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President: Mr. DI BIASE (Uruguay)

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

1. Mr. KOLYKHAN (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the Conference was holding its twenty-eighth session in an increasingly complex international situation, brought about by the efforts of the imperialist forces to attain military superiority by amassing gigantic weapons arsenals, turning outer space into a new arena for the arms race and installing new first-strike nuclear rockets in Western Europe.

2. The dangerous evolution of the world situation was giving rise to legitimate alarm and concern among the peoples of the world. The quickening pace of the arms race and the real danger of its being extended to new spheres and escaping from control was bound to enhance the risk of nuclear war. People everywhere were grasping the fact that urgent measures were needed to halt the drift towards disaster. A whole set of specific measures to deal with that vitally important problem, aimed at limiting nuclear armaments and ultimately eliminating them altogether, had been put forward by the Warsaw Pact countries.

3. The measures being proposed by the Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist community were aimed at resolving the most important question of the nuclear age: whether the energy of the atom would serve to satisfy the ever-increasing needs of mankind's social and economic development or whether it would transform the planet into a barren desert.

4. Obviously, international co-operation in the use of atomic energy on a genuinely wide scale could develop successfully only in conditions of peace, confidence between States and limitation of the arms race, especially nuclear arms. The Agency should make its contribution to the solution of that problem.

5. The Byelorussian SSR had always supported international co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy and would continue to do so on the assumption that such co-operation could not and should not be a channel for proliferation of nuclear weapons. It therefore attached particular importance to the Agency's regulatory functions, which were its most important activities in

the field of non-proliferation. His delegation greatly welcomed the increased responsiveness and reliability of the Agency safeguards system as a result of the continual development of technical resources including data processing and the improvement in the qualifications of Professional safeguards staff.

6. At present, the Agency safeguards system was widely recognized as being the only system of its type. His delegation was convinced that, with its extensive experience in the field, the Agency would make a valuable contribution to the preparations for and holding of the Third NPT Review Conference. Attaching as it did considerable importance to the Agency's participation in preparations for the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (UNCPICPUNE), the Byelorussian SSR was in favour of linking co-operation with the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

7. His delegation welcomed the Agency's efforts in connection with the drafting of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. It also approved of the work of the Committee on the Assurances of Supply (CAS), although the Committee still had to find solutions to many important and complex questions. Its work would be considered successful if it were to result in the further development of reliable international co-operation in atomic energy on the basis of equality, with the strengthening of the non-proliferation regime as an essential condition.

8. The Annual Report for 1983 showed that the Agency had made a substantial contribution to the further development of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy, and his delegation generally welcomed the Agency's work over the last year and approved the Annual Report.

9. In view of the importance of technical assistance, the Byelorussian Government had decided to increase its voluntary contribution to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund for 1985 to 75 000 roubles in national currency. It believed that the success of technical co-operation depended to a large extent on its provision in the form of large-scale, long-term projects, which represented an effective means of assisting developing countries to use nuclear energy for economic and social progress.

10. The programme for 1985 and 1986 and budget for 1985 were on the whole consistent with the Agency's objectives and tasks, with the capacity of the organization to fulfil those tasks and with the wishes of Member States. The programme and budget document showed that one of the main scientific and technical activities of the Agency was the development of a set of measures relating to nuclear power. The importance of that activity was continually increasing as a result of the further expansion in the role played by a nuclear power in the contemporary world. The Byelorussian SSR supported the Agency's work in that sphere. It also supported the work of the International Nuclear Information System (INIS) and co-operation on nuclear data.

11. One of the Agency's most important scientific and technical programmes relating to nuclear power was that on nuclear safety, and his delegation had a high opinion of the Agency's work on nuclear and radiation safety.

12. The Agency was engaged in the extensive task of collection, evaluation and annual publication of operating experience with proven types of nuclear power station. At the same time it was doing very useful work on design criteria, operating experience, safety requirements and reliability of liquid-metal-cooled and gas-cooled fast breeder reactors, high-temperature gas-cooled reactors and also nuclear heating plants and dual-purpose nuclear plants.

13. In world nuclear power station design and operating practice, use was increasingly being made of computers for monitoring and control not only of individual systems and devices but of whole stations, which made it possible to optimize operating parameters and, in particular, to increase operating safety. The Agency was doing some work on that topic. However, the time had come to expand such work by the collection, compilation and systematic presentation of data and experience accumulated in Member States on the development of computer algorithms, programs and systems for nuclear power station monitoring and control with a view to ensuring the required degree of reliability, responsiveness and safety.

14. Byelorussia now had considerable scientific and technical potential. At scientific research and teaching institutes and universities in the republic, fundamental and applied research was being done on practically all aspects of science and technology, which was contributing to the high growth rates in

industrial and agricultural production. Considerable successes had been achieved in the peaceful uses of atomic energy. The development of such work had taken various forms. In order to supply the city of Minsk with electrical power and heat, a dual-purpose nuclear plant consisting of two WWER-1000 pressurized-water reactor units - a type which had proved its economic viability - was being constructed. There were plans to construct nuclear heating plants and dual-purpose nuclear plants near other large towns in the republic.

15. In view of the special significance of fast breeder reactor design and development for the prospects of nuclear power expansion, experimental, research and design work with a view to constructing a demonstration 300 MW(e) power station with a gas-cooled fast breeder reactor was continuing in Byelorussia. A single-circuit layout with a gas-liquid cycle would use a coolant and operating medium new to power engineering, namely nitrogen tetroxide. The work was being performed jointly with the Ukrainian SSR and other Soviet republics and also with Poland, Hungary and Bulgaria.

16. The further development of nuclear power in Byelorussia would be assisted by the recent directive from the Soviet Government with a view to ensuring a further expansion in nuclear electricity production and improvements in the structure of the fuel and energy balance in accordance with the country's Energy Programme.

17. At the same time as work on nuclear power, intensive research was being done in the republic on the use of radiation in various branches of industry and medicine. In particular, the industrial technology for producing new construction materials, radiocatalytic and radiochemical processes for hydrocarbon compounds had been developed. The industrial-scale production of bacterial fertilizers using radiation sterilization had been mastered. Radiation techniques were being widely used in fundamental research on genetics and cytology, radiobiology and also on solid-state physics, electronics and both organic and inorganic chemistry, for which a research reactor, gamma devices, accelerators and other irradiators were being used.

18. In Byelorussia considerable attention was being paid to the development and widespread introduction into medical practice of effective techniques of radiotherapy and combined chemotherapy and radiotherapy using the newest irradiation and computer technology and also to the study of the effects of ionizing radiation on the animal and human organisms and of methods of protecting the genetic apparatus of cells.

19. In conclusion, he expressed his conviction that the Agency would continue to receive wide recognition as an international organization which pooled the efforts of States in the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

20. Mr. GROZA (Romania) said that the present session of the General Conference was being held at a time when mankind was passing through another period of severe tension which threatened the peace of the whole world. In a recent speech, the President of his country, Mr. Ceauşescu, had stated that the existence of military blocs and the arms race - in particular that for nuclear weapons, which had assumed alarming proportions - were the causes of the steadily increasing danger of a new world war, which in the present circumstances would inevitably escalate into a nuclear war. The peoples of the world must be told openly that such a war would be a threat to the very existence of their civilizations and to life on Earth itself. The fundamental problem of the present time, therefore, was to halt the arms race and start disarming for the sake of the supreme right of people and nations to life, liberty, independence and peace.

21. Romania regarded the deployment of missiles and other nuclear weapons on the territory of other States as a de facto proliferation of nuclear weapons and a violation of non-proliferation agreements and hence as an increase in the number of States possessing nuclear weapons. In view of the seriousness of the nuclear threat, every effort should be made to withdraw nuclear weapons from the territory of other States and to reduce their number in the nuclear-weapon States, and it was to be hoped that the forthcoming Third NPT Review Conference would analyse the existing situation and take steps in the right direction.

22. As everyone knew, the inequalities of economic and social life had divided the world into rich and poor countries. The present world economic crisis and the policy of extremely high interest rates had aggravated the situation and widened the gap between the industrialized and the developing countries, inter alia, in the field of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. A new approach to the problem of underdevelopment was needed and a new international economic order must be established on the basis of justice and equality between States. The rich countries must recognize that it would not be possible to resolve the economic crisis and attain world stability unless underdevelopment was abolished and all the world's peoples were given access to the achievements of science and technology.

23. The United Nations system had an important role to play in enabling all peoples to participate on an equal footing in solving the great and complex problems of the modern world for the sake of détente, independence and peace. The organizations of the United Nations system, including the IAEA, should be further strengthened so that they could help in abolishing underdevelopment, creating a new economic order and increasing the contribution of science and technology to the economic and social development of nations, in particular by the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

24. The Agency's activities during the past year had been successful as always. The technical assistance and co-operation programme had contributed, with its limited resources, to the transfer of technology, to the training of national staff, and to the expansion of research and the application of its results in the economies of the recipient countries. The nuclear power programme was proving ever more effective in satisfying the growing needs of the developing countries, and other programmes too had produced valuable results, for instance those relating to the applications of nuclear techniques, nuclear safety, and scientific and technical information and documentation.

25. His delegation had carefully examined the programme for 1985-86 and considered that it took due account of the most important trends in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and of both developing and developed Member States' priorities with regard to nuclear power, to the applications of isotopes and radiation in industry, agriculture, medicine, biology, hydrology, etc. and to technical assistance and staff training.

26. However, the interests of the developing countries would be better served if the Agency could utilize its resources more effectively and achieve significant economies in its administrative expenditures and in the cost of safeguards. His delegation would like the budget for 1985 to remain at the same level as the one for 1984.

27. His country was striving to continue its economic and social development, and its plans for the period 1986-90 placed emphasis on broadening the energy base by drawing on all available primary resources and by accelerating the nuclear power plant construction programme. Of the total electricity output of 95-97 million MW·h planned for 1986-90, 21-22 million MW·h, or 20%, were to be generated by nuclear plants. Work on achieving the technological conditions for the optimal functioning of the nuclear power plants still under construction would be conducted concurrently with research on new generations of reactors, including fast breeders, and on controlled thermonuclear fusion.

28. The Agency's co-operation with his country during the past year under technical assistance projects relating to nuclear power, isotope and radiation applications and advanced nuclear physics research had been valuable and fruitful, and he wished to thank the Agency for its support and to stress once again the particular importance which his country attached to the Agency as an aid to the developing countries in the field of nuclear science and technical co-operation.

29. Mr. EL AGIB (Sudan) commended the Director General's statement clearly describing the various activities of the Agency, which had acted as catalysts for closer co-operation between Member States. He urged the Agency to expand and intensify the assistance provided by States which were able to do so in the nuclear and technical fields and to meet the needs of countries requiring such assistance in order to deal with urgent problems in agriculture, medicine and industry.

30. Welcoming the statement of the Director General of FAO, which was based on realities such as those faced by a country like Sudan, he expressed his confidence that co-operation between the IAEA and FAO would positively benefit the agricultural development plans and projects of Sudan by offering modern scientific methods for the solution of its problems.

31. Congratulating the two organizations on the anniversary of the Joint FAO/IAEA Division, he pointed out that 20 years of fruitful activity of that Division demonstrated what the peaceful uses of atomic energy could do in the service of mankind to solve problems of hunger, thirst and poverty. Sudan had benefited greatly from the establishment of that Division, and had carried out a number of research and other projects on agriculture and animal husbandry. Such projects covered the breeding of pest- and disease-resistant high-yield crops, the study of fertilizer uptake and utilization by plants and periods of application of fertilizers, analyses of pesticide and herbicide residues in food crops to remove their harmful effects and the study of water regimes of various crops with a view to the optimum utilization of irrigation water. It had also undertaken projects on livestock breeding, improvement in animal production and nutrition and control of harmful diseases. His country would always be willing to host regional training courses on those topics, and was to hold a course in animal science.

32. Sudan was endowed with vast arable lands and different climates suitable for growing a variety of crops using irrigation and rain-water. Its scientists, in collaboration with Agency experts, had prepared a comprehensive programme on the use of nuclear technology in food and agriculture. Local facilities had been provided, and it was hoped that friendly countries would make available the foreign exchange component of funds needed for the vital project of direct benefit to the country's development plans.

33. Over the preceding years Sudan had gained much from the Agency's technical co-operation and assistance programme not only in agriculture but also for projects on applied sciences, groundwater, health, instrument maintenance and radiological protection. He wished to express his gratitude to the United States for agreeing to finance the gamma camera project, which would be helpful in diagnostics and treatment, and to the United Kingdom, which had provided maintenance services for electronic instrumentation and had set up an electronics workshop. His Government was looking forward to continued co-operation with those and other friendly countries in the transfer of that important technology.

34. The State of Israel was a permanent source of grave danger to the Middle East, thus threatening world peace and security. Apart from continuing to carry out its aggressive and barbarous plans against the Palestinian people, occupying southern Lebanon and constantly threatening the other States in the region, it persisted in its arrogance by refusing to sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty and to place its nuclear facilities under the Agency's international safeguards.

35. The Big Powers attached great importance to strengthening the Agency so that it would fulfil the objectives for which it had been set up, especially the promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and had made various efforts to convince States which were not party to NPT to become so. He hoped that those Powers, which were concerned about the Agency and hence for world peace and security, should also restrain that tiny State and make it abide by the ideals of the international community. They should do likewise in respect of the repressive and racist State in southern Africa. The international community should be aware of the extent of the threat posed by the non-compliance with those ideals and international instruments on the part of Israel and South Africa.

36. As the Chairman of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), he was conscious of acute regional problems in an area extending from the Atlantic to the Indian Ocean, especially those of drought and desertification. Those problems could only be solved by the application of modern techniques to explore and exploit underground water resources, including probable subterranean rivers in the Nile Valley and elsewhere in the region. In that connection, UNEP was carrying out studies by remote sensing techniques and the IAEA, too, had various projects on groundwater hydrology.

37. In conclusion, he appealed to the Agency and other organizations and friendly countries to prepare a comprehensive scientific plan for water resources survey and manpower training. While the ancient peoples in the Nile Valley and North Africa knew about surface storage of water, modern science and technology had the challenging task of building underground reservoirs and artificial oases to bring water to the thirsty and food to the hungry. Nuclear science and space technology should combine their efforts for the welfare of mankind instead of threatening ruin and destruction.

38. Mr. OSZTROVSZKY (Hungary) welcomed the delegation of the People's Republic of China which was participating for the first time in the General Conference and expressed his conviction that it would make a valuable contribution to the Conference's work.

39. He recalled that in his speech in the General Debate at the twenty-seventh regular session of the General Conference he had expressed his concern at the aggravation of the international situation and the hope that it would improve. It had, however, worsened and the arms race had intensified. The forces which wanted to upset the balance that had been established in the world were trying to place nuclear energy in the service of destruction rather than of well-being and social progress and were thereby increasing the danger of nuclear war. The Agency's activities designed to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons by creating the prerequisites for improving the international climate and strengthening confidence between States were therefore extremely important. The Agency's safeguards system played a major role in achieving those objectives and the Department of Safeguards should be congratulated on its work.

40. The first unit of Hungary's first power plant had been functioning stably and reliably during its first year of operation. It had produced about 2500 million kWh of electricity although its planned production had been only 1600 million kWh. The availability had been 95.6%.

41. Erection of the second unit of the nuclear power plant at Paks had been completed and the reactor had gone critical on 26 August. It was planned that in 1984 the nuclear power plant should produce 3000 million kWh of electricity.

42. Routine radiation monitoring of the plant's environment was carried out and no noticeable deviations from the background level had been detected. Monitoring of radioactive waste from the Paks power plant and of the levels of radioactivity was the responsibility not only of the plant authorities but also of various other competent authorities which formed a co-ordinated system and used a computer to collect, process and evaluate the data.

43. Hungary thought very highly of the Agency's work on establishing basic principles for radiation protection and improving operational safety of nuclear power plants. The Agency's "Basic Safety Standards" were due to be published in Hungarian and were being taken into account in the decrees issued by ministries and departments, particularly those issued by the Ministry of Health with regard to radiation protection of personnel and the population. The Agency's Safety Standards Series were of great help in planning national safety regulations and in the work of Hungary's regulatory bodies.

44. The Incident Reporting System (IRS) could be a useful means of improving operational safety of nuclear power plants. Technical meetings had been held in Hungary at which the links between national information systems and the Agency's IRS had been discussed. As in previous years, co-operation had continued between Hungary and the Agency in the matter of safeguards. He was pleased to note that the Agency's inspectorate had endeavoured to reduce the inconveniences of the safeguards system to a minimum.

45. Hungary was continuing to transfer its national system of nuclear materials accounting under Agency safeguards on to a computer. There was reason to believe that the use of a computer speeded up the process and made it much cheaper than in many other countries. Hungary was ready to share its experience in that field with any countries which were interested.

46. The Institute of Isotopes of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the Central Institute of Physics Research had jointly developed a telescope equipped with a photographic camera and television camera for examining the surface of fuel elements in the fuel decontamination vessel and the structural components of the reactor core during operation.

47. The National Scientific Research Institute of Radiobiology and Radioecology had participated in the Agency's co-ordinated research programme to study the radioecology of the Danube. In the course of the research, the Institute, with the collaboration of the Agency's laboratory at Seibersdorf, had organized intercalibration of methods for processing samples and measurements taken by national laboratories participating in the programme.

48. The Institute of Isotopes had developed a technetium 99^{m} isotope generator using a target obtained in a reactor with low neutron flux. The problem of supplying technetium to medical institutes in Hungary which had only research reactors had thereby been solved. The generator had been developed under a special Agency programme based on a research agreement and he believed it could be used to improve the level of health care in developing countries.

49. Construction of a cyclotron and cyclotron laboratory for the purposes of studying the structure of the atomic nucleus and the production of short-lived radioisotopes had just been completed, with the Agency's collaboration, at the Institute of Nuclear Research in Debrecen. Under the Agency's technical assistance programme, a number of laboratory instruments such as manipulators, scintillation detectors and a spectrometer had been provided in addition to part of the basic equipment.

50. Hungary greatly valued the Agency's co-ordination activities in matters relating to radioactive waste management and in particular the development of the IAEA Code of Practice on the Management of Radioactive Waste from Nuclear Power Plants.

51. Hungary had always supported and would continue to support the Agency's activities in the field of technical assistance and co-operation and had consistently provided financial support for the programme insofar as its relatively modest means permitted. Hungary would make a voluntary contribution of 2.9 million forints to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund in 1985.

52. The Hungarian delegation approved the Agency's Annual Report for 1983.

53. Mr. SIAZON (Philippines) noted with satisfaction that 1984 was the twentieth anniversary of the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Isotope and Radiation Applications of Atomic Energy for Food and Agricultural Development and expressed his strong support for the continuation of its work. The Joint Division had contributed to increased agricultural production, the reduction of post-harvest losses and the minimization of food and environmental pollution by fostering applications of isotopes and radiation relating to food and agriculture through a joint FAO/IAEA effort aimed at improving the ability of Member States, and particularly developing countries, to apply effective

nuclear techniques in research and development. Within the RCA framework, his country had been closely associated with the joint programme and in particular with the sub-programmes on food preservation and plant breeding and genetics.

54. The past year had seen a considerable amount of co-operation between his country and the Agency. In addition to traditional activities involving technical assistance, research contracts and safeguards inspections, the Agency had been extensively involved in the safety aspects of the first Philippine nuclear power plant which was now in the final phases of construction. Also, the Agency had sent an OSART mission to his country in response to a request from his Government. The mission had been extremely useful for the Philippine Atomic Energy Commission and he expected that another such mission would be requested before the entry into operation of his country's first nuclear power plant. OSART missions helped not only to ensure the safe operation of nuclear power plants but also to allay public fears with regard to nuclear power. That was particularly true in developing countries where the Agency was seen as an impartial and competent body. The OSART mission to his country was significant because for the first time a large number of the members of the team came from developing countries. The presence of nuclear experts from developing countries in such missions demonstrated to other developing countries the possibility of sharing the benefits of nuclear power. His delegation welcomed the positive outcome of the recent nuclear referendum in Switzerland and the decision of many developed countries to continue expanding their nuclear power programmes. Those developments should serve to convince many developing countries that nuclear power was not what anti-nuclear groups had pictured it to be.

55. As a developing country currently constructing its first nuclear power plant, the Philippines attached great importance to the Agency's activities in nuclear safety and radiation. The NUSS programme and the Agency's work on the operational safety of nuclear installations were especially worthy of mention in that context.

56. His delegation was happy to note that the resources available to the Agency's technical co-operation programme had reached almost US $35 million by the end of 1983, representing a 25% increase over the 1982 level. His delegation was also pleased to observe that delivery of technical assistance had improved significantly in 1983, increasing by 15.7% compared with 1982. Those two factors together with the increased support given by developing countries to the technical co-operation programme had made 1983 a successful year for technical co-operation. It was a matter of regret, however, that in 1983 the share of footnote a/ projects made operational decreased to 65.4% compared with 71.8% in 1982 and 80.5% in 1981. It was disturbing that in 1983 only five Member States had provided extrabudgetary funds for footnote a/ projects. In 1982, ten countries had contributed. It should be recalled in that connection that the First NPT Review Conference in 1975 had specifically recommended that footnote a/ projects requested by developing countries party to NPT be made operational. He hoped that a larger share of footnote a/ projects would be made operational in 1984.

57. While the Agency's technical co-operation programme had progressed over the years, the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on that subject contained important recommendations for further improvements. His delegation strongly supported, in particular, the recommendations that the three-year cycle for establishing targets for voluntary contributions should be extended and that the Agency should shift from the concept of "multi-year projects" to that of "multi-year programming". The Board of Governors might wish to consider a five-year cycle for establishing targets for voluntary contributions.

58. He regretted that the Board of Governors had been unable to agree on a financing arrangement for safeguards for a period beyond two years. As long as there were no satisfactory financial arrangements for safeguards, the Board's annual consideration of the safeguards programme would be controversial. It was likely that the degree of controversy would increase with the voluntary submission of the additional facilities of nuclear-weapon States to Agency safeguards. So far, the practice of extending the safeguards financing

arrangements at the last minute had worked. However, the Agency might one day face a situation where the Board was unable to reach a last-minute agreement because of extraneous political issues. It was time for the nuclear-weapon States to decide whether the political, military and commercial value of the international safeguards system was not worth more than the few million dollars they contributed to the annual safeguards budget.

59. The General Conference might once again be called upon to take a stand on the principle of universality of membership, which his delegation felt sure the Conference would reaffirm. That principle must, however, be reflected in the equitable representation of Member States on the Board and in the equitable representation of nationals of Member States in the Secretariat. It was somewhat disturbing to note that those who strongly advocated universality of membership seemed much less interested in the other two questions. Member States belonging to the African region and to the Middle East and South Asian (MESA) region had since 1977 been asking for additional seats on the Board to improve their present share, namely 20.5% and 22.9%, respectively. Those figures compared with an average of 31.2%. Eight years later, no solution was in sight. Today, even the proposal calling for one extra seat for Africa and one additional seat for MESA no longer seemed to command sufficient support.

60. The number of nationals from developing countries in the Agency's Professional staff had increased from 74, or 15.4%, in 1981 to 109, or 19.96%, in September 1984. That increase certainly represented an improvement, for which his delegation was grateful to the Director General who had acted in compliance with resolution GC(XXV)/RES/386. However, the developing countries, which accounted for more than two thirds of the Agency's membership, could not be satisfied with a 20% share of the Agency's Professional staff and a 17% share of the six top positions in the Agency. Two thirds of the Agency's membership should have at least 30% of the Agency's Professional staff. He supported the Director General in his continuing efforts to implement fully resolution GC(XXV)/RES/386.

61. His delegation wished to welcome China to the Agency and looked forward to co-operating with that country within both the Agency and the RCA framework. The RCA now had 13 member countries and two observers and work was under way on 16 different projects. He was confident that China would soon increase the number of members to 14.

62. Finally, he thanked the Government of the United States for making operational two Philippine footnote a/ projects in 1984 and for agreeing to meet the cost of the remaining equipment necessary for the conversion of his country's research reactor to low-enriched uranium.

63. Mr. SOWINSKI (Poland) said that the Agency's fruitful work over a period of many years deserved international recognition. The Agency had become the chief centre for the co-ordination of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and the admission of the People's Republic of China as a Member State was convincing proof of its increasing authority and prestige.

64. The strengthening of the non-proliferation regime was undoubtedly an essential part of efforts aimed at ensuring peace and trust throughout the world and the implementation by the Agency of an effective international surveillance system was in the interests of all countries.

65. With regard to the forthcoming Third NPT Review Conference, his delegation considered that the universality of NPT was a prerequisite for wide international co-operation in the use of nuclear energy for exclusively peaceful purposes. At the same time, it considered that the entire Treaty, including Article VI, should be observed. A significant move in this direction would be the conclusion of the Comprehensive Nuclear Weapons Test Ban Treaty, a move long awaited by the international community.

66. His delegation was pleased with the progress made by the Agency in its safeguards programme, one of the most important areas of activity. It welcomed the conclusion of a draft agreement under which the Soviet Union was to place part of its peaceful nuclear installations under Agency safeguards. It hoped that gradually all countries would join NPT and conclude corresponding safeguards agreements with the Agency.

67. The substantial progress made at the fifth session of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (UNCPICPUNE) in drawing up a draft agenda for the Conference and establishing the order of its work was also very encouraging.

68. On the subject of nuclear power, 1984 marked the thirtieth year since the successful commissioning by the Soviet Union of the world's first nuclear power plant in Obninsk. Poland was at present building its first nuclear power plant and, in the belief that nuclear energy provided the sole means of ensuring the growth of electricity generation necessary for national development, it was also working on a programme for the construction of further plants. The industrial production of various types of nuclear power plant equipment had started, and some of the output was also being delivered to other socialist countries under CMEA co-operation and assistance agreements. In implementing its nuclear power programme, Poland was also using the Agency's safety standards and recommendations.

69. Detailed regulations for practical implementation of the provisions of the International Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials had been prepared following ratification of the Convention by the Council of State of the Polish People's Republic. His delegation hoped that the number of countries ratifying the Convention would grow steadily.

70. The success of the Joint FAO/IAEA Division in promoting the use of progressive methods for improving harvests and reducing food losses vindicated its approach to solving some of the most fundamental problems facing the modern world.

71. His delegation wished to commend the Seibersdorf Laboratory for its work in relation to radiation applications in agriculture. The establishment of a biotechnology laboratory for the development of in vitro technology was of particular interest. The Agency's scientific research activities in agricultural matters were extremely useful to all its Members.

72. Poland had also been successful in the application of nuclear techniques, including radiation-induced mutagenesis, for agricultural purposes. Nuclear techniques were also widely used in Poland in industry and for public health care and scientific research.

73. His Government approved the Agency's budget for 1985 and its programme for 1985 and 1986. It supported the present system of financing technical assistance through voluntary contributions based on indicative planning figures established for periods of three years at a time and pledged the payment of 23 million zloty - corresponding to its full assessed share - to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund for 1985. In addition, Poland was once again ready to grant ten fellowships to applicants from developing countries to enable them to study at its research centres.

74. Despite the difficult international situation in which the Agency was obliged to work, he was sure that the Agency would continue to make a substantial contribution to international co-operation and world peace. For its part, Poland was ready to assist the Agency in resolving the unusual problems facing the world today.

75. Mr. SLIMANE (Algeria) noted that the 20 years of co-operation between the Agency and FAO had been very successful and was well worth developing further.

76. Although in some industrialized countries nuclear energy already accounted for a large proportion of total electricity production, the prospects of its introduction in the energy balance of developing countries remained very uncertain.

77. The present climate of concern arose from the growing restrictions and the arbitrary and discriminatory measures imposed on various countries importing nuclear technology and materials, excessive scientific and technical protectionism and the huge scale of investment required to initiate a nuclear programme. It was often claimed that such restrictions were imposed in order to

prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Actually, however, there was reason to believe that the restrictions were designed to keep developing countries in a state of total technological dependence, thereby widening even further the gap between those countries and the industrialized world.

78. The Algerian delegation believed that the best way of avoiding both vertical and horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons was to remove all obstacles to international co-operation in order to establish the climate of confidence, security and détente necessary to the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

79. During the 27 years of its existence, the Agency had done much to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in accordance with its statutory responsibility and, apart from stimulating an interest in nuclear power, it had also encouraged the initiation of nuclear power programmes and the development of nuclear applications in many countries.

80. However, in order to strengthen the Agency's credibility and to enable it to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy more effectively, there should be increased co-operation between Member States regarding the transfer of equipment and nuclear material.

81. The military attack against the Iraqi nuclear research reactor and the standing threat of a repetition of such an attack, in flagrant violation of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the Statute of the Agency, had serious consequences for the development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and for the Agency's safeguards system. The General Conference should take the necessary steps to ensure that such acts did not recur.

82. Resolution GC(XXVII)/RES/409 calling for the conclusion of an international agreement to prevent military attacks on nuclear installations and resolution GC(XXVII)/RES/407 on the protection of nuclear installations devoted to peaceful purposes against armed attacks were an important step towards a total ban on such attacks.

83. His delegation remained very concerned that some Member States were continuing to co-operate with the racist regime of South Africa which continued to violate with impunity the resolutions of the United Nations and of the Agency and whose nuclear weapons capability was a source of grave concern for the international community as a whole and for Africa in particular. Paragraph 4 of resolution GC(XXVII)/RES/408 should be implemented effectively and the necessary steps should be taken to put an end to the pilfering of uranium sources from Namibia.

84. Of the Agency's activities, technical assistance contributed most to stimulating the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, particularly in developing countries. As such, it should be given priority. Despite its limited resources, the technical assistance programme had enabled a large number of countries to carry out very useful projects, particularly in the area of training, nuclear applications and planning. Those positive results were to the Agency's credit and deserved to be emphasized.

85. The resources devoted to safeguards, which was another important activity, continued to increase to the detriment of technical assistance thereby creating an imbalance which adversely affected the Agency's promotional role.

86. Despite resolution GC(XXV)/RES/388, which recommended that the necessary measures be taken to fund technical assistance through the Regular Budget of the Agency or through other comparably predictable and assured resources, technical assistance continued to depend on voluntary contributions. It was also a cause of concern that criteria of a political nature which were contrary to the spirit of the Agency's Statute governed the provision of technical assistance thereby creating a feeling of injustice and discrimination among some Member States.

87. Although the conditions of project implementation had improved considerably, the period between the introduction of a project and its effective execution remained relatively long.

88. It was to be hoped that the General Conference would take the appropriate steps to find satisfactory solutions to those problems.

89. His delegation deplored the fact that no progress had been made regarding the under-representation of the regions of Africa and the Middle East and South Asia and believed that the General Conference should delay no longer in adopting the resolution that had been proposed to rectify the injustice.

90. The Algerian delegation also supported the draft amendment to Article VI.A.1 which would enable the People's Republic of China to take its rightful place in the Board of Governors.

91. His delegation appreciated the efforts made by the Director General to increase the number of staff members from developing countries but believed that those efforts still needed to be pursued in order to eliminate the existing imbalance by 1985.

92. The Algerian delegation hoped that the time would come when nuclear energy served humanity rather than enslaved it and when all obstacles to genuine international co-operation and all discrimination would be abolished.

93. Mr. VISHNEVSKY (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the present session of the General Conference was taking place at a time when the international situation was especially difficult because the imperialist powers of the West had adopted a course of confrontation and striving for military supremacy, thereby sharply increasing tension throughout the world and intensifying the threat of nuclear war. In view of the vast destructive powers of the existing nuclear arsenals all Governments must join in solving the key problem of the present age - how to preserve the world from nuclear catastrophe.

94. The Soviet Union and other socialist States members of the Warsaw Pact and of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) had on numerous occasions declared their goodwill and their resolve to maintain a dialogue for the normalization of the international situation.

95. One of the most important precautions against nuclear war was to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The acquisition of such weapons by one or more States that had hitherto not possessed them would lead to a chain reaction which would multiply the danger of nuclear war and make it far more difficult to arrive at an agreement to halt the arms race and limit the number of nuclear weapons. Such a development would also adversely affect international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

96. His country regarded the Agency as an important international organization with a role to play in the maintenance and promotion of peace and co-operation between States. The further development of the Agency's safeguards and the strengthening of the non-proliferation regime were essential preconditions for such co-operation. Other fields in which Agency activities were of great benefit included nuclear power and the fuel cycle, nuclear safety and environmental protection, the International Nuclear Information System (INIS) and nuclear fusion. The Agency had also continued to provide valuable technical assistance to developing Member States in 1983, although there was always room for further improvement. His delegation was authorized to announce that the Ukraine would be contributing its full share to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund, amounting to 280 000 roubles in national currency.

97. His was a highly industrialized country which attached great importance to nuclear science and technology. Successful research efforts in the Ukraine had covered, inter alia, the effects of radiation on materials and biological specimens, reactor core physics, reactor equipment malfunction diagnostics and optimization of nuclear fuel utilization. Nuclear power was developing rapidly: the three operating nuclear power plants had generated over 25 million MW.h in 1983, representing over 10% of the total electricity production and a saving of 12 million tonnes of coal. A further three plants were under construction, and the Soviet Union's first nuclear heat supply plant was being built in the Ukraine: it would provide district heating for the city of Odessa, thereby saving some 4 million tonnes of coal equivalent annually and allowing several hundred small fossil-fuel-burning boilers to be closed down, which was expected to have a beneficial effect on the ecology of that Black Sea resort.

98. Particular attention was paid to nuclear safety, and all the existing reactors were equipped with automatic control and protection systems, emergency shutdown systems and, where necessary, earthquake protection. In addition, radiation monitoring was carried out over an area of 40-50 km around each nuclear power plant, and soil, water, vegetation and food samples were regularly inspected. A unique radioecological model of the Ukraine had been constructed to describe the migration of radionuclides in the environment and was being used as a basis for recommendations on nuclear power plant siting.

99. Radioisotopes were widely used in the mining, metallurgical and chemical industries, and radiation was being used for a variety of medical applications and in agriculture for seed protein improvement and crop breeding purposes.

100. Those achievements would not have been possible without highly qualified scientific and technical manpower, and his country was training specialists in numerous different subjects relating to nuclear energy. Many of those specialists would be eminently suited to fill posts in the Agency, where the proportion of staff from the Ukraine was still unsatisfactory.

101. A commission had been established in his country to maintain liaison with the Agency; it dealt with all problems relating to co-operation with the Agency, made recommendations on the economic applications of nuclear energy in the light of experience gained in other Agency Member States, and organized the exchange of research results. Relations with the Agency on the scientific and technical plane continued to improve, and his country each year organized a number of study tours and training courses for nuclear energy specialists from developing countries.

102. The Ukrainian people would soon be celebrating the fortieth anniversaries of their liberation and of the end of the Second World War; the memory of the immense sacrifices exacted of them in those times convinced them of the need to make every effort to prevent the danger of another war. His delegation trusted that the present session of the General Conference would contribute to the further development of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, to the growth of confidence between countries, and to peace and progress throughout the world.

103. Mr. PANDEV (Bulgaria) noted that the twenty-eighth session of the Agency's General Conference was being held in a particularly tense and complex situation. Despite the constructive proposals of the USSR and other socialist countries which were designed to reduce the nuclear threat, to normalize international relations and to improve the international climate, there had not yet been any positive changes in the situation. The Agency's role as an international forum to promote peace and international co-operation through the peaceful uses of nuclear energy was continually growing.

104. Bulgaria attached great importance to the Agency's work in strengthening the non-proliferation regime and in realizing effective international control of the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. The Agency's safeguards system helped to strengthen international stability and to further international co-operation. Bulgaria also appreciated the valuable contribution which the Agency had made to the preparations for the Third NPT Review Conference.

105. His delegation noted with satisfaction the Agency's fruitful work in such important areas of the peaceful uses of atomic energy as nuclear power and the fuel cycle, nuclear safety and environmental protection, technical co-operation and the industrial, agricultural and medical applications of nuclear techniques.

106. The 25% increase in Agency resources for the technical assistance programme in 1983, as compared with 1982, demonstrated that the policy of financing technical assistance from voluntary contributions in accordance with indicative planning figures was correct. The Department of Technical Assistance and Co-operation was to be congratulated on the successful implementation of the technical assistance programme.

107. Agency technical assistance projects had made it possible for Bulgaria to increase the quantity and variety of radioisotopes produced; to increase the level of nuclear physics research; to introduce radiation sterilization of medical products; and to use radiation technology in industry. Bulgaria was also grateful to the Agency for enabling its experts to use the Agency's computer centre and programs for performing calculations related to the safety of its nuclear power plants. The Agency's work in training local staff in the peaceful uses of atomic energy was very important.

108. Bulgarian institutes and laboratories were taking part in Agency research programmes. A study tour on nuclear power development and interregional courses on induced mutations in plant breeding had been held in Bulgaria in 1983 and in 1984, a seminar on methods for studying and evaluating sites for underground disposal of radioactive waste and an Agency technical committee on the use of computer programs for safety analysis. Bulgaria was also contributing to INIS.

109. In order to promote the peaceful uses of atomic energy it was essential that the Agency should control non-proliferation effectively. The safeguards system should be expanded and improved. For its part, Bulgaria made its facilities available for testing new safeguards devices and equipment and provided the necessary conditions for the safeguardsinspectorate to carry out its work.

110. The Bulgarian Council of State had ratified the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials on 3 February 1984 and it was to be hoped that other countries which had not yet ratified the Convention would do so in the near future.

111. His delegation approved the Agency's programme for 1985 and 1986 and budget for 1985.

112. The Bulgarian delegation believed that the system of voluntary contributions to the Agency's Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund should be retained and approved the increase to 26 million dollars for the target for voluntary contributions to the Fund in 1985. Bulgaria would make a voluntary contribution of 46 800 dollars in national currency in 1985.

113. The year 1984 marked the fortieth anniversary of socialist Bulgaria and the tenth anniversary of the startup of the first unit of the Kozloduj nuclear power plant which had produced 73 300 million kWh of electricity during its first ten years. The Kozloduj power plant now had four units in operation with a total capacity of 1760 MW(e). In 1983 electricity production at Kozloduj had exceeded 12 000 million kWh, thereby accounting for more than 32% of the country's electricity production. Rapid progress was being made on the construction of the fifth and sixth WWER units, each with a capacity of 1000 MW(e).

114. A site was also being prepared in the Belene region on the banks of the Danube for the construction of four 1000 MW(e) WWER units of a second nuclear power plant.

115. Preliminary technical and economic studies were being carried out on the use of nuclear power plants to provide urban heating and low-temperature heat and steam.

116. Bulgaria attached great importance to staff training and safe operation of nuclear power plants and was grateful for the help received from the CMEA and the Agency. The Agency's documents on the organization and monitoring of nuclear and radiological safety and environmental protection were particularly useful.

117. Application of nuclear techniques was increasing both in scientific research and in various sectors of the economy such as industry, agriculture and medicine.

118. The success achieved by Bulgaria in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy was the result not only of mobilization of national resources but also of multilateral co-operation with CMEA Member States, bilateral co-operation, in particular with the Soviet Union, and co-operation with the Agency.

119. Mr. VOTO-BERNALES (Peru) said that his country had for many years been making every effort to speed up the development of its programme for the peaceful use of nuclear energy and had received valuable support in that endeavour in the form of technical assistance from international organizations such as the Agency. Members of Peruvian institutions concerned with nuclear energy had made full use of the training programmes offered under the Agency's regular programme for technical assistance and under the joint UNDP/IAEA programme. In turn, the Peruvian Higher Centre of Nuclear Studies, much of the equipment of which had been obtained with the Agency's assistance, had been able during the past year to offer training in nuclear science to 15 graduate professionals and 24 intermediate-level technicians, and the Peruvian nuclear energy authorities were currently engaged in preparations for a radiochemistry programme in which students from many Latin American countries would be taking part.

120. In spite of severe limitations imposed by the difficult economic situation, 80% of the construction work on the Peruvian Nuclear Research Centre had been completed, thanks in large measure to the support of the Argentine National Atomic Energy Commission.

121. Geological studies carried out under the uranium resource evaluation and exploration programme had found assured resources of 500 tonnes and estimated additional resources of 50 000 tonnes of uranium oxide in the Department of Puno in southern Peru, and a further 3000-5000 tonnes at Chapi in the same area.

122. With the Agency's help, Peru had conducted a pre-feasibility study which had offered a prospect of building a first nuclear power plant in the not too distant future. His Government had also devoted special attention to the medical and biological applications of nuclear energy, and pilot centres for nuclear biology and medicine had been set up in Lima, Arequipa and Trujillo. The staff of those centres had received training, both in Peru and abroad, and a second basic course in nuclear medicine was currently being given in Lima with UNDP support.

123. Other projects in Peru had been financed by the Governments of Finland, the United States of America, Italy, the Federal Republic of Germany and the Soviet Union, to all of which his country was grateful for their assistance.

124. His delegation continued to support the strengthening of the Agency's safeguards system, as it was a valuable instrument in fostering the climate of confidence which was a precondition for free nuclear trade and the transfer of technology. In that context, greater efforts would be needed to make progress in the important work of the Committee on Assurances of Supply (CAS).

125. In conclusion, his delegation welcomed the progress achieved in the fifth meeting of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (UNCPICPUNE) and hoped that the spirit of consensus there would endure until the completion of the work so that a generally acceptable system of international co-operation and exchange in the nuclear field could at last be established.

The meeting rose at 10.40 p.m.