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RECORD OF THE TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY-EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING

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on Monday, 24 September 1984, at 3.25 p.m.

President: Mr. BARREDA DELGADO (Peru)
later: Mr. THABAULT (France)

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GENERAL DEBATE AND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1983 (continued)

1. Mr. ISURUGI (Japan) noted that, according to the Agency's annual report for 1983, aggregate nuclear installed capacity in the world had reached 191 GW by the end of the year, with nuclear power plants providing about 12% of the world's electricity production. Recent operating experience with nuclear power plants, in particular their availability, was steadily improving and one could well say that nuclear power generation was now playing a vitally important role in energy supply as a whole.

2. In the present situation, with nuclear power acquiring more and more importance in many countries, one of the main objectives must be to achieve better cost-effectiveness than other energy sources by improving the reliability of nuclear power plants - through improved safety and better operating conditions. In that way more countries would be able to benefit from the advantages of nuclear power.

3. Japan had been encouraging nuclear power generation in a long-term perspective, realizing as it did that that was one of the important options in an energy strategy aimed at stabilizing power production. Japan was operating 28 nuclear power plants, one of which was devoted to research and development; the aggregate capacity of those plants amounted to 19.9 GW, representing about 20% of the country's total energy production. Thirteen nuclear plants with an aggregate output of 12.4 GW were under construction and five others with a total power of 4.3 GW were planned.

4. In emphasizing nuclear power production, Japan was striving to make the best possible use of the potential energy contained in uranium. With that goal in mind it was endeavouring to perfect an advanced thermal reactor for plutonium utilization, a breeder reactor and a technology for recycling plutonium in light-water reactors.

5. Japan's foremost objective at present was to set up a national nuclear fuel cycle. In July 1984 private electric power companies had announced that they were planning to build a uranium enrichment facility, a reprocessing plant and a repository for low-level nuclear waste on a proposed site, and various steps had already been taken towards the realization of that project. Since it was bound to have a considerable influence on the future

development of the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy in Japan, the Japanese Government was giving active support to the project, aware as it was of the vital importance of ensuring safety and securing public acceptance.

6. At a time when the peaceful uses of nuclear energy were making steady progress, the Government of Japan wished to reaffirm its strong support for the cause of nuclear non-proliferation, on which the peace of the world depended. Peace, so precious to all, could not be preserved otherwise than in a spirit of equality and freedom. That being so, all the nuclear-weapon States were under an obligation to embark on the path of nuclear disarmament; and all States, whether in possession of nuclear weapons or not, should redouble their efforts to avoid any further proliferation of nuclear armaments.

7. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) played an important role in that connection. Although the Treaty was inequitable in certain respects, Japan had nevertheless acceded to it. As the only nation ever to have suffered directly from atomic bombs, Japan was a strong proponent of the ideal of peace.

8. The nuclear-weapon States should cherish the spirit of freedom and equality and act in such a way as to guarantee the non-nuclear-weapon States the opportunity of pursuing policies aimed at the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy.

9. Recent developments in international co-operation in the nuclear energy field were much to be welcomed - though, there too, it should never be forgotten that the utilization of nuclear energy had to be confined to purely peaceful purposes. Japan had adopted a rigorous national policy of pursuing solely the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and it applied that principle in its co-operation with foreign countries, whether the country in question possessed nuclear weapons or not. The present occasion was a good one for laying stress on the fact that it was vital for all countries to ensure that all co-operation in the nuclear energy sphere should serve only peaceful purposes.

10. All countries should accept the application of Agency safeguards to all their peaceful nuclear activities. In that connection, noted as a positive development the announcement that the Soviet Union and the Agency had now

reached agreement ad referendum on the text for the implementation of the Soviet voluntary offer. Japan appealed to all countries which had not yet done so to adhere to NPT as soon as possible in order to strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation system. The Agency's safeguards system had provided effective services in the cause of non-proliferation, as could be seen from the Safeguards Implementation Report for 1983.

11. In view of current developments in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and the progress achieved in safeguards technology, every effort should be made to improve IAEA safeguards further while endeavouring to maintain an appropriate cost-effectiveness balance in the implementaton of the system. Japan hoped that the deliberations of the Standing Advisory Group on Safeguards Implementation (SAGSI) would make it possible to define a new approach for that purpose. The Japanese Government had co-operated with the Agency in its efforts to achieve effective and efficient implementation of safeguards through numerous meetings, such as those of the Japan/IAEA Joint Safeguards Committee, and it would continue to pursue that policy. Safeguards technology was being steadily improved, moreover, under the Japan Support Programme for Agency Safeguards (JASPAS). His delegation noted with great satisfaction that some of the results obtained in that programme had already been turned to good account in the implementation of Agency safeguards.

12. In March 1985 Japan would be playing host to the first training course on State Systems of Accounting for and Control of Nuclear Materials to be held in the Asia and Pacific region, a fresh example of Japan's co-operation with the Agency in the safeguards field. Japan had extended various forms of co-operation designed to facilitate the work of the Agency's inspectors. The Agency's Tokyo Office had been set up in June, and he hoped that it would be effectively utilized.

13. Nuclear non-proliferation was an essential element of progress in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The measures required in the interests of non-prolifertion should not, however, place any undue restrictions on the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy in the name of non-proliferation. He hoped that further discussion would take place on the question of the compatibility of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and nuclear non-proliferation. And, also in that connection, he hoped that there would be fruitful exchanges of views within the Committee on Assurances of Supply (CAS).

14. Nuclear safety was exceptionally important if the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy was to prosper, a fact of which Japan had always been aware. Japan had consistently done everything in its power to advance the cause of nuclear safety, and its efforts were going to continue. The country's nuclear power plants had excellent operating records, most of them having achieved availability factors of more than 70% during the past year. That percentage was close to the maximum figure attainable in view of the fact that the regular inspections carried out on nuclear power plants at present required about four months. In large degree it was thanks to the steady efforts Japan had made in relation to nuclear safety that that result had been achieved.

15. A nuclear accident in one country could have most unfortunate consequences for the nuclear programmes of other countries - one more reason why international co-operation in nuclear safety should be steadily strengthened.

16. The transport of radioactive materials was an important question for public acceptance of nuclear power because it inevitably involved close contact with the public. Such transports had, by their very nature, an international aspect, and for that reason the Agency was being called upon to play an increasingly important role in connection with them. His delegation particularly welcomed the recent updating of the Agency's Transport Regulations, approved by the Board the previous week, in which the provisions relating to maritime transport - a subject of particular interest to Japan - were considerably strengthened. He would await the Agency's future work in that sphere with interest.

17. His country was also interested in the Agency's activities in the elaboration of nuclear safety standards, the promotion of information exchange, the dispatch of the operational safety review teams, and other items. It was hoped that the advisory group on nuclear safety, which it was planned to set up, would take full account of the discussions that had taken place in the Board of Governors.

18. The Nuclear Safety Review for 1983, which was a fuller version of the document published the year before, and the arrangement of a special programme on nuclear safety during the General Conference were commendable, for they would help to provide the policy makers with adequate information on nuclear safety issues and to promote public acceptance in each Member State.

19. His delegation felt that the principal objectives of the Agency-sponsored technical co-operation programmes with developing countries were to share the benefits of the peaceful use of nuclear energy as a common heritage of mankind, and to contribute to the advancement of those countries. The steady expansion of the Agency's activities in response to requests from the developing countries showed that Member States duly appreciated them.

20. In that connection it was pleasing to see that the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of the Department of Research and Isotopes, which had been created to speed up the application of isotopes and radiation in food and agriculture, had now been in existence for 20 years. The Secretariat's tireless efforts to that end were greatly appreciated and its accomplishments deserved tribute.

21. Recognizing the importance of the Agency's technical co-operation activities, his country had always paid its full share of the voluntary contributions to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund. Although faced with a stringent financial situation, his Government would make every effort to continue paying its contributions.

22. Japan would continue to send experts, receive fellows, host study tours, organize training courses, and donate equipment, and he hoped that the Agency, for its part, would take full advantage of those possibilities. Of all the technical co-operation projects with developing countries, he appreciated most the headway made in some of the projects falling under the Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (RCA). Japan had actively assisted several projects implemented in the area of isotope and radiation applications with a view to resolving the most important and urgent problems encountered by RCA Member States in food and agriculture, industry and medical care. It was hoped that RCA activities in various other areas would continue to expand and strengthen. At the same time, it was felt that co-operation in human resource development was one of the basic approaches to helping developing countries to make progress, and it was in pursuit of that principle that Japan would go on improving contacts with the developing countries. It was also planned to intensify Japanese co-operation in research and development in nuclear techniques, especially with regard to neighbouring countries.

23. With reference to the way in which the Agency organized the budget used to finance those activities, he recalled that the Agency's budget for 1985 was based on zero real growth. He was certain that that budget resulted from a thorough study of the Agency's activities and structures by the Board of Governors and its subsidiary bodies for more effective promotion of those activities through close collaboration between Member States and the Secretariat. He urged the Secretariat to continue its efforts to achieve a balanced allocation of resources and to make more effective use of them. Regarding the implementation of the Agency's programmes, its basic functions, namely technical co-operation, safeguards and nuclear safety, should obviously receive particular attention when allocating funds. Not to be overlooked, however, was the fact that basic research was also important as a mainstay for those important activities.

24. In conclusion, he pointed out that the growing importance of the Agency's role in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy had made its activities indispensable for the future success of that cause. Many technological problems remained, however, to be overcome in furthering the peaceful use of nuclear energy and, as a consequence, the Agency would have to devote itself to solving them.

25. Differences or conflicts of interest among Member States of the Agency had never reached the stage of confrontation; rather the opposite, such problems had been tackled without losing sight of the common aim and a spirit of co-operation had always prevailed. That invaluable tradition was the Agency's greatest asset for the future and should be encouraged in every way.

26. The General Conference was an opportunity to recall the Agency's raison d'être and its status as an international organization which contributed to the prosperity and welfare of humanity as well as to world peace. Member States should renew their determination to unite their efforts for its future development. The combined wisdom and endeavour of all Member States would make it possible to meet the challenges and to make the Agency an indispensable tool for the progress of mankind.

27. Mr. RAMANNA (India) commended the Director General for his efforts to promote the Agency's activities in the realm of nuclear power; the implementation of programmes designed for that purpose would come up against difficulties, due mainly to misguided public opinion in certain countries as to the economics and safety of nuclear reactors. His delegation felt, however, that economic and safety aspects had been better coped with in the case of nuclear power than in that of other energy sources. Further, difficulties might also arise from the fact that while, on the one hand, the Agency could do much more to promote nuclear power in developing countries, on the other, restrictions of various kinds were being imposed. He did not see the purpose of such restrictions on developing countries, which were only concerned with peaceful nuclear energy programmes, when countries with the potential to destroy the world several times over had not made the slightest headway towards nuclear disarmament.

28. The Indian Government was pleased to welcome China as a Member of the Agency. In 1956, at the time of the Conference on the Statute, India had stated that China's membership would be essential if the Agency was to be truly representative.

29. The development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes had made particularly good progress in India during the past year. The performance of India's power reactors had been considerably improved. The first indigenously built heavy-water reactor (235 MW(e)) had started commercial operation at the Madras power station in January 1984, and in the course of the year it had attained an availability factor greater than 80%; the second reactor of the Rajasthan power station had had an availability factor greater than 86%, and for the Tarapur power station reactors the figure was close to 93% (if one excluded outages for refuelling). Indian industry was now quite capable of providing all necessary support for India's future nuclear power programmes. The heavy water plants at Tuticorin and Baroda had overcome their long-drawn-out teething troubles and were now operating satisfactorily, and the Kota heavy-water power plant had begun production.

30. Following those successes, a programme had been drawn up for installing 10 000 MW(e) of nuclear power capacity, representing approximately 10% of India's total electricity generating capacity, by the end of the century. The successful operation of India's indigenously built reprocessing plants had

enabled his country to embark upon the second phase of the nuclear power programme, based on fast breeder reactors. The plutonium-uranium carbide fuel for a fast breeder test reactor was currently being fabricated and it was expected that the reactor would go critical by the end of the year. Purnima-II, a small uranium-233 solution reactor, had gone critical in May 1984, and studies on the thorium cycle were in progress. Dhruva, a 100 MW(th) heavy-water research reactor for the production of isotopes and for basic research and engineering studies, was expected to go critical in October 1984.

31. During the early sessions of the General Conference and the historic Geneva Conferences of the 1950s, the majority of scientists had hoped that the Agency, dealing with advanced fields of research in science and technology, would be able to make a major contribution to the world's economic development. While nuclear energy today played an important part in electricity generation in developed countries, and to a lesser extent in developing countries such as India, most developing countries had derived disappointingly little benefit from it; not because they did not need energy, but because the anti-nuclear propaganda spread so frequently in developed countries, themselves major consumers of nuclear energy, had created misconceptions in the minds of planners in developing countries. The Director General had stated that anti-nuclear propaganda was perhaps motivated first and foremost by political factors. The Indian delegation was firmly convinced that the time had come to remedy that situation. India's experience had shown that nuclear energy was both safe and competitive in comparison to other, alternative sources of energy.

32. As the Director General had pointed out in his statement, more than 300 nuclear power plants were now in operation, providing 12% of the world's electrical energy, while another 200 were under construction. After more than 3100 reactor years of operation, the overall nuclear safety record continued to be positive. Although there had been some incidents due to human error or technical faults, no accident with major consequences had occurred in any power reactor. The contribution by the nuclear industry to radiation exposure in the world remained minimal, representing less than 1% of that from natural sources.

33. If it was not the safety record of the nuclear industry, was it then the fear of nuclear-weapons proliferation that lay at the root of the gloom about nuclear energy? Nuclear-weapons proliferation created a terrible threat to the existence of mankind, yet the installation of a nuclear power plant in a developing country did not necessarily lead to the production of nuclear weapons. The nuclear weapons which threatened mankind with extinction were still being manufactured under dedicated weapons programmes in the nuclear-weapon States. The record of nuclear power programmes outside those States did not justify fears and propaganda of a kind that even led to the imposition of restrictions on the free exchange of scientific ideas and information. After years of progress in the worldwide spread of knowledge, those restrictions seemed ridiculous; history had proved time and again that a country which was denied information always generated that information itself.

34. Supply constraints had hampered and were still hampering India's nuclear power programme, in violation of well-established codes of international trade and law. Situations had arisen where contracts mutually agreed on had not been fulfilled because they did not comply with legal provisions or regulations adopted by supplier countries subsequent to their conclusion. Some developed countries were continuing to meet - not quite so secretly in recent times - for the purpose of further tightening the restrictions on supplies to developing countries.

35. India had never been opposed to safeguards. It had always co-operated with the Agency, agreeing to improvements in measures for their application and willingly allowing the Agency to install any proven new equipment capable of detecting the diversion of nuclear material as long as the equipment did not interfere with normal operations. His country felt that safeguards should be applied in all States, wherever sensitive materials such as separated plutonium or enriched uranium had been imported. On the other hand, it seemed unreasonable to extend safeguards to all the equipment at a nuclear facility. The application of Agency safeguards had become entangled in diplomatic and legal niceties instead of being concentrated on their real aim as set forth in the Statute. The Agency should look into that matter more closely and not let itself be influenced by the opinions and interests of a few Member States. It should commit itself to the free exchange of scientific ideas and

discourage embargoes on equipment as mundane as pumps or piping. To seek more cumbersome, difficult and intrusive safeguards would ultimately affect the utility and credibility of the system. Verification was obviously important, but should not be an end in itself. The goal should be general and complete disarmament and not a mere tightening of safeguards in order to disarm the unarmed, without any disarmament on the part of the nuclear-weapon States. As his delegation had stated in the Board of Governors, a sense of balance and realism was lacking in the Agency's documents - for example, in the Annual Report and the Safeguards Implementation Report (SIR) for 1983. The Agency's task was no more and no less than to determine whether there had been any departure from the terms of the safeguards agreements freely and voluntarily entered into by the parties concerned.

36. The Agency provided an ideal forum for dispelling doubts of a technical nature about nuclear power, and India welcomed the study initiated on small and medium power reactors. Unfortunately, less than 9% of the proposed Agency budget for 1985 had been allotted to programmes related to nuclear power and the fuel cycle. The Agency could take further positive measures to promote nuclear power, especially in developing countries. Within the framework of the RCA, for instance, India had suggested using research reactors as a means to assist developing countries with the training and development of manpower for nuclear power programmes. Although it was for developing countries to work out their own solutions, the Agency had a useful role to play in identifying specific requirements in the field of nuclear power development and areas for collaboration between countries in the same region. A start could be made with sectors such as nuclear minerals prospecting, nuclear power planning and implementation, power reactor operations and the management of wastes - with a view to the establishment of nuclear power stations.

37. As part of its own nuclear power programme, India could consider supplying know-how, equipment and materials to other developing countries for their own programme needs. It continued to support the promotional activities of the Agency, and its expertise and facilities were at the disposal of other developing countries through Agency channels. In 1985, besides paying

its full share of the target for the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund, India would make a contribution equivalent to US $50 000 for RCA activities of particular interest to countries of the region.

38. In conclusion, he recalled that the nuclear energy programmes of different countries had been embarked upon in order to satisfy growing energy needs in the long term. It was ultimately the extent to which the Agency helped to meet those needs, rather than its concern with peripherals, that would determine its relevance and utility to Member States.

Mr. Thabault (France) took the Chair.

39. Mr. HAUNSCHILD (Federal Republic of Germany) said that during the past year there had been observed a further increase in the world's nuclear capacity, which now accounted for 12% of its electricity; that fact indicated a widespread confidence in nuclear energy. In effect, it reflected the existence of an international consensus that nuclear power played an essential and ever-growing role in safeguarding the stability of energy supplies. As nuclear energy grew in importance, the Agency would be relied upon even more to promote and strengthen international co-operation in the peaceful uses of the atom for the benefit of the expanding world population.

40. As far as his own country was concerned, normal progress could be reported in all spheres of nuclear power and its fuel cycle. At the present stage, 16 nuclear power plants representing a total capacity of approximately 11 000 MW(e) were in operation. In 1983, they had produced 18% of the total electrical power. Eleven nuclear power plants representing a total of 12 000 MW(e) were under construction. The aggregate capacity would increase as a result and reach 19 000 MW(e) by 1987 and 23 000 MW(e) by 1990. The reliability of German nuclear power plants was shown by their very high average load factor. Given a total production of 9 969 000 MW/h in 1983, the Grafenrheinfeld power plant with a capacity of 1240 MW(e) had generated more electricity than any other nuclear plant in the world in any one year.

41. All projects relating to advanced reactors and the nuclear fuel cycle were proceeding according to plan:

- The Schmehausen plant with a 300 MW(e) high-temperature reactor would be put into operation in the coming year;

- The 300 MW(e) fast breeder reactor plant at Kalkar would be completed in 1985 and start operation in early 1987;
- The first enrichment plant in the Federal Republic of Germany - URENCO - would start operation in the coming year;
- A 1500 tonne irradiated fuel storage centre located at Gorleben was ready for operation; a second centre, at Ahaus, was under construction;
- A decision was expected by the end of the present year on the siting of the first commercial reprocessing plant;
- The PAMELA demonstration plant for the vitrification of high-level waste at Mol/Belgium would be started up with cold tests in the current year;
- The construction of the exploratory mine in the Gorleben salt dome for final storage of high-level waste had been begun;
- The KONRAD mine, currently being converted into a repository for low-level waste and wastes from the decommissioning of nuclear facilities would become operational by 1989.

42. In addition, a five-year investigation on the direct disposal of spent fuel was now nearing an end. According to preliminary evaluation of the results, the technique could not be considered at the present juncture as an alternative solution to the conditioning of nuclear waste after reprocessing. In a few years time, following more advanced studies and tests, direct storage might become acceptable in the case of a certain quantity of spent fuel. It was clear that the method would give rise to new problems as regards the application of safeguards.

43. An important event marking the present year had been the conclusion of an intergovernmental agreement between several West European countries (five to date) on co-operation in the design and construction of the next commercial breeder in Europe. That agreement was a landmark for further breeder reactor development in Western Europe as well as for the long-term outlook for that technology.

44. Generally speaking, in the Federal Republic of Germany nuclear energy was considered more and more a normal and well-established source of power. Such was the case with the public at large, since the nuclear power problem had been eclipsed by concern about the risks of using coal and other fossil fuels. It was also true of the economic sector, where industry was assuming ever greater responsibility for the development and application of advanced nuclear technology.

45. The People's Republic of China had become a Member of the Agency in 1984. His delegation welcomed that decision, which reinforced the universal nature of the Agency and provided additional support for its objectives and responsibilities. His country already maintained very good bilateral relations with China with regard to co-operation in research and technology, which had been extended to cover the peaceful uses of atomic energy. The Federal Republic of Germany would be glad to broaden the scope of and intensify co-operation with China through the Agency.

46. Turning to the Agency's activities, he first wished to mention the safeguards programme, which was one of fundamental importance, since it gave assurances that Member States would honour their legal and political commitments in respect of non-proliferation. The programme, as a basis for co-operation in the nuclear field, was clearly in the interests of all Member States. It was gratifying that the Secretariat had been able once again in its Safeguards Implementation Report (SIR) to arrive at the conclusion that all nuclear materials under safeguards had been duly accounted for. After a period of rapid advances over the last few years, the safeguards system had now entered a period of consolidation and gradual improvement. No major increase in the number of safeguarded facilities was expected in the near future. Everyone was aware of the budgetary constraints under which the Agency had to function. Under those circumstances he urged the Agency to improve the efficiency of its system still further in order to ensure effective and credible safeguards implementation. The Secretariat, with the aid of the Board of Governors and the various committees involved, should persist in its efforts to make the system more transparent. Within that context greater attention should be given to the possibilities of an approach geared to the whole fuel cycle rather than primarily to individual facilities.

47. The Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty was to be held at Geneva in 1985. His delegation was convinced that the Agency would be able to provide a valuable input for that conference, especially as concerned safeguards application and co-operation in the nuclear field. His Government recognized the fundamental merits of NPT and the EURATOM and Tlatelolco regional systems. It was sad to see that the aim of universal application of NPT had not yet been attained, and his delegation therefore endorsed all political action that could be undertaken to extend the application of that treaty, urging States which had not yet done so to subscribe to it and to its underlying political commitments.

48. His Government was convinced that the goal of a truly worldwide non-proliferation regime could be attained only in an atmosphere of co-operation and trust. The Federal Republic of Germany pursued that policy in its bilateral nuclear agreements. In the multilateral field, it consistently supported the efforts of the Committee on Assurances of Supply (CAS), of which it had been Chairman in 1983. The path towards a consensus on issues central to non-proliferation and nuclear co-operation was thorny, but he did not believe that it was unnegotiable - and it had to be followed. The Third Review Conference of the Parties to NPT in 1985, and the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, in 1986, should both benefit from the results which CAS continued to strive for.

49. His delegation had listened with great interest to the address given by the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and looked forward to the "scientific afternoon", two events which highlighted the twentieth anniversary of the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Isotope and Radiation Applications of Atomic Energy for Food and Agricultural Development. The work of that Division was a prime example of the broad range of applications of nuclear techniques. It was also a typical field where multilateral research and development efforts brought tangible results for a large number of developing countries. His Government therefore strongly supported a number of long-term co-ordinated research programmes monitored by the Joint Division on topics such as protein improvement, sterile insect technique, nitrogen residues in fertilizers, hydrology research and pesticides. The overall voluntary commitment of the Federal Republic of Germany for those areas since 1971 had amounted to approximately 14 million deutschmarks.

50. The work of the Joint Division had to be viewed within the context of the technical co-operation programme, one of the Agency's fundamental tasks. As far as available resources were concerned, 1983 had set new records with a 25% increase over the previous year, or a total of almost 35 million dollars, not including the programmes of other divisions, earmarked chiefly for the developing countries. That development, which would enable the Agency to provide useful support for a number of Member States, was praiseworthy. The Agency was urged to increase the implementation rate for that programme. The importance of evaluating projects, especially a detailed assessment on the spot, which added to the reputation of the programme, should be stressed. Thorough evaluation and presentation of the results in detail were vital in explaining the technical co-operation programme to the parliaments of Member States.

51. His Government was happy to be in a position, despite budgetary constraints, to make a significant contribution to the Agency's technical co-operation activities. Subject to approval by Parliament, it was also ready to pledge its full contribution to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund and to provide additional resources in cash and in kind in 1985.

52. The Agency played an important part in the field of nuclear safety by serving as a forum for the exchange of information and affording Member States an opportunity to have expert advice. The Agency's Nuclear Safety Standards (NUSS) programme and other activities in that area, such as operational safety review teams and the incident reporting system enjoyed his country's keen support. The yearly Nuclear Safety Report represented a useful reference document.

53. The Director General's statement to the effect that the Agency's Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Materials had been revised and updated and would shortly be published was welcomed. His Government strongly supported the application of those recommendations in all Member States. Recent events had shown the importance of stringently applying the safety requirements in gaining public acceptance of the transport of radioactive materials. It was sincerely hoped that those requirements would be strictly observed by all organizations responsible. The Secretariat was planning to set up an international advisory group on nuclear safety. It had

been stated by the Director General during the previous meeting that the activities of that group would not clash with those of the national regulatory bodies. His delegation would like to have an active share in the work of that group and would also take part in the round table on nuclear safety to be held during the present session of the General Conference.

54. Despite the severe national and international budgetary restraints, the Secretariat and Member States were encouraged to pursue their aim of optimum utilization of resources and clear definition of programme priorities. The accomplishments of the Agency were due to the competence and dedication of its Director General and its staff. The spirit of co-operation which had always been such a great asset and had enabled the Agency to cope with the arduous tasks facing it would need to be preserved.

55. In conclusion, his delegation pledged its continued support of the IAEA.

56. Mr. PETROSYANTS (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out that the present General Conference was being held in an atmosphere of international tension created by the actions of the aggressive forces of imperialism. The political goals and, more important, the practical actions of those forces were clearly aimed at further aggravation of international tension. One of the main reasons for that world tension and the increased threat of nuclear war lay in the unbridled arms race to which those forces were committed. The build-up of nuclear, chemical and conventional weapons continued at a forced pace and a new type of armament - outer-space strike systems - was being developed.

57. Under those circumstances countries, more especially those present at the Agency's General Conference, were confronted by an extremely acute worldwide problem, namely the task of preventing nuclear war. The heads of political parties and Governments of the countries making up the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) had adopted a special declaration at their meeting in June of the present year, in which they stressed the need to take the most resolute and immediate action to save humanity from the threat of nuclear annihilation.

58. The Soviet Union, faithful to Leninist principles in its foreign policy, had always been and remained a steadfast advocate of the prohibition and elimination of all types of nuclear weapons. His country had given an example of goodwill by undertaking not to be the first to use nuclear weapons. If all nuclear powers adopted the same commitment, it would be a great step forward along the path of restoring trust between States.

59. At the thirty-eighth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations an overwhelming majority of countries had approved the declaration condemning nuclear war, and the resolutions on a nuclear-weapons freeze and on prevention of the militarization of outer space, documents drawn up at the initiative of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. The Soviet Union considered that the prevention of nuclear arms proliferation was one of the main points to which the efforts to ensure international peace and security should be directed. In a speech on that subject, Mr. Chernenko, Secretary-General of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the USSR and President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, had stressed that there was need to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all forms, to refrain from transferring such weapons or the control of such weapons to anyone else, to refrain from deploying them on the territories of countries which did not possess such weapons, and to refrain from extending the nuclear arms race to other spheres such as outer space.

60. The Agency was a recognized international body whose duty was to co-ordinate the efforts of different countries in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. No programme related to strengthening international security and limiting the arms race, above all in the case of nuclear weapons, should escape its attention.

61. The Soviet Union therefore attached great importance to improving the efficiency of Agency safeguards. The Agency should apply its efforts, on a priority basis, to areas where the risk of the diversion of nuclear material for the manufacture of nuclear weapons was greatest. In that respect his delegation believed that the effectiveness of Agency safeguards should be strengthened in "near-nuclear" States, especially those which were not parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The Agency should focus its verification activities on the "sensitive" stage of the nuclear fuel cycle in those countries.

62. His delegation had supported and would support the Agency in every possible manner in discharging its statutory function of guaranteeing the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. In 1985, the Soviet Government planned to spend more than 800 000 roubles on activities in the USSR under its programme of scientific and technical support for Agency safeguards. In that way the total figure for sums appropriated for the Agency safeguards support programme would amount to 2 200 000 roubles for the period 1983-1985.

63. To meet the wishes of numerous non-nuclear-weapon States the Soviet Union had, as an act of good will, expressed its willingness to place some of its peaceful nuclear activities under Agency safeguards. It thereby hoped to create more trust between nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon States, to strengthen the Agency's authority and to improve still more its safeguards system.

64. The Soviet Union attached very great importance to active participation by the Agency in the preparations for and holding of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty. NPT was one of the most important international agreements in the field of nuclear weapons limitation. It was a symbol of the political goodwill of an overwhelming majority of States in the world which believed that by limiting the number of nuclear-weapon States one could appreciably reduce the risk of a nuclear war. That Treaty reflected the conviction of the contracting parties that the fact of renouncing nuclear weapons constituted for non-nuclear-weapon States an important guarantee of their security. By helping to recreate trust between States, NPT had opened up fresh prospects for international co-operation in the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes. The Non-Proliferation Treaty, in essence, therefore reflected the interests of all countries, whether large or small, whether in possession of nuclear weapons or not, and whether developed or developing, and there was no alternative to it under the present circumstances. His delegation would strive resolutely for the success of the Review Conference, which would be a new landmark in the process of strengthening the non-proliferation regime. It would be in the interest of all parties to the Treaty and all States, as well as in the interest of world peace.

65. There was no doubt that the successful outcome of it would create conditions favourable for the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy. The Agency was effectively discharging the responsibilities vested in it under resolution 35/112 of the United Nations General Assembly with regard to that Conference. The Agency's experience in matters of co-operation and its knowledge of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy would be of great value to those attending the Conference and would make it possible to find the right approach for dealing with the issues which that Conference dealt with.

66. The Soviet Union actively supported other activities of the Agency associated with the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. In the Committee on Assurances of Supply (CAS), it had supported the creation of an international system for assuring supplies. An important pre-condition for the success of the Committee's work was for all its members to realize the existence of a close link between guaranteeing the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and the long-term guarantee of nuclear supplies. Action to strengthen the non-proliferation regime and set up a nuclear supply system should be taken in a spirit of co-operation and dialogue based on equal rights. His country saw in that a genuine guarantee of fruitful international co-operation in the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

67. The Soviet Union appreciated the part that the Agency had played in drafting an international convention on the physical protection of nuclear materials. It believed that the text should come into force as soon as possible and that a larger number of States should accede to it, since the convention was an international legal instrument of importance that helped to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. If not all, then at least a large majority of the countries which undertook the international transport of nuclear materials, or on the territory of which such transport occurred, should sign the convention.

68. The Soviet Union attached great importance, now as before, to the Agency's activities in the field of technical co-operation. That was shown by the regular increase in its voluntary contributions to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund, which normally exceeded the figures recommended by the Secretariat. In 1985, the Soviet Union's contribution would be 2 250 000 roubles. Those resources were to finance the provision of

equipment and instrumentation manufactured in the USSR to developing Member States, the organization of training courses in the USSR and the provision of services by Soviet experts. Furthermore, 1 000 000 roubles had been allotted in 1984 and 1985 to technical assistance to be provided through the Agency for States party to NPT, and 150 000 roubles had been allocated to cover costs incurred in the Soviet Union under the Agency's technical assistance programme.

69. The twenty-eighth session of the General Conference of the IAEA was being held in the same year as the thirtieth anniversary of the startup of the world's first nuclear power plant at Obninsk (USSR). On 27 June 1954, the Obninsk power plant had started supplying energy to the Moscow grid, thereby inaugurating the use of a new source of electricity for mankind. In a span of 30 years nuclear energy had passed from the stage of scientific research and experiment in the USSR to becoming a rapidy developing branch of the national economy, despite the existence of large reserves of coal, oil, natural gas and hydraulic resources which had still not been tapped. The construction of nuclear power plants in the European part of the Soviet Union where the bulk of the population resided, made for better energy supplies for those areas, and the plants had shown themselves to be an economic source of energy as well as being advantageous and reliable. At the present time 40 nuclear reactors with a total installed capacity of more than 22 million kW were in service in the USSR. In 30 years the unit capacity had been multiplied by a factor of 300. Whereas the total capacity of the Obninsk power plant amounted to 5 MW, the unit capacity of the Ignalinsk power plant recently commissioned was 1500 MW. It was the most powerful reactor that had ever been built in the world. Quite recently, in mid-September, the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party and the Council of Ministers of the USSR had adopted a decision which brought out the fact once more that the success in developing nuclear power was essential if the efficiency of the national economy was to improve still more.

70. Concurrently with nuclear power, the Soviet Union was rapidly making advances in nuclear energy as applied to industry, agriculture, medicine and scientific research; for example, more than 5000 industrial and scientific establishments (in sectors such as machine-building, metallurgy, ship-building, chemicals and coal production) were making use of

radioisotopes. Medicine had become the main consumer of radioisotopes and ionizing radiation. Nuclear techniques were now well established in medicine as a means of clinical diagnosis and treatment. Their advantages were manifold, for example they were non-invasive and safe, permitted repeated analyses, gave accurate and highly reproducible results, and provided quantitative information on the functional state and anatomo-topography of body organs and systems.

71. A number of specialized research institutes in the Soviet Union were engaged in developing and further improving techniques for irradiating foodstuffs and were studying the effects of the processing on living organisms and human beings.

72. The number of Soviet ice-breakers was on the increase and those ships had been used successfully and with great advantage for a number of years in the Arctic Ocean.

73. The Soviet Union was sharing its knowledge and experience in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and was ready to go on doing so. Co-operation between the Soviet Union and the socialist countries was conducted on a partiuclarly broad and productive scale. Through technical assistance from the Soviet Union, nuclear power plants had been built and started up in Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic and Hungary. They produced electricity without interruption and in a reliable and economic manner. The construction of nuclear power plants in Poland, Romania and Cuba had been begun. As a result of intense development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in the socialist countries, active co-operation between all the parties interested had replaced the aid which had previously been supplied by the Soviet Union alone. Conditions had been created for pooling the efforts of Member States of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) in their nuclear programmes; for example, there had been agreement on the construction of power plants, standardization of units, specialization and co-operation in the manufacture of equipment, and the joint solution of certain nuclear fuel cycle problems. Within the framework of CMEA, technical and economic co-operation was being extended more and more to joint research and development activities in nuclear science and engineering on the basis of co-ordination, co-operation, agreements and contracts. The experience of

Member States of CMEA in scientific and technical, industrial and economic co-operation as applied to nuclear energy might perhaps be of interest for regional co-operation in other parts of the world. The Agency would do well to review the experience of CMEA and look into the possibility of using it as a basis for improving co-operation between developing countries.

74. In conclusion, the Soviet delegation joined other delegations which had expressed their support for the Annual Report for 1983, and the Director General, together with the Secretariat staff, were to be commended for their efficient and productive work during the past year. He was confident that the Agency would remain a reliable instrument at the service of the development of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy, while still keeping watch over the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

75. Mr. RENON (France) noted with satisfaction that since China's decision to join the Agency arrangements enabling it to take part in the Agency's work as one of the most advanced nuclear powers had been formulated by the Board of Governors and that they would be adopted as well by the General Conference. That fact was a success for the Board, and its Chairman, as well as for the international community as a whole; it would boost the Agency's effectiveness in that China would be called upon to play an important part in international nuclear trade and exchange for peaceful purposes.

76. The economic crisis continued to have an adverse effect on energy investments, especially in the case of nuclear power, the economic viability of which could be appreciated and seen objectively only in the middle term. On the other hand, in a number of industrialized countries the decrease in psycho-political manifestations that had tended to slow down the development of that energy source seemed to be confirmed. Indeed, those were still sensitive issues, as the reaction by the Press had shown at the time of the sinking of the Mont-Louis, although the experts had agreed that there would be no risks involved in terms of radioactivity. The efforts deployed by the nuclear industry in the matter of safety - which made it an exemplary industry in that respect - should therefore be continued; experience showed, however, that one had to know how to assess the extent of such efforts correctly.

77. Steps had been taken to improve or modify the legal situation in order to facilitate, in the long run, a return to nuclear power development; in certain countries, for instance, attempts had been made to ease licensing procedures, without detriment to safety, and to reduce construction deadlines, which occasionally hindered the competitiveness of the investments. Efforts were usually focused on action relating to waste management.

78. The record for nuclear energy was impressive: 325 reactors in service, more than 270 units under construction or ordered throughout the world, and 12-13% of the world's electricity produced in that way, and probably 20% by 1990; but it was right now that the ground was being prepared for the status of nuclear power by the end of the century, and from that standpoint the low investment level was disturbing. Nuclear energy had passed its tests and constituted, along with coal, the basic source for mass-scale energy needs - except for the specific domain of oil. It was already realized that nuclear energy had an irreplaceable part to play in seeking a world energy balance, and it was clear that a more voluntaristic approach to energy policies was called for.

79. France, whose nuclear power programme was the second biggest in the world, had in 1984 become a country in which nuclear power covered its needs to the greatest extent: 55% of its electricity was accounted for by 37 nuclear power reactors, and 22 units were under construction, 16 of them with a capacity of 1300 MW. Thus 70% of its electricity would be covered by nuclear power by 1990, and the national energy independence factor would attain 50%, as against 40% in 1984, and 20% in 1973.

80. The availability of French power plants (some of which were the load-following type) had been 75% over the past year. A first unit with an output of 1300 MW(e) had been commissioned and construction of the first French-designed reactor of a new standard series with four 1400 MW(e) loops had been begun. The Phénix fast breeder (250 MW(e)) had now been supplying the national grid for ten years and its availability factor, which had been 95% over the first six months of 1984, confirmed the quality of that reactor line. The Super-Phénix (1300 MW(e)) had just reached the stage of incorporation of the sodium coolant and it would become critical before the end of 1985.

81. The interest of European countries in breeder reactors had led in January 1984 to the signing of an intergovernmental agreement by which Great Britain joined the co-operation existing already for a long time between France, the Federal Repbulic of Germany, Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands; a set of specific agreements was being negotiated between the interested industrial concerns and research institutes, on the one hand, and the utilities, on the other. When the time came that European co-operation would be logically extended to cover other countries, the possibility of which was, furthermore, recorded in the mentioned intergovernmental agreement.

82. In addition, France possessed a complete fuel cycle industry. The Eurodif enrichment plant had reached its rated capacity of 11 000 000 SWU/y in 1983, and had passed on to the stage of industrial operation; it had operated highly satisfactorily in 1984. A new unit for fabricating fuel assemblies had been started up.

83. The extension of the La Hague reprocessing plant had continued as planned; the investment would make it possible, in a few years' time, to possess a reprocessing capacity of 1600 t/y, which would be able to process spent fuel from about a hundred 900 MW(e) power plants. Plant UP2 had already reprocessed 920 tonnes of fuel from light-water reactors, 190 of which related to the first six months of 1984, or a figure equal to more than half the total amount reprocessed throughout the world. Those achievements, together with the record for facility safety, made it clear that the industrial option chosen by France to close the cycle was a worthy one.

84. As far as waste management was concerned, basis safe storage regulations dealing chielfy with the acceptability thresholds for surface storage centres had been adopted. A waste management programme had been published and the Commissariat à l'energie atomique (CEA) was to propose, before the end of 1985, two new surface storage sites; siting studies for an underground laboratory to investigate storage conditions were already underway in connection with a proposition that would be made to the Government in 1987.

85. As was known, France was willing to share its nuclear experience and to co-operate with States anxious to launch nuclear power programmes; it had already done so on a broad scale and was prepared to promote the transfer to technology, with due regard for the needs of its partners and their industrial development potential.

86. In consideration of the effects of the world crisis, the Agency had concentrated its efforts in the past year on its statutory functions - promotion of nuclear energy and verification of the peaceful use of it. It had sought, among other things, to keep abreast of developments in the nuclear field in a number of Third World countries and was preparing for the future so that when the time came the development of nuclear energy on a broader scale would be made easier. The Agency had also endeavoured to publicize the use of nuclear techniques in agriculture, food and health, and finally, it had effectively carried out verification of the peaceful uses of safeguarded materials. Promotion and verification were, furthermore, two aspects inextricably linked to its mandate.

87. But the international situation had brought to bear severe constraints on the Agency. The necessity for a zero-real-growth Regular Budget in 1985 was a serious challenge - the Agency had responded to the challenge by seeking to keep down operational expenditure to a minimum, and the Director General was to be commended for the action he had taken along those lines. It had to be realized that the Agency's finances would remain critical at a period when, because of the world economic situation, the budgetary policy of Member States was particularly stringent; as a result it was essential to define priorities in the implementation of programmes.

88. The preparation of the budget for 1985 had resulted in more intense consultations with Member States for the very purpose of identifying priorities; that was a positive innovation. In the same way, the new presentation of the budget, which emphasized its objectives, imparted to it a transparence that would facilitate the evaluation and the follow-up of programmes and sub-programmes, as well as assisting with the choice of priorities.

89. During the past few years the Agency's budget for technical assistance and co-operation, financed essentially on a voluntary basis, had been brought back to the former level; it represented 33% of the funds for 1984, which was evidence of the efforts made in that area. In the present situation, however, it would not be possible to maintain that growth rate; it was noted, for example, that there were delays in the payment of voluntary contributions by

certain Member States, or in the payment of sums below those pledged. At the same time, the decrease in the project implementation rate recorded in 1983 indicated that there were limits to the absorption capacity of the receiving countries. The Technical Co-operation Evaluation Unit recently set up would certainly help to suit the means to the needs more effectively.

90. The three-year indicative programming for the financing of technical assistance and co-operation activities, decided on in 1980, had proved useful. That approach, which endowed the Agency's activities with a certain "predictability" should be maintained.

91. His delegation considered technical co-operation to be a fundamental part of the Agency's activities; since it had so often hoped for them in the past, it approved the new trends which now marked the Agency's activities in that respect; those were, first, the stress placed on the applications of nuclear techniques in agriculture, medicine and food preservation, which represented 50% of the technical assistance projects; that broad range of activities could in the long run considerably influence the economy and living standard of many developing countries. And, secondly, the increase in the number of multi-year and multi-national projects, and finally, an effort to integrate training into the actual design of the project.

92. The Agency's activities in promoting nuclear power were positive. In particular, the initiative launched by the Agency in 1983 to encourage a dialogue between potential suppliers and consumers on prospects for small- and medium-sized reactors was welcome. It would be worthwhile ascertaining whether there was an interest, especially in the Third World, for that type of reactor, adapted to the samll and medium electric grids. The dialogue had obviously not yet brought the full results, but it was hoped that the determination with which the Secretariat was following up that matter would make for useful consultations during the year to come.

93. The Agency had important functions in the area of safety; the publication of the NUSS guides and codes, now in its final phase, was to its credit. The same applied to the development of guidlines for assisting geographically close countries to conclude agreements on joint action in the case of nuclear accidents. His country appreciated the initiative recently taken by the

Agency to meet the requests for assistance or expertise on general or special aspects of safety - two missions of that type had taken place during the past year and if those activities continued to increase the Agency would have to call on safety experts from countries which had had long experience with nuclear power programmes.

94. With regard to the plan to establish a high-level safety advisory group, he recalled his delegation's position, which coincided with that of many other countries, that it was up to each State, in line with its own way of thinking, to draw up its safety regulations and the procedures for applying them. International co-operation, whatever its framework might be, should never be an alternative to the regulatory power of States, nor even encroach upon it in any way. Furthermore, countries with nuclear programmes had already been consulting each other frequently for a long time; they had in practice arrived at a consensus on the criteria, methods and, by implication, the objectives of safety and protection.

95. Lastly, the ever-growing importance attached by the Agency to matters associated with waste management appeared to be fully justified.

96. Once again the Agency had concluded that in 1983 the nuclear materials placed under its safeguards had been used solely for peaceful purposes. Their knowledge of the work of the Department of Safeguards enabled delegations once again to note both the reliability and credibility of the Agency's safeguards system. Such was indeed essential, for certainty that the mission had been properly accomplished was the condition necessary for fostering exchanges and commerce, and consequently for developing nuclear power, which was itself vital in overcoming the world's energy problems. That was why, moreover, his country favoured a system of safeguards financing which took that principle into account and established equitable participation by all Member States.

97. The Agency was improving its safeguards techniques at a rate commensurate with technological progress and was promoting research in that area. For its part, his country continued to take part in the scientific safeguards support programme, the value of which had been given prominence by the Secretariat. Reorganization of the Department of Safeguards was a good idea, for it had enabled the Department's efficiency to be improved, for example, by ensuring better utilization of inspectors or by setting up regional offices.

98. The methods used to safeguard the peaceful uses of nuclear energy had stood the test of time; but for all that they were not inflexible. The increase and diversity expected in the case of nuclear facilities and a foreseeable growth in the quantity of fissile materials to be safeguarded inevitably implied a significant rise in the safeguards budget. It was just with that in mind that further improvements had to be sought in those methods so as to ensure, along with the results, a curb on the costs and the restrictions imposed upon operators. In that respect the ideas entertained by the Standing Advisory Group on Safeguards Implementation (SAGSI) were reasonable; those matters should continue to be a subject for in-depth discussion by the Board of Governors.

99. The discussions on international plutonium storage had not yet ended. His country was convinced that the Agency ought to play a role in the regulation of international plutonium movements and hoped that concerted agreement could be reached; a study of that matter should be resumed within the Agency.

100. There had been discussions within the Agency and in other organizations aimed at finding new policy guidelines to facilitate the development of nuclear energy in the world. His country, which had also given thought to that matter, believed that each State, subject to its requirements, should have access to nuclear energy, while complying with the accepted requirements of non-proliferation.

101. In conclusion, he wished to pay tribute to the Agency's competence and experience, which had helped so much to enhance its credibility.

Mr. Barreda Delgado (Peru) resumed the Chair.

102. Mr. JIANG (China) read out a message of congratulations to the General Conference from Mr. Zhao Ziyang, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of China. In that message he stated that the Agency, since its foundation, had done much useful work in promoting the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in the interests of the whole of mankind, thereby winning world-wide acclaim; he expressed the hope that the twenty-eighth session would contribute even more to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to the technical assistance and co-operation in that field. The Chinese Government was ready to take an active part in that common effort.

103. The Chinese delegation was very pleased to be able to take an official part in the work of the General Conference and wished to thank all those delegations which had supported China on the occasion of its request for admission to the Agency. He also thanked the previous speakers for their words of welcome, as well as the Director General for his assistance. Once again his delegation wished to express its appreciation, to Romania and other countries which had submitted and supported, in 1971, the proposal for recognition of the right of the People's Republic of China to represent China in the Agency; his delegation would do all it could to help the success of the General Conference. Finally, he congratulated the FAO and the Agency on their 20 years of fruitful collaboration.

104. Because of the rapid progress in science and technology, the peaceful uses of nuclear energy assumed an unequalled importance and were called upon to play a central role in the socio-economic development of all countries. Despite the setbacks encountered by some of them over the last few years, nuclear energy remained a promising source of energy. It had to be noted, however, that its development was very well balanced; as the Director General had himself stated, out of 313 nuclear power plants in the world, only about 12 of them were located in developing countries - a fact clearly accorded neither with the aspirations nor with the needs of the developing countries - and one of the Agency's most important tasks was to help those countries to develop their nuclear potential, with full consideration for their specific requirements.

105. Inseparable from that problem was the matter of non-proliferation. China was aware of the importance of the latter and recognized that it was essential to adopt adequate measures in that respect; it was, however, opposed to the imposition of unreasonable restrictions on nuclear co-operation which, under the pretext of halting proliferation, only impeded full co-operation of that kind. Preparations were now underway for the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy and China was taking an active part in them.

106. China's activities in the nuclear field had begun in the fifties. Through the efforts deployed over 30 years, China had established a fairly complete industrial system, together with nuclear research facilities covering areas such as uranium prospecting, mining and enrichment, waste management and various others. Its modernization programme underway opened up new prospects for the development of nuclear science and industry. China's economic development strategy was aimed at a four-fold increase in the annual gross figure for industrial and agricultural production by the year 2000, and to reach that goal the development of nuclear energy was absolutely essential. Although coal and hydropower resources were abundant in China, they were lacking in certain regions where the economy was more developed; under those circumstances nuclear energy had to become an important source of power for China. The Government had decided to speed up the building of power stations, both for hydropower as well as the thermal and nuclear type, and a nuclear energy development programme was now being drawn up. Construction of a nuclear power plant at Quinshan and another one in Guandong Province had already started.

107. China had thus laid the foundations for the development of its nuclear industry; but as a developing country it still needed the experience of other countries and had to acquire technologies and equipmment capable of speeding up the process, since its ultimate aim was to be able to design and construct by itself large-size nuclear power plants. For the first generation of such plants it had selected pressurized water reactors as the principal type.

108. Isotope application was making headway in China. More than 10 000 scientists and technical staff were now engaged in the production and application of isotopes or investigating that field, while several research institutes had been set up for that purpose. Isotopes and radiation technology had been found very satisfactory in various sectors of the economy, more especially in agriculture, where more than 160 new types of cereals, vegetables and fruit had been produced using radiation technology and were now cultivated successfully. Likewise, in industry, radiation technology was being employed on an ever broader scale.

109. As a country with 1000 million inhabitants, China attached great importance to nuclear medicine. At the present time more than 700 medical units were applying nuclear technology for diagnosis and therapy, and had obtained in certain areas outstanding results.

110. As part of its modernization programme, China had formulated a policy of rapid development in nuclear energy, based on, first, self-reliance and, second, international co-operation. At the same time, co-operation and exchange in nuclear energy with other countries was part of China's policy of opening up to the outside world. His country was in favour of active co-operation in promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy based on reciprocity and progress for all, mutual respect for sovereignty, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, equality and mutual benefit. It was in that spirit that China had maintained good relations with many friendly countries for a number of years. Agreements had been signed in the nuclear field with Yugoslavia, France and the Federal Republic of Germany, and agreements with the United States of America and Brazil were in process of preparation. Good relations were also enjoyed with Japan and the two countries were now negotiating a co-operation agreement in the nuclear field. China was expecting to expand its co-operation activities still further in that respect.

111. His country was opposed to the nuclear arms race and spared no effort in seeking to attain the objective of complete prohibition and total destruction of nuclear weapons. Although it was true that co-operation in nuclear energy touched on some senitive issues, China intended to adopt a responsible attitude which would ensure that such co-operation could be used solely for peaceful purposes. In May 1984, the Chinese Prime Minister had stated that China, dissatisfied with the discriminatory nature of NPT, had refused to accede to it; but that obviously did not mean that his country favoured nuclear proliferation, nor that it was prepared to help other countries develop nuclear weapons. The policy applied by China in its co-operation activities with other States followed the principle of non-proliferation, and when exporting materials and equipment it would request the recipient countries to accept safeguards in line with the principles set forth in the

Agency's Statute. By the same token, when importing nuclear materials and equipment, China would also make sure that they were used for peaceful purposes.

112. China was not yet very conversant with the Agency's activities and hoped to learn from the exchange of views with other delegations. He looked forward to the coming co-operation and was resolved to contribute its share to fulfilment of the Agency's important tasks.

The meeting rose at 5.25 p.m.