries.

