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## RECORD OF THE TWO HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FIRST PLENARY MEETING

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President: Mr. AL-KITAL (Iraq)

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\*\*/ GC(XXVIII)/730.

The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document GC(XXVIII)/INF/223/Rev.4.

## GENERAL DEBATE AND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1983 (GC(XXVIII)/713 and Add.1 and 2)

1. Mr. van GORKOM (Netherlands), after welcoming the delegation of the People's Republic of China to the General Conference, said that, in his impressive and forward-looking statement, the Director General had described the main achievements and some of the more important future tasks of the IAEA. The results obtained so far compared favourably with those of many other international organizations. However, it was necessary not to be blind to certain negative tendencies which might affect the effectiveness of the Agency, tendencies which could be found in many international organizations at present and which had been mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the General Assembly.

2. In that report, the Secretary-General had commented on what had been called "the crisis of multilateralism". One of his main observations had been that the many accomplishments of the United Nations had required a multi-lateral structure of co-operation. The same applied to the accomplishments of the IAEA. Whether the basic safety standards for radiation protection, the code of practice on the management of radioactive wastes or the safeguards system were concerned, well-structured international co-operation was needed for the Agency's work to lead to such accomplishments. Another observation in the Secretary-General's report, which also applied to the Agency, had been that a truly international organization should offer a platform to all nations alike. In fact, universality of membership constituted both an essential precondition and the source of the organization's strength. A third observation of the Secretary-General had been that the main organs of the United Nations and its specialized agencies should not be treated as interchangeable platforms for pursuing the same political aims. The Secretary-General had stated that issues must be dealt with on their own merits and in their own context; otherwise one or two issues could pervade the entire United Nations system. In the case of the Agency that meant that efforts should be concentrated on questions which were of immediate relevance to the promotion of peaceful applications of nuclear energy and to the prevention of proliferation. In maintaining and increasing the relevance of the Agency, the General Conference would contribute to the strengthening of the United Nations system as a whole.

3. For more than 25 years, the Agency had been of great importance to all its Member States, regardless of their economic systems or levels of development. The review of the Agency's activities - in addition to being concise and to giving an impressive picture of the Agency's performance - had shown that the Agency satisfactorily performed its tasks where the developing countries were concerned and that many of the Agency's activities were indeed strongly oriented towards the requirements of developing countries, which was entirely appropriate. The Agency served not only as a platform for the exchange of information and experience in all applications of nuclear energy, but also as an instrument for assisting Member States, notably those with limited means. That assistance was not such that the Agency could or should provide it all by itself. The Agency should continue to co-operate closely with other organizations in the United Nations system which assisted developing countries in different fields of development. The elaboration of an energy strategy adapted to the specific needs of a particular country was a case in which several international bodies, including the IAEA, could play a role. Obviously, much would depend on efficient co-operation between them. In that connection, his Government intended to make a positive contribution to the forthcoming United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (UNCPI/PUNE).

4. International co-operation through the Agency related not only to assistance with and information on nuclear energy but also to regulatory activities. Since the Agency was the only world organization concerned with nuclear energy, it represented the logical framework for developing guides and codes in the fields of nuclear safety, safe transport of radioactive materials and waste management. Another example of activities with relevance worldwide was the IAEA's Incident Reporting System. In the development and application of such international regulatory instruments, consideration must be given to the experience of existing regional institutions in the same field, such as the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The Director General's initiative to set up an international nuclear safety advisory group was to be welcomed; the group should also draw on the experience of existing regional bodies such as the NEA.

5. His Government greatly appreciated the Agency's activities with regard to waste management and was convinced that its participation in activities such as the Technical Review Committee on Underground Disposal was useful. Research carried out by the Agency and elsewhere had resulted in the general conclusion that the storage of radioactive wastes in certain geological formations was a solution to the waste management problem which met environmental concerns, in particular. A consensus had been reached by the experts in Seattle in the previous year that there were no technical barriers to appropriate and safe management of nuclear wastes. Some countries had only small nuclear programmes or did not have geological formations suitable for the storage of wastes. It was precisely for those situations that international co-operation was needed. The Netherlands supported the Agency's efforts to intensify international co-operation on waste management, with regard not only to advice in bilateral matters, but also to the Agency's input to multilateral fora such as NEA.

6. The Netherlands attached great importance to the efforts of the Agency, in collaboration with FAO and WHO, in the field of food irradiation and hoped that the new joint IAEA/FAO/WHO advisory board on food irradiation would have its first session in the near future. The issue was of great importance to both developing and industrialized countries: to the latter because food irradiation offered an alternative to chemical additives and a means of eliminating pathogenic micro-organisms, especially salmonella; and to the former because it made it possible to increase the quantities of food available for consumption by considerably reducing the tremendous food losses caused by insufficient storage and transport facilities. In the Netherlands, the food irradiation programme had always held an important place. In 1984, nineteen fellowships had already been awarded to students from developing countries to study at the Dutch pilot plant for food irradiation at Wageningen. In addition, fifteen fellows would be following the general course at the International Facility for Food Irradiation Technology (IFFIT). The current year was also seeing the twentieth anniversary of the Joint FAO/IAEA Division, which demonstrated the ability of the Agency and FAO to collaborate effectively.

7. Of all the IAEA's activities, the safeguards system was certainly the most remarkable. The voluntary submission by so many States of their nuclear activities to inspection by international civil servants should be considered one of the finest examples of international co-operation and confidence-building measures. The safeguards system could also be seen as a promising manifestation of human rationality, and as the expression of self-interest rationally applied. Over the years, the system had grown and matured, and the experience gained had provided a model which might serve as a basis for future international arms control agreements. When discussing the problems still to be overcome, that wider perspective should thus never be forgotten. However, it was necessary to continue to be objective and to search for improvements in that valuable instrument. The worst possible attitude would be indifference to safeguards. Safeguards strengthened confidence between States and at the same time provided a basis for international nuclear transactions; they should not create additional barriers in the way of such transactions. It was in that light that the Netherlands had always seen the possibility of the establishment of an international plutonium storage (IPS) scheme. The existence of plutonium in separated form required additional confidence-building measures in order to facilitate rational use of that valuable material as well as to make certain bilateral restrictions superfluous. The existence, use, transfer and storage of increasing quantities of plutonium in years to come would clearly place a responsibility on the world community and on the IAEA in particular. A forward-looking approach was required in that respect, and continuation of the IPS discussions was therefore fully justified. The discussion on the matter in the Board of Governors in February 1984 had been encouraging in that it had demonstrated broad support for a follow-up to the work of the IPS expert group.

8. Following the successful conclusion of discussions on the safeguards approach to be adopted for gas centrifuge enrichment plants, a facility attachment for the enrichment plants in the Netherlands would be finalized within the next few months. Another very important development in safeguards had been the voluntary offers concerning IAEA safeguards at a number of civil nuclear installations in four nuclear-weapon States, and he welcomed the agreement reached between the Soviet Union and the Agency.

9. In the next year the Third NPT Review Conference would be held. In that context it should be borne in mind that international co-operation in nuclear trade and a commitment to non-proliferation were not and could not be incompatible; indeed they went hand in hand. That certainly presented challenges both for the exporting countries, which had to consider ways of dispelling fears that non-proliferation might only be a device designed to prevent real nuclear co-operation which it certainly was not, and for the consumer countries, which needed to offer adequate assurances about the peaceful nature of their nuclear programmes. The IAEA played an essential role in that area, by promoting international dialogue in the Committee on Assurances of Supply (CAS) and elsewhere.

10. In the Netherlands, much nuclear research was being done. Nuclear power was being used and there were further applications of nuclear energy in medicine, agriculture and industry. Other Dutch nuclear activities included uranium enrichment by means of the gas centrifuge enrichment process. In the decision-making process for the overall energy supply for the next decades, much consideration had been given in the Netherlands to the potential of nuclear power in the light of all relevant factors. In early November, his Government would submit its views and intentions to Parliament.

11. In conclusion, he reaffirmed the confidence of his Government in the IAEA as one of the strongest constituent parts of the United Nations system and pledged its full support for the strengthening of the Agency for the benefit of all its Member countries and of mankind as a whole.

12. Mr. SHASH (Egypt), welcoming the People's Republic of China as a Member of the Agency and of its Board of Governors, expressed his confidence that China's participation would help the Agency in fulfilling its objectives. He also wished to commend the Director General for his valuable report on the Agency's activities over the preceding 25 years.

13. Egypt attached great importance to the technical assistance provided by the Agency, and supported the implementation of resolution GC(XXV)/RES/388 which stressed the need for financing technical assistance from assured and

predictable resources in order to meet the increasing requirements of developing countries. His country was also in agreement with the Director General that greater emphasis should be placed on multi-year, regional and interregional projects and on co-operation among developing countries. His delegation intended to submit to the Conference a draft resolution on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit dealing with the Agency's technical co-operation programme. In that connection, he expressed his gratitude to all States which had contributed to the Agency's Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund and to those which had made extrabudgetary contributions to finance a number of projects.

14. Egypt considered the Agency's activities in the field of nuclear safety to be important and welcomed the Director General's efforts to promote the Basic Safety Standards for Radiation Protection and proposal to send advisory teams on request to Member States to help them in implementing those Standards. An Agency expert on the subject had visited Egypt, and his Government was pleased to establish collaboration with the Agency, especially in the training of personnel in the conditions of safety and the drafting of the necessary documents. In that connection, he appreciated the Secretariat's collaboration in the training of a radiation safety group in Egypt.

15. His delegation approved the steps taken by the Director General to give effect to resolution GC(XXV)/RES/386 on the staffing policy. It urged the Director General to continue his efforts with a view to fully implementing that resolution so as to do justice to developing countries, which constituted more than 70% of the Agency's membership, especially since such countries were capable of offering highly competent candidates in various areas for appointment in the Secretariat.

16. His country firmly believed that the Agency's safeguards system was one of the main pillars supporting its activities and its statutory functions. That was why Egypt had forthwith condemned the Israeli attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor in 1981, and had drawn attention to the threat which that attack posed to the Agency's Statute. Referring to operative paragraphs 2 and 9 of resolution GC(XXVII)/RES/409, he noted that the Director General's report pointed out the dangerous consequences of such an armed attack and the damage

which it could do to the Agency's safeguards system and to its credibility. He urged the Conference to consider the statements of Israel and Iraq in that connection, together with the Director General's report, during discussion of agenda item 10. Egypt had made a number of comments at the Board and would express its opinion on the subject again at the Conference during discussion of the item.

17. He regretted that South Africa had deliberately ignored the request contained in resolution GC(XXVII)/RES/408 and had clearly expressed its intention not to place all its nuclear activities under Agency safeguards, thus defying the General Conference resolution, as was evident from the Director General's statement. That situation was not altered by its willingness to enter into negotiations with the Agency on the submission of a semi-commercial enrichment plant to Agency safeguards. A draft resolution had therefore been prepared by the African Group, and he hoped that it would be fully supported by all delegations.

18. One of the important questions before the Conference was amendment of Article VI.A.2 of the Statute so as to rectify the existing imbalance in the geographical representation on the Board of the areas of Africa and the Middle East and South Asia. The matter had been on the agenda of the Board and of the General Conference for seven years and it was high time that justice be done to those areas.

19. The present session of the General Conference was being held at a crucial time for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy: the Third NPT Review Conference was to meet in September 1985 and the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy (UNCPICPUNE) was scheduled for 1986. The Agency would no doubt make a major contribution to the success of those conferences in view of its experience in the areas of technical assistance and safeguards. Egypt had been, and would continue to be, associated with the preparation of those events.



20. His country had taken an important part in the work of the Committee on Assurances of Supply (CAS), which had made considerable progress, and hoped that an early agreement would be reached on principles of international co-operation in the field of nuclear energy.

21. Egypt was going ahead with its ambitious nuclear power programme with a view to meeting 40% of its electricity needs by the end of the century from that source. The actual work on the first nuclear power plant at Dabba, near Alexandria, had already started, and his Government was looking forward to greater co-operation with the Agency and its Member States in the realization of that programme so that considerable oil resources could be saved and made available for industrial and other vital development projects.

22. Mr. ROSENZWEIG DÍAZ (Mexico) said that his delegation wished to comment in general terms on the utilization of nuclear energy, which from the start had had two main areas of application - one peaceful and the other destructive. On the peaceful side, the IAEA had consistently supported important activities in fields such as technical co-operation, safeguards and nuclear safety. The annual report reproduced in document GC(XXVIII)/713 bore eloquent testimony to the Agency's achievements, even at a time when its programmes were subject to strict budgetary limitations.

23. At the same time, it seemed incredible that, twenty-eight years after the establishment of the Agency and fourteen years after the entry into force of NPT, no effort had yet proven adequate to restrain the armaments race or to halt the use of nuclear energy for military purposes by certain States. On the eve of the Third NPT Review Conference it was time to appeal for full implementation of each and every provision of that Treaty.

24. Mexico, the first country to submit all its nuclear installations to IAEA safeguards, the prime mover of the Tlatelolco Treaty, was also the first to express sincere regret that the Agency's General Conference should have to consider for the third time a sordid dispute unleashed by the military attack of one Member State (whose nuclear installations were not under IAEA safeguards, and which was not a signatory of NPT) on the research centre of another Member State (whose installations always had been satisfactorily subject to safeguards, and which was, like Mexico, a signatory of NPT).

25. The main issue was not the identity of the disputants, but - as had been stressed from the beginning - the fact that the attack cast doubt on the safeguards regime. It was an instance of aggression against the inalienable right of all the Agency's Member States, enshrined in Article II of the Statute and Article IV of NPT, to pursue the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy as a means of promoting their scientific, economic and technological development. His delegation trusted that the dispute would

be satisfactorily settled as soon as possible. At the same time, Mexico wanted to stress the importance of adopting, in an appropriate forum, an international legal instrument specifically guaranteeing protection against military attacks on any and all nuclear installations subject to Agency safeguards.

26. In keeping with its traditional policy of defending the principle of nuclear non-proliferation and promoting international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, Mexico had taken an active part in the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the Third NPT Review Conference, held in April 1984. The Committee had decided by consensus to hold the Third NPT Review Conference for four weeks from 2 September 1985, taking account of information received from the Agency's Secretariat regarding a possible schedule for the twenty-ninth regular session of the General Conference. It had emerged only later, unfortunately, that the Secretariat had not given the Preparatory Committee adequate information. The Mexican Government much regretted that lack of co-operation, which confounded the efforts of Member States such as Mexico that were signatories of NPT and had an interest in the success of the Third NPT Review Conference. The decision of the Conference at its present session to hold its twenty-ninth session at the same time as the Third NPT Review Conference threatened to impede the participation of developing countries in one or other of the conferences, because by and large they did not have enough personnel. Mexico thus felt bound to enter a reservation regarding the Conference's decision under item 5(b) of the agenda, concerning the opening date of the twenty-ninth regular session.

27. Mexico considered that the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (UNCPI/PUNE) – a conference in which it took great interest – should be held in 1986. There were a number of reasons for that. First, it was important that efforts should be concentrated in 1985 on the Third NPT Review Conference, and that participation in that conference should be as large as possible. Secondly,

the IAEA should be given time to conclude its work - mainly within CAS - aimed at defining the principles which should govern international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Thirdly, enough time should be allowed to prepare the documents needed for a successful outcome of the Conference.

28. The Government of Mexico condemned the racist régime of South Africa and wished to commend to the Conference's attention General Assembly resolution 38/181/A/B, relating to implementation of the declaration on the denuclearization of Africa and to the nuclear capability of South Africa, and resolution 38/39/A, relating to the apartheid policy of the South African Government.

29. Turning to Mexico's own nuclear programme and the salient aspects of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy under the auspices of the Agency, he said that the national power programme of Mexico was designed to incorporate nuclear power as one element in the overall energy supply plan - subject, of course, to the limitations inherent in the country's present economic situation. By the end of 1984 aggregate installed capacity in Mexico would reach 20 202 MW, and electricity demand was expected to grow at an average rate of 7% per annum over the coming few years. As far as nuclear power was concerned, work on the two units of the Laguna Verde power plant was proceeding at an accelerated pace: the first unit was expected to go into operation in 1986 and the second two years later.

30. In view of the economic situation, a thorough study was being made of the capacity of domestic industry and of the need for diversification, with the aim of establishing a nuclear power programme; the expectation was that, from the second plant onward, nuclear power would play a significant role in satisfying the country's electricity demand.

31. The problem of finding an adequate solution to the financing of technical assistance persisted; in contrast to the situation of safeguards, the principal characteristic of the present system for financing technical assistance was

uncertainty, because voluntary contributions always depended on the economic situation and were moreover subject to the vagaries of the political climate in donor countries. Yet technical assistance constituted the principal means available to the Agency for disseminating the benefits of nuclear energy throughout the world and reducing the vast technology gap which acted as a source of conflict and misunderstanding between the developing and the industrialized countries. Thus, the promotion of technical assistance should take precedence over all other considerations.

32. When the indicative planning figures were established for 1987, 1988 and 1989, the Board should bear certain things in mind. First, assistance in kind was not showing any tendency towards growth; secondly, less money was available from UNDP; thirdly, there were less funds available under the Regular Budget for promotional activities; and, fourthly, the size of technical assistance projects was growing in proportion to the economies of the recipient countries.

33. It was a welcome fact that more nationals of developing countries had been recruited for Secretariat posts, but those countries were still not adequately represented. Nor was it just a question of percentages: the most important thing was to recruit nationals of developing countries for senior Professional posts; only then could the Agency hope to improve its understanding of the needs and views of the Third World. Geographical distribution, admittedly, should not supplant all other criteria applied in the hiring of staff, such as efficiency, national quotas and so on, but Mexico felt that it had only recently been given due weight at all.

34. Some modest progress could be noted in the deliberations of the Committee on Assurances of Supply (CAS). The most important subject before that committee, in Mexico's opinion, was the definition of principles to govern international co-operation. The Committee should continue its work in a positive spirit: if all participants demonstrated sufficient political will, the principles could be dealt with before the Third NPT Review Conference.

35. Ms. SUDIRDJO (Indonesia) noted that international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy had continued to develop in an encouraging manner in the past year. The Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (UNCPICPUNE) held earlier that year had, for example, reached a consensus on a number of important issues relating to the conference which was to be held in 1986.

36. With regard to the Third NPT Review Conference, it was to be hoped that the second meeting of the Preparatory Committee would be able to start its substantive work by considering the conference documents, including those submitted by the Agency.

37. The Agency had a valuable role to play in assisting developing countries to acquire not only the equipment and materials, but also the scientific and technical know-how needed to develop the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. To ensure the continuity of national programmes in that field, it was essential for the Agency's technical assistance programme to be funded through predictable and assured resources and on a long-term basis. She regretted that the discussions in the June meeting of the Board on the implementation of resolution GC(XXV)/RES/388 did not indicate any possible solution to that question.

38. In the context of international technical assistance and co-operation, mention should be made of the work of the Committee on Assurances of Supply (CAS). Although the rate of progress had been rather slow, encouraging results had been achieved on mechanisms for revising international nuclear co-operation agreements and on emergency back-up mechanisms. The most difficult issue before CAS was the formulation of draft principles for international co-operation activities within the framework of the Agency. Her delegation hoped that CAS could make some real progress on that question since UNCPICPUNE would undoubtedly find such principles extremely useful.

39. Indonesia, which was a party to NPT, considered the Agency's safeguards activities to be very important since they constituted one of the most effective means of preventing the horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons. It was with disappointment, therefore, that her delegation had noted the negative reaction of South Africa to resolution GC(XXVII)/RES/408 requesting it to submit all its nuclear facilities to Agency safeguards.

40. The increase in safeguards costs resulting from the rise in the number of nuclear facilities - particularly in the developed countries - had been the subject of wide discussion among Member States. The central issue was how to share the costs fairly. Various formulas had been suggested and an interim solution had been agreed upon by the Board at its most recent meeting. She hoped that, through intensive consultations, a long-term solution could eventually be found.

41. Indonesia was very interested in the small and medium power reactor (SMPR) study and was pleased that the Agency had been able to launch the study thanks to contributions from a number of Member States. Her country would naturally co-operate to the fullest extent in that exercise.

42. Her delegation recognized the importance of the question of the protection of peaceful nuclear installations against armed attack and had noted the work of the Geneva-based conference on disarmament on that subject.

43. Turning to her country's activities in the nuclear field she wished to outline a number of the most important features. A new study to update the one concluded in 1979 on the use of nuclear power was to be carried out in early 1985. A 30 MW multipurpose reactor with supporting laboratories was currently being constructed which would become one of the country's most important research and development centres and would help to enhance national capability in the nuclear field. Radioactive waste management programmes would have high priority. National regulations for the safe handling of radionuclides would be formulated on the basis of international codes, guides and recommendations.

44. A detailed study of uranium deposits and exploration had been carried out with the result that uranium mineralizations and some radiometric and geochemical anomalies had been discovered. Work on the evaluation of uranium ore resources would continue.

45. As a result of the application of radiation and radioisotopes in her country, two new rice varieties had recently been made available to farmers. The first variety, Atomita-1, had a better performance in the growing period, the harvest time being advanced by two weeks. In addition, cooking quality was better than that of the mother variety and the new variety was resistant to biotypes 1 and 2 of plant-hoppers. The second variety, Atomita-2, had an additional improvement in its specific characteristics, namely its tolerance to salinity.

46. Positive results had been achieved in respect of food preservation and some progress had been made on packaging aspects and shipment studies relating to certain irradiated foodstuffs.

47. Indonesia had taken part in all research activities conducted under the RCA programme. An RCA programme on the industrial application of isotopes and radiation technology for radiation vulcanization of natural latex had recently been set up at the National Atomic Energy Agency's Centre for the Application of Isotopes and Radiation in Jakarta. Extensive work was being carried out on the use of radiation and radioisotopes to study the efficiency of fertilizer utilization, the improvement of animal production, pest management and immunology of domestic animals. Isotopes were also being used in hydrology and sedimentology, with groundwater studies being undertaken in Jakarta.

48. In the field of nuclear medicine, emphasis would continue to be placed on the co-ordination of radioimmunoassay work in several hospitals. It was planned to establish a nuclear emergency hospital in the near future and to expand the use of nuclear techniques in medicine.



49. Mr. AAMODT (Norway) said that, subject to parliamentary approval, his delegation could accept the budget proposed for 1985. He was pleased to note that there were increases, albeit modest ones, in the safeguards and nuclear applications areas within a budget which deviated only slightly from the generally accepted target of zero real growth. The target of US \$26 million proposed for voluntary contributions to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund for 1985 was also acceptable. His delegation attached great importance to the Agency's technical assistance and co-operation programme. While he regretted that some technically sound projects could still not be immediately implemented for lack of finance, he welcomed the substantial increase in the target for voluntary contributions and the doubling of the amount of extrabudgetary resources made available. The resultant programme increase of 25% from 1982 to 1983 was extremely satisfactory. That rapid increase in resources made it all the more imperative for funds to be used as efficiently as possible. The introduction of dynamic programming and the establishment of the Technical Co-operation Evaluation Unit were important developments in that connection. His delegation was pleased to see that the proportion of technical assistance funds to be spent on multi-year projects and regional and interregional projects in 1985 was to increase in comparison with 1984. The idea of using indicative planning figures for the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund had proved successful and his delegation saw no pressing need to change to any other method of financing.

50. He also welcomed the trend in technical assistance requests away from radiation applications and towards nuclear power although the former would certainly remain an important part of the technical assistance provided by the Agency. In that context, his delegation attached great importance to the implementation of the Mediterranean fruit fly eradication project initiated in 1983. The success of an important project of that kind could have a considerable impact on the resources made available for technical assistance in the future. He commended the success of the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Isotope and Radiation Applications of Atomic Energy for Food and Agricultural Development which should serve as an inspiration to international organizations to undertake joint efforts of a similar nature.

51. His delegation attached considerable importance to the Agency's co-ordinating role in the fields of nuclear power and the nuclear fuel cycle. The exchange and dissemination of experience and knowledge between Member States through publications, symposia, panels and so on were of the greatest benefit to all Member States.

52. His country considered the progress made in the past year in further developing the International Nuclear Information System (INIS) to be most encouraging.

53. The Agency's work in the nuclear safety area was one of its most essential and valuable tasks. The publication in 1983 of a further six safety series guides under the NUSS programme was especially noteworthy. Norway supported the trend towards more direct Agency participation in safety work through advisory missions and the provision of assistance to national regulatory bodies, and commended the Director General on his intention to set up an International Nuclear Safety Advisory Group. The establishment of the Incident Reporting System was another logical step in the Agency's safety work. For the system to be successful, the full co-operation of all countries operating nuclear power plants would be required. Close co-operation with the OECD's Nuclear Energy Agency would have to be maintained in order to avoid duplication of effort.

54. He wished to inform the General Conference that his Government intended to ratify the International Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material before the end of 1984.

55. Like many other countries, Norway was concerned about the dumping of radioactive waste at sea. The importance of the Agency's role with respect to the handling and disposal of radioactive waste under the London Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter should be emphasized. The efforts of the Agency in reviewing the scientific and technical problems relating to the proposal for the amendment of the Annexes 1 and 2 to the Convention were especially commendable.

56. A fair balance must be maintained between the promotional and regulatory roles of the Agency. Despite the budgetary problems faced by Member States, the Agency must be given adequate resources for safeguards to ensure that the safeguards system kept pace with technological developments and that verification operations could be performed with a high degree of assurance in spite of the increase in the number of facilities to be inspected. Furthermore, in view of the problems of public acceptance, it would hardly be possible to support the provision of technical assistance for nuclear power programmes without a reliable safeguards system. His delegation felt it would be necessary, when designing cost-effective safeguards approaches, to pay more attention to the characteristics of the fuel cycle of each State. However, the system could best be improved by extending full-scope safeguards to all non-nuclear-weapon States. Norway was pleased to note that the Ivory Coast and Papua New Guinea had concluded safeguards agreements pursuant to NPT during 1983. However, at the end of that year there were still 41 non-nuclear-weapon States parties to NPT without a safeguards agreement. States which had not yet concluded such agreements should do so as soon as possible.

57. It was reasonable for all Member States to participate in the financing of safeguards since safeguards was a collective responsibility and of benefit to all countries. His delegation would have preferred safeguards to be funded from the Regular Budget without any special financing formula. At all events, at least some fraction covering the administrative and general part of safeguards costs should be borne by all Member States. The remaining costs ought to be shared by Member States on the basis of the maximum routine inspection effort expressed in man-days, that would be necessary if all known peaceful nuclear installations in Member States were subject to safeguards.

58. Safeguards inspectors should, in principle, be recruited from as many Member States as possible. Much more important than the inspector's nationality, however, was his technical competence. It would nonetheless be perfectly possible to recruit inspectors from a larger number of countries than was the case at present without compromising the requirement for a high level of technical competence. In that connection, the Agency's programme of internal training for graduates and junior professionals from developing countries was fully endorsed by his delegation.

59. Norway attached considerable importance to the question of International Plutonium Storage. A plutonium storage system should be non-discriminatory. It would be a valuable addition to the Agency's safeguards system but should not interfere with national energy programmes. It was to be hoped that the Board would continue to study that question and bring it to a successful conclusion.

60. The Committee on Assurances of Supply (CAS) had a number of thorny problems to solve and progress had consequently been slow. CAS was the most appropriate international forum for seeking a consensus on mechanisms for the international transfer of nuclear materials and equipment. It was in the interests of all to maintain a proper balance between assurances of supply and an effective non-proliferation regime. The work should continue with patience and without undue pessimism.

61. The Agency should play a major role in the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (UNCPICPUNE) and his delegation was pleased that the Agency had already provided considerable assistance in the preparations for that Conference.

62. His Government was actively participating in the preparations for the Third NPT Review Conference to be held in 1985. He expected that the Agency would make a substantial contribution to that conference in view of its responsibility to provide safeguards for parties to NPT.

63. Armed attacks on nuclear installations devoted to peaceful purposes could not be accepted, especially when the installation in question was subject to Agency inspection and control. The objective of the safeguards system was to ensure through verification procedures, that nuclear material was not diverted from its proper use. Attacks on installations under safeguards might well endanger the control system which had been so painstakingly established.

64. The principle of universality of participation in international organizations was considered to be of vital importance by his Government. The right of every sovereign State, irrespective of its political or social system, to take part in multilateral organizations was the basis for co-operation among States. Attempts to exclude, directly or indirectly, States from such participation would inevitably have severe repercussions for the organization concerned and multilateral co-operation in general.

65. Mr. AL-OWAIS (United Arab Emirates) said that his country followed with great interest the various activities of the Agency on promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy for the benefit of mankind as a whole. It, too, had benefited from the Agency's technical assistance programme in areas such as geological exploration, nuclear medicine and other applications of nuclear energy. The University of the United Arab Emirates had introduced nuclear physics into its curricula, and groups were being sent abroad for training in nuclear energy-related sciences.

66. However, his Government was increasingly concerned at the nuclear arms race and at the dangers posed to mankind by such a race. It hoped that supporters of peace all over the world would work in earnest to halt that terrible race and to impose some sort of international control over those countries which were developing nuclear military capabilities for aggressive purposes, thus endangering world peace and security.

67. As for the use of nuclear energy for electricity generation, the United Arab Emirates was handicapped by a shortage of qualified technical personnel. It was facing many of the problems encountered by a number of similar developing countries which had embarked on that experiment. Those included the high cost of building nuclear plants, the difficulties in the way of transfer of nuclear technology from the industrialized to the developing countries, the problem of assurances of fuel supply, those of nuclear safety and waste disposal and so on. In spite of its keen interest in nuclear power, his country had decided to wait and see how those problems were resolved.

68. Another problem which was of concern to his country was military attacks on civilian nuclear installations of developing countries such as the wanton Israeli aggression against the Iraqi research reactor; it was common knowledge that the facility in question was for purely scientific and peaceful purposes and was fully covered by Agency safeguards.

69. He regretted that the Agency had acted against the spirit of operative paragraphs 3 and 4 of resolution GC(XXVII)/RES/409 by granting three research contracts for US \$24 700 to an Israeli scientific institution. He called upon the Secretariat to abide by the spirit of that resolution especially as Israel

had thus far not satisfied the requirements contained therein. The Israeli Prime Minister's statement circulated in document GC(XXVIII)/720 was nothing but an attempt to deceive and to create the erroneous impression that Israel had withdrawn its previous threat to repeat its attack against nuclear facilities in Iraq or in any other Arab country.

70. As for the so-called Israeli response contained in document GC(XXVIII)/720 and Israel's ambiguous statement concerning its policy of attack on peaceful nuclear reactors of other States and its desire to respect Agency safeguards, it was well worth recalling another statement of the Israeli Minister for Scientific Development. Without making any reference to the Agency's safeguards system or to international instruments or arrangements, the latter had in the preceding August reiterated that his country would at its discretion attack any Arab nuclear project if such a project, in its opinion, might in future be used to produce a nuclear bomb.

71. In conclusion, he urged the Conference to adopt the relevant resolutions in the interest of world peace and welfare of mankind.

72. Mr. SULLIVAN (Canada) said that as a charter Member of the Agency, his country had long placed great importance on the Agency's role as a promoter of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and on its role in preventing the misuse of the atom. The Agency was a vital organization with an established record of competence in the development and maintenance of a credible nuclear safeguards system and as a means by which the peaceful uses of nuclear energy could be brought to an increasing number of countries.

73. The most effective way in which Member States could assure themselves of the peaceful nature of their nuclear endeavours was a clear and binding commitment to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) or an equivalent undertaking and a binding full-scope safeguards commitment under the Agency's auspices. In keeping with such a commitment, Canada had placed its entire nuclear programme under the Agency's full-scope safeguards. It was for that reason others were urged to make the same commitment in the interests of world peace and security. Once those elementary, essential undertakings were given, Canada stood prepared to share the benefits of its reliable, safe and effective nuclear technology.

74. His country was a strong supporter of the activities of the Agency and contributed to a very broad range of programmes. In addition to meeting Canada's share of the annual targets for voluntary contributions to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund, it had provided and would continue to provide assistance in nuclear training and nuclear safety regulations to developing Member States. Additional funds would be contributed to the Agency's footnote a/ programme and, in the area of safeguards, Canada contributed to the safeguards support programme as well as supporting the Agency's inspection field office in Toronto.

75. Canada also gave active support to the Agency's small and medium power reactor studies. Developing countries, with limited financial resources, which were evolving nuclear infrastructures and limited electrical grids, should find small reactors an attractive alternative when embarking on a nuclear power programme. It was also pursuing the concept of even smaller-sized reactors (2-20 MW range) for space heating and electrical power generation applications in Canada's remoter areas.

76. Gamma irradiation (using  $^{60}\text{Co}$ ) was a process which would prove beneficial to countries at all stages of their industrial development. Cobalt-60 was now being used in such diverse applications as sterilization of medical supplies, food irradiation, decontamination of biological waste and industrial waste detoxification. As the world's largest supplier of  $^{60}\text{Co}$  Canada would continue to provide developing countries with the means to reap the benefits of that innovative and significant technology.

77. The Director General's important comments on waste management and decontamination and decommissioning were in keeping with the priorities established within the Canadian nuclear programme. Extensive studies had been undertaken in both areas to ensure that the nuclear industry as a whole, including Canadian industry, had a credible and effective means of dealing with nuclear waste.

78. His country was one of the world's largest producers of uranium, with the potential, experience and commitment to remain a reliable long-term source for our nuclear partners. The recent discovery of several significant high-grade deposits in Canada had added as much as 40% to its currently known uranium reserves. The exploration activity would be continued. The increased uranium production in Canada was matched by improvement in the conditions in which production was achieved. The health and safety of the uranium industry worker had always been a priority concern and the increased production would not be allowed to alter that fundamental principle.

79. Canada had, furthermore, increased its capacity to refine uranium. Two recently completed facilities for conversion of the Eldorado resources were in production and demonstrated that the country had the capability to refine and convert the uranium which it marketed on a competitive basis. The expanded refining programme also incorporated major improvements in pollution control and recycling of valuable former wastes.

80. With respect to electricity generation, his country remained committed to nuclear power. In 1983, nuclear generation in Canada had exceeded 46 TW - an increase of 28% - and nuclear power generated entirely by the CANDU reactor



design had accounted for 12% of total Canadian electricity generation. In Ontario nuclear power had provided 34% of the total electricity production, and when the present Ontario Hydro construction schedule was completed in 1992, the figure would increase to over 40%.

81. CANDU technology had passed the test of confidence during the past year and its reputation for outstanding service and reliability was high. The pressure-tube rupture at the Pickering Station had demonstrated the inherent safety of the pressure-tube concept and the soundness of the CANDU reactor design. That incident had not slowed down Canada's domestic reactor programme. Ontario Hydro's Pickering Unit 6 had been declared in service in February 1984, while Unit 6 at the Bruce Station had produced electricity in June. In the province of New Brunswick environmental studies were underway with a view to a second reactor at Point Lepreau, which would produce electricity for the export market on a commercial basis.

82. A total of four CANDU 600-MW reactors had attained full power in 1983. Those reactors in the Republic of Korea, Republic of Argentina and the Canadian provinces of Quebec and New Brunswick were all in service and performing reliably. Romania had recently opted for a third CANDU, and was now making plans for five units at its Cernovoda site and had plans for four more units at another location.

83. The performance of CANDU reactors continued to be impressive. At the end of 1983 Ontario Hydro's reactors had had an average lifetime capacity of 80% as against 57%, the world average for other types of reactors. CANDU reactors continued to dominate the listings for lifetime performance of world reactors of 500 MW and above.

84. In conclusion, he wished to point out that Canada currently ranked as one of the world's largest producers of uranium, the world's largest exporter of uranium, the world's largest producer and exporter of bulk radio-isotopes, the world's fifth largest exporter of nuclear power reactors (in terms of generating capacity), and the operator of the world's sixth or seventh largest national nuclear power generation programme (depending upon

the criterion employed). It was also a matter of deep satisfaction to Canadians that the Canadian programme was entirely peaceful in nature and completely unrelated to any nuclear weapons programme. In short, the nuclear industry had come of age in Canada.

85. But having said that, it had to be added that many of the Canadian achievements in the peaceful uses of the atom could not have come about without the extensive network of bilateral and multilateral co-operation which Canada enjoyed with others. In that network of ties, the Agency had long played a central role and key part in fostering the consistent expansion of peaceful nuclear activities; he hoped that Canada had had some hand in making the Agency the effective organization that it was.

86. Mr. PEŠIĆ (Yugoslavia) said that the present juncture at which the General Conference of the IAEA was being held was marked by a complex political and economic situation. The chief concern was the arms race, which continued to develop at an ever-greater rate and encompassed more and more efficient means of destruction. It was also having an adverse effect on international co-operation in the field of nuclear energy. Conditions for such co-operation were tending to deteriorate and prevented the developing countries from having free access to nuclear technology required to meet the needs of their economic and social programmes. An ever-greater number of countries were faced with the enormous cost of constructing and operating nuclear facilities, which created almost insuperable difficulties in implementing their national programmes. The decline in the international market and slow-down in programme implementation had brought about a state of imbalance in the development of certain countries with advanced technologies and in others had led to a crisis in the nuclear industry.

87. Despite all those unfavourable developments it was encouraging to see the international co-operation, in all its forms, aimed at improving the quality of life. A good example of that type of co-operation was the relationship between the IAEA and FAO, which had been successfully pursued for 20 years. It was hoped that their collaboration in the application of nuclear energy in food and agriculture would continue fruitfully.

88. Yugoslavia attached great importance to the efficient functioning of the Agency, with which it had been co-operating successfully for 25 years. His delegation had had frequent occasion to express its gratitude to the Agency for the extensive assistance it had received in connection with the construction of the first Yugoslav power station at Krško. He was happy to note that the co-operation was continuing just as fruitfully since the commissioning of that power station. The co-operation was particularly welcome in the area of nuclear safety, to which his country attached vital importance. In that connection he was highly satisfied by the results of the Operational Safety Review Team (OSART) mission, during which it had been possible to make a general inspection of the safety arrangements for the nuclear facility itself as well as verifying the efficiency and competence of the safety services.

89. He wished to take the opportunity of expressing his thanks to the United States and other countries which had provided additional funds for financing footnote a/ projects. Appreciation was also due to the Federal Republic of Germany for aid in the form of fuel elements for the Ljubljana Research Institute.

90. At the present time Yugoslavia was preparing for the construction of a second nuclear power plant, which was to be the first of a series of the same type to be constructed later. The Yugoslav development programme provided for a nuclear plant with a capacity of 6000 MW(e). His country was therefore facing a difficult problem in selecting the most appropriate technology and the most favourable conditions for putting the programme into effect. That called for great sacrifices and at national level there would have to be considerable effort as well as understanding and respect for Yugoslav interests on the part of foreign partners. It was hoped that within that context the Agency would continue its technical assistance and support, which were so important for the implementation of such an ambitious programme for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in Yugoslavia.

91. The agenda for the General Conference contained a number of important items on which his delegation had already expressed its views in the Board of Governors, but some of them could be further commented on. Among them were the positive increase in overall funds intended for technical assistance. Promotional activities were a very important task for the Agency and it was with satisfaction that he noted a gradual increase in appropriations for that purpose. At the same time it had to be pointed out that the funds available still fell short of the real needs of the developing countries. It was essential to speed up the increase in technical assistance funds in order to meeting the justified requirements of the developing countries as well as to restore the balance necessary between the Agency's various activities. Above all, footnote a/ projects which were sound should be assigned the necessary funds; furthermore, Agency technical assistance should be financed from its Regular Budget.

92. The question of protection of nuclear facilities intended for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy against military attack, which had been raised by the Group of 77 at the previous year's General Conference, was an extremely important one. His delegation fully supported the examination of that issue not only in order to strengthen the safety of peaceful nuclear facilities in all countries, but likewise to encourage international confidence and understanding.

93. On a number of previous occasions the General Conference had considered the matter of amending Article VI of the Agency's Statute with the aim of making the composition of the Board of Governors more representative. The agreement reached in the Board enabling the People's Republic of China to take part in the Board's deliberations on a permanent basis was to be welcomed. China's active participation would certainly have a favourable influence on its work. Nevertheless, the problem of bringing Article VI.A.2 into line following the changes made in the membership of the Agency was still of topical relevance. His delegation would do everything it could to help find a balanced solution by which a consensus could be reached on

that major issue. On a similar theme, the question of the staffing of the Agency had, in his delegation's view, been dealt with more fairly from the standpoint of regional and national representation.

94. Since the Committee on Assurances of Supply (CAS) had first been set up, Yugoslavia had taken an active part in the search for agreement on the principles and arrangements for long-term supplies of equipment, technology and nuclear material could be assured on terms accepted and verified at international level. Despite certain headway, the results achieved so far by CAS had not borne out the hopes of the developing countries taking part in it. All concerned would have to make a more determined effort, keeping the original objectives and tasks of that Committee firmly in mind.

95. A subject which was not on the agenda for the General Conference but which was closely linked with the Agency's functions and should be mentioned was that of the preparations for the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (UNCPICPUNE). Those preparations had shown encouraging progress at the Preparatory Committee's fifth session in June and opened up prospects for a conference in 1986. The fruitful outcome of the work of that Committee, which had agreed on procedural arrangements as well as decisions regarding publication of the final documents, provided a basis for continuing the preparations for that conference, which would act as an important stimulus for the overall promotion of its objectives. It should be stressed that the success of that conference would also give impetus to the activities of the IAEA, which remained an irreplaceable instrument for international co-operation in the field of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

96. Mr. TAYLHARDAT (Venezuela) said that nuclear energy was one of the most paradoxical forces of nature, because it could serve as a source of prosperity and progress, but could also be turned to the destruction of mankind. The immense benefits which nuclear energy could bring in many spheres were truly astonishing; but the threat under which the world's population lived as a consequence of the discoveries made in relation to the destructive applications of nuclear energy was terrifying, as was the accumulation of arms utilizing the potential of nuclear energy for annihilation.

97. However, the international community had had the wisdom to find ways of channelling the forces of nuclear energy and to ensure that the associated technology was used solely for the benefit of humankind. Prominent among the instruments established for that purpose was the International Atomic Energy Agency, and Venezuela wished to use the occasion to express its gratitude for the Agency's noble services to mankind and to reiterate its support for the Agency and for the ideals and objectives enshrined in the Statute.

98. Unfortunately, man's longing to be liberated from the constant threat of annihilation through nuclear technology had not yet been satisfied; indeed, the day when it could be satisfied, and when the world could be confident that the atom would be used exclusively for peaceful purposes, seemed to be receding rather than approaching.

99. In the coming two years, two international meetings closely associated with the two faces of nuclear technology were to be held: the Third NPT Review Conference and the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (UNCPI/PUNE), both of which should lead to decisions in harmony with the objectives of the Agency, marking definite and positive steps towards freeing the world from the nuclear threat and limiting the utilization of nuclear energy to peaceful and beneficial purposes. The NPT Review Conference would, it was hoped, give rise to new ideas and initiatives designed to ensure that all parties to the Treaty fulfilled the obligations they had assumed in signing it. In particular, it was essential that the nuclear-weapon States should live up to the undertakings they had given, notably those set forth in Article VI.

100. As time went on, the faith of the non-nuclear-weapon States in NPT was being progressively undermined as they realized that their own renunciation of sovereignty – in avoiding all actions which could result in a further horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons – was not being matched by the nuclear-weapon States, which had done nothing about their

obligation to enter into negotiations in bona fide with the purpose of ending vertical proliferation. The future of NPT seemed all the more uncertain at a time when disarmament negotiations had been stopped almost altogether and there seemed to be no intention of resuming them in the foreseeable future.

101. The NPT Review Conference would have to take steps to ensure the survival of the Treaty. If that endeavour was to succeed, the nuclear-weapon States would have to give evidence of their resolve to fulfil the obligations they had assumed under Article VI, thereby establishing a balance between the reciprocal obligations of the two categories of States parties to the Treaty.

102. The Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (UNCPICPUNE) had a very close relationship with the work of the Agency. It should also give rise to new undertakings on the part of the nuclear powers, not only those possessing nuclear weapons but also those which had reached an advanced stage of development in peaceful nuclear technology, aimed at transferring nuclear technology and facilitating its use by the developing countries. An important place on the Conference's agenda was given to "principles of international co-operation in the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy", a question to which the Committee on Assurances of Supply (CAS) had given a great deal of attention. Another task of the Conference would be to establish as a universal principle the right of all mankind and all States to have access, without discrimination of any kind, to the benefits of the peaceful applications of nuclear technology. The results of the Conference should give fresh momentum to the activities of the IAEA.

103. Turning to some of the questions on the agenda for the present session of the General Conference, he thanked the Director General for his important opening statement and said that Venezuela shared his concern with regard to the main problems confronting the Agency. Both the Director General of the IAEA and the Director-General of FAO had laid stress on the prospects offered by biotechnology and genetic engineering. Reference had been made

to the Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology which a group of countries belonging to UNIDO were endeavouring to establish. In his capacity as Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the new Centre, he (Mr. Taylhardat) wished to announce that the undertaking had received strong new momentum and support at the most recent meeting of the Committee the previous week; he was confident that good opportunities for fruitful co-operation between the Joint FAO /IAEA Division and the new Centre would emerge.

104. For Venezuela, as for all developing countries, the most important part of the Agency's work was technical assistance and co-operation. Other countries, he knew, gave higher priority to safeguards. For that reason Venezuela had always insisted, in the Board, on the importance of maintaining an appropriate balance between the promotional and regulatory activities of the Agency. His delegation was pleased to note the expansion of technical co-operation, especially during the last three years, and could only praise the efficiency with which technical assistance was delivered. The new policies approved by the Board had contributed significantly to the good results, and his delegation wanted to reiterate its support of these policies, notably dynamic programming, multi-year programming and project evaluation.

105. Venezuela was continuing to promote peaceful nuclear activities at home, laying particular stress on agricultural applications. A new Centre for Nuclear Research in Agriculture (CINAGRI) was to be set up with a view to finding solutions to a number of technical problems in agriculture; among other things, food irradiation and animal reproduction were areas of interest.

106. In the area of public health, including human and environmental protection, Venezuela was establishing an appropriate code of regulations and standards which would facilitate control and supervision of the utilization of ionizing radiations. A national radiological emergency network and a dosimetry quality control laboratory were among other projects, and the country hoped soon to have facilities for the disposal of low- and medium-level waste.



107. Efforts were being made to optimize the use of the research reactor, and to that end a Centre for Nuclear Research and Development was being set up. Initially the Centre would be involved in neutron activation analysis, irradiation technology, radioisotope production and nuclear instrumentation.

108. With regard to nuclear power, Venezuela was continuing site studies, examining different fuel cycle options and trying to determine the optimum expansion of the national grid in order to decide in good time whether it would be rational to introduce nuclear power as a complement to the many other sources of power available in the country. Work was also being continued on a national uranium prospecting plan.

109. Venezuela was taking an active part, as one of the five countries of the Andean sub-region, in creating the "Andean Sub-Regional Committee for the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy", the purpose of which was to identify and execute scientific and technological projects of regional interest, especially in radiological protection, nuclear instrumentation, agricultural applications and irradiation technology. The programme in question was being extended by the Agency to the other countries of Latin America under what were called "Regional Co-operation Arrangements for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America" (ARCAL), the main objective of which was to optimize human and material resources in such a way as to enhance the nuclear development of each country of the region in its own sphere of interest, as a complement to the technical assistance received bilaterally by each participating State.

110. The meeting of ARCAL countries held the previous week had produced highly satisfactory results. Specifically, the participants had ratified the contents of a document entitled "Regional Project in Latin America", notably the chapter on "Arrangements for a Regional Programme" according to which efforts would be concentrated on projects originating as part of the co-ordinating work of the Andean countries that had launched the programme. It was important to emphasize that some countries of the region were not

just recipients but also donors of technical assistance, so that the programme offered a particularly fine opportunity for South-South co-operation. Generous contributions would be needed to ensure the programme's success.

111. His delegation welcomed the fact that the target established for contributions to technical co-operation for 1984 had virtually been reached. However, the sums available were still not enough to satisfy all the needs of the developing countries. A comparison with the safeguards budget, which, notwithstanding a fundamental policy of zero real growth, had risen out of all proportion, was dispiriting, and Venezuela believed that it was essential to bring about a better balance between the Agency's two main fields of activity.

112. Despite the serious financial difficulties it was experiencing, the Venezuelan Government was prepared to offer contributions to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund for both the current year and for 1985.

113. At its twenty-seventh regular session, the General Conference had asked the Board to review the arrangements for the financing of safeguards and to conduct consultations on that subject among Member States. The Board had considered the matter at its meetings in February, June and September 1984, and the Chairman had held consultations with a view to finding a generally acceptable formula for the financing of safeguards.

114. Venezuela had, during all that time, consistently reiterated its support for, and its belief in the value of, the safeguards system, which had helped to create a climate of confidence among nations in respect of the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy and would no doubt continue to do so.

115. While it was clear that all States benefited from the safeguards system and were accordingly under an obligation to support it both morally and financially, the fact that the financial burden involved must be distributed unequally was also obvious: the greater part of the costs had to be borne by the developed countries which had reached an advanced stage in the utilization of nuclear energy. Any revision of the arrangements for financing safeguards had to take that fact into account.

116. Venezuela had submitted a draft resolution on the subject of the Board. In the opinion of the Group of 77, that draft resolution offered a formula which reflected in the best possible way the principles he had mentioned and protected the interests of the developing countries. He hoped, therefore, that in the course of the consultations to be held during the ensuing two-year freeze period it would prove possible to arrive at a definitive solution based on the elements contained in the draft resolution submitted by Venezuela.

117. Following the approval of the People's Republic of China for membership of the Agency at the previous session of the General Conference, he had stressed how important it would be to find an appropriate solution to the problem of assigning that country its just place on the Board of Governors. The requisite formula had, happily, been found, and the Chairman of the Board deserved congratulations for the ingenious way in which he had devised it, and for the patience and wisdom with which he had secured its acceptance by all.

118. However, as the Venezuelan delegation had said, the accession of China to membership of the Agency highlighted the need to revise the provisions of Article VI as a whole. The time had now come for such a comprehensive revision. Perhaps the Conference could, at its present session, request the Board to carry out such a study. The mechanism for it might be a working group entrusted with the task of analysing the whole Article with a view to identifying the changes that had to be made and then making specific proposals to the Board.

119. His delegation welcomed the fact that the Soviet Union and the Agency had completed negotiations on the text of an agreement ad referendum for implementation of the Soviet voluntary offer to place some of its peaceful nuclear installations under safeguards. One could only agree with the Director General about the importance of such agreements with the nuclear-weapon States, which demonstrated the possibility of in situ verification within the territories of the nuclear powers. Such a demonstration of confidence in the Agency's inspection system gave hope that a similar system could eventually play a role in the verification of nuclear disarmament.

120. Mr. ADEBARI (Nigeria) commended the Secretariat for producing a very readable annual report for 1983, and a very informative report on the Agency's technical co-operation activities in 1983. His delegation had carefully examined those reports and was glad to note the expansion in the area of technical co-operation with developing countries. That was a positive step, for it was only by increasing the number of technically sound projects that nuclear technology could be effectively acquired within those countries. Of particular interest was the application of nuclear techniques in agriculture, medicine and industry. The extrabudgetary "Bicot" programme in Nigeria, in which the sterile insect technique was used to control the tsetse fly, had made impressive progress. His Government also intended to embark upon a programme of food preservation under the Agency's technical co-operation programme.

121. At the same time, he was worried by the fact that the financing of technical assistance and co-operation programmes was neither assured nor predictable. Although at its twenty-fifth regular session the General Conference had adopted resolution 388, by which it recognized the need for technical assistance to be funded through the Regular Budget or through other comparably predictable and assured resources, it was disappointing that little progress had been made. He believed that in the same way as the regulatory functions of the Agency were funded assuredly and predictably, the promotional responsibilities, particularly as concerned the developing countries, should similarly be financed on an assured and predictable basis.

122. Welcoming the People's Republic of China to its first regular session of the General Conference, he recalled that at the June session of the Board the Nigerian delegation had co-sponsored the amendment of Article VI.A.1 in order to facilitate China's admission to membership of the Board of Governors and in so doing had been motivated by a sense of fair play. Unfortunately, however, that sense of fair play had not been shared by some Member States in the matter of the eight-year-old proposal to amend Article VI.A.2.

Predictably, that question was now on the agenda for the present Conference. Seven resolutions on the same issue had already been adopted, repeatedly expressing the desire for fairer representation on the Board of Governors for the geographic regions of Africa and the Middle East and South Asia. The arguments in favour were sound and did not contradict any precedents. Contrary to the views of those who opposed the amendment of the Article, he was convinced that the adoption of the proposal could only enhance the Board's efficiency. It would be a perpetuation of injustice if, after eight years, the resolution on Article VI.A.2 was now replaced by another on the whole of Article VI, as was now proposed by some Member States.

123. In accordance with the request by the last year's General Conference, in operative paragraph 5 of resolution GC(XXVII)/RES/408, the Board of Governors had submitted a comprehensive report on the implementation of that resolution. He welcomed that factual and useful document, and appreciated the efforts being made by the Agency to implement the resolution in question.

124. In operative paragraph 2, the General Conference demanded that South Africa should submit all its nuclear installations and facilities to inspection by the Agency. As was clear from the report, however, South Africa had refused to agree to full-scope safeguards in flagrant disregard of the resolution. The representatives of the racist régime had made no secret of their unwillingness to discuss it and only desired to resume discussion of the application of safeguards to their semi-commercial enrichment plant. The actions of the racist régime of South Africa had to be seen within the context of the solemn declaration by the Organization of African Unity in 1963, supported by the United Nations, that the African continent should remain a denuclearized zone. That declaration had been undermined by the development of South Africa's nuclear weapons capability. In a desperate and futile effort to suppress popular liberation forces and to maintain its racist domination in South Africa, the racist régime holding power in that country had in fact begun developing a nuclear-weapons capability. That

fact posed great danger for Africa and the world at large. It was essential to give the matter serious consideration especially for the General Conference in the light of the Security Council's resolution 554 of 17 August 1984, which declared null and void the new racist constitution of South Africa and elections held under it.

125. The success of any organization was measured by the extent to which it attained its goals and objectives. The Agency's objectives, as clearly set forth in Article II of the Statute, were to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world. If the racist régime of South Africa intended to deny those high ideals and seek to promote its non-peaceful nuclear activities, it had to be condemned. He therefore opposed participation by South Africa in the technical working groups of the Agency. His delegation rejected the argument that excluding South Africa from the technical working groups constituted a denial of the rights and privileges of universal membership. Inasmuch as a Member State defied world opinion, it deserved to be divested of such rights and privileges.

126. There had been a serious omission in the report on South Africa's nuclear capabilities submitted to the General Conference. According to the records of the South African Hansard, the Prime Minister, P.W. Botha, was quoted as having said that enquiries had been received from a number of European countries regarding the possibility of establishing a depository in South West Africa for radioactive waste. Such requests had been received since 1979 and the Prime Minister had informed Parliament on 4 July 1984, that those offers had been declined.

127. It would appear, however, that South Africa was going to exploit its illegal occupation of Namibia to dump radioactive waste in an international territory for which the United Nations Council for Namibia, a Member State of the IAEA, was responsible. That development was regrettable coming at a time when the Agency was processing the Namibian application for membership; it had taken place without consulting the United Nations Council for Namibia, or the African Member States of the IAEA.

128. His delegation expressed its appreciation of the work of the Committee on Assurances of Supply (CAS), and looked forward to the time when the principles of international co-operation in the field of nuclear energy would become a reality. In that regard, he noted the work of the Preparatory Committee of the Third NPT Review Conference. A major concern was Article III of that Treaty, which specifically enjoined States party to NPT not to provide nuclear material or equipment to any non-nuclear-weapon State unless subject to the safeguards required by that Article. That provision seemed to be applied only selectively, depending on the type of non-nuclear-weapon State involved in the transfer. For a genuinely fair Treaty, both vertical and horizontal proliferation had to be prevented.

129. Finally, the progress made at the fifth session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (UNCPICPUNE) was encouraging. With enough political will, the progress would be sustained, leading ultimately to a time when nuclear energy would be used for exclusively peaceful purposes.

130. Mr. CHUTHASMIT (Thailand) said that his delegation welcomed the statement by Dr. Edouard Saouma, Director-General of FAO and was glad to see the close collaboration between the IAEA and FAO. As an agricultural country, Thailand noted with satisfaction that the IAEA gave high priority to agricultural development. As he had himself seen during a recent visit to the Agency's laboratory at Seibersdorf, the application of nuclear techniques in food and agriculture had created extensive opportunities for crop plant improvement and food preservation by irradiation.

131. Thailand had long been a member of the Regional Co-operative Agreement for Asia and the Pacific (RCA). It was gratifying to note that in recent years the activities of RCA had been increasing and that fifteen projects were now being conducted within the framework of it. His country was particularly pleased with the Agreement of 1980 establishing the Asian Regional Co-operative Project on Food Irradiation, and had agreed to its extension for three years from 1984-87.

132. Referring to the Agency's programme for technical co-operation with developing countries, he noted with satisfaction that in recent years technical co-operation activities had expanded considerably. The number of projects had risen from about 500 in 1982, to about 800 projects in 1984. The amount of technical assistance had increased from US \$18.5 million in 1983 to US \$22.5 million in the present year. This was a healthy increase and beneficial to all recipient countries, including his own.

133. His delegation was highly appreciative of the technical assistance which the Agency had provided to date for Thailand, particularly in the years 1983 and 1984. Relations between the Agency and the relevant Thai authorities regarding various technical assistance projects had always been smooth and useful. He also wished to express his gratitude to the Government of the United States of America for having agreed to finance two footnote a/ projects in Thailand on food irradiation and on nuclear physics equipment. In that connection he had pleasure in announcing that his country's voluntary contribution to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund for 1985 would be US \$20 800.

134. Turning to the financing of safeguards, which was again on the agenda for the General Conference, there had long been discussions on who should bear the burden of the cost of safeguards. To some, mostly developing countries, safeguards operations seemed too costly absorbing funds that could have been used for other Agency programmes, while to others, mostly developed countries, safeguards were not sufficiently extensive. Several formulas had been submitted for the consideration of the Board of Governors but, since no formula had received full approval, the Board had postponed a decision. Thailand would be willing to accept any formula agreeable to all other Member States, but in the absence of full agreement, it shared the stand taken by several other countries and by the Board that the existing arrangements for financing of safeguards should continue temporarily. The safeguards system, however, had to function properly, since it was essential for the creation of a climate of international confidence.



135. Both the Agency and the whole world could feel more confident now that China had been admitted to the Agency and had accepted the safeguards system. Being one of the most advanced in the technology of atomic energy, China should also be given a seat on the Board of Governors. It was with this aim in mind that Thailand had co-sponsored a draft resolution, together with twenty other countries, for the amendment of Article VI.A.1 of the Statute, the purpose of which was to increase the number of countries most advanced in nuclear technology on the Board from nine to ten. That draft resolution had been unanimously adopted by the Board and it was hoped that the General Conference would also give it full approval.

136. Mr. MORSHED (Bangladesh) said that the 1984 General Conference would be memorable because the People's Republic of China was participating as a full Member for the first time. That had been easily the most momentous event for the IAEA during the previous few years. For the developing countries it added a new dimension to the character and functioning of the organization and especially for least developed countries (LDCs) such as Bangladesh, which believed that the People's Republic of China would make outstanding permanent contributions in the peaceful uses of atomic energy and hoped that China would soon participate in the Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (RCA).

137. The 1984 General Conference also had a special significance for Bangladesh in that it was taking place in the midst of preparations for the Third NPT Review Conference and that it appeared an appropriate moment to reflect on the results of his country's accession to the Treaty. Emphasis needed to be placed in that context not so much on the issue of security but on the scope of the technological and economic benefits derived from the Treaty by the non-nuclear-weapon States, which had by no means fulfilled the desires of those States in their entirety.

138. Document GC(XXVIII)/718 showed that in 1981-82 7% of the total funds for technical co-operation had been allocated to LDCs, 31% to developing countries with nuclear power programmes and 62% to developing countries

in the intermediate category. Those figures were depressing in the light of the present situation in most LDCs. The total oil imports of Bangladesh, for example, came to roughly 1.3 million tonnes, representing about 40% of commercial energy consumption for a population of 93 million. Those imports accounted for an outflow of scarce foreign exchange second only to food imports. By way of comparison a country such as Austria with its own energy resources and a population of seven million, imported roughly nine million tonnes of oil, nearly eight times as much as Bangladesh.

139. Policy-makers in Bangladesh had been convinced that without a major change in the energy situation in countries such as theirs, no real progress could be made in development. It was in that context that it had acceded to NPT in the belief that it could bring about a substantial change in the power energy situation in countries such as Bangladesh. In the seven years since accession, that promise had come to naught with collapsing commodity prices, progressive decreases in governmental aid, escalating capital costs of projects and basic uncertainties about the transfer of technology in addition to unproductive controversies over nuclear safety and waste management.

140. He therefore hoped that the Third NPT Review Conference would show that the present situation was not necessarily preordained; the delegations of Bangladesh and Mexico had in fact taken an initiative in that sense in the meetings of the Preparatory Committee.

141. Congratulating the Director General on his balanced and objective statement that offered some ray of hope for the developing countries, he particularly welcomed the upward trend in the technical co-operation programme. His delegation reiterated its fervent hope and justified expectation that that programme would increasingly be financed from the Regular Budget. The Bangladesh delegation also wished to convey its sincere appreciation to the Director General and to Member States contributing to the study on small and medium power reactors, in which his Government intended to participate fully.

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.