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President: Mr. BARREDA DELGADO (Peru)

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*/ A provisional version of this document was issued on 7 November 1984.

**/ GC(XXVIII)/730.

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

AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE VI.A.1 OF THE STATUTE (GC(XXVIII)/712 and Add.1-4)

1. The PRESIDENT announced that Jordan had just been added to the list of sponsors of the draft resolution in document GC(XXVIII)/712. Calling the attention of delegates to the operative part of that draft resolution, he pointed out that under Article XVIII.C of the Statute a proposed amendment to the Statute must be approved by a two-thirds majority of Members present and voting. If there were no objections, he would take it that the General Conference wished to adopt the draft resolution in document GC(XXVIII)/712, the purpose of which was to amend Article VI.A.1 of the Statute by replacing the word "nine" in the two places where it occurred by the word "ten".

2. It was so decided

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

3. Mr. EILAM (Israel) expressed his conviction that the peaceful uses of nuclear energy were of vital importance for the well-being of the international community and for raising standards of living in the various countries. Israel had therefore always favoured expansion in that energy form and had supported the Agency in its role, particularly in the fields of electrical power production and applications in agriculture, industry and the life sciences as well as in other scientific fields.

4. Israel had made its own contribution and was continuing to do so, in particular with regard to medical, industrial and agricultural applications, including the development and manufacture of advanced instrumentation. Research and development work had been done on uranium recovery as a by-product of the phosphates industry using a new process. Research and development work was also under way in the following areas: radiopharmaceuticals, nuclear medicine, non-destructive testing, radiation-induced cross-linking and grafting of polymers, isotope applications, environmental studies and radiation sterilization of disposable medical supplies and food products. At the same time, where nuclear power station construction was concerned, preliminary studies were being done on safety problems, site evaluation, reactors and improvements in local technology.

5. Israel was convinced that programmes for the peaceful use of atomic energy could be implemented in developing countries. It was itself a developing country with limited financial resources, but it believed that its experience and know-how could be useful in international technical assistance. Israel was prepared to donate fellowships and expert services and to take on foreign trainees.

6. The fact that the international community was increasingly using atomic energy for power production, as well as for applications in agriculture, industry and the life sciences, provided the Agency with an opportunity to play an even more active role while remaining faithful to its purpose and its Statute. In order to meet its important objectives with the co-operation of its Member States, the Agency should respond fully to their requirements.

7. Unfortunately, item 10 of the agenda showed a politicization of the Agency's work which could only have a detrimental effect. Similar initiatives at previous sessions had given rise to much dissatisfaction in view of the considerable amounts of time and energy devoted to discussing the issue concerned. There was no justification for renewing that discussion.

8. With regard to resolution GC(XXVII)/RES/409, documents GC(XXVIII)/719 and 720, which had been distributed to the General Conference, contained a clear statement of the Israeli Government's policy. The main elements of that policy were: Israel was aware of the substantial contribution that peaceful uses of nuclear energy could make to the well-being of the world and of the right of all countries to benefit from such use. Israel had no policy of attacking nuclear facilities and had no intention of attacking nuclear facilities dedicated to peaceful purposes anywhere. It held that nuclear facilities dedicated to peaceful purposes should be inviolable from military attack and supported international efforts to reach agreement as soon as possible with a view to regulating the status of those facilities and to strengthening the role of the Agency in ensuring that nuclear energy was a credible and safe means of achieving peaceful development. Israel viewed positively the activities of international organizations established for those purposes by the international community. Within that context, it considered the conclusions in the Director General's report in document GC(XXVIII)/719 to be relevant.

9. It was therefore unfortunate that the General Conference had again been asked to spend its precious time on that subject which might be detrimental to the role and the effectiveness of the Agency and also to its ability to fulfil its statutory functions.

10. He renewed his assurance of confidence in the Agency's ability to meet its important objectives with the co-operation of its Member States, including the State of Israel, and appealed to all Member States to make the current session of the General Conference a milestone on the path to understanding and co-operation between States.

11. In conclusion, he thanked the Director General and the Agency's staff for their untiring efforts to carry out the functions of the organization. Agency activities aimed at ensuring the development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes by the application of safeguards, the training of staff and the furtherance of technological and scientific research were being carried out most faithfully and meticulously by the many people contributing to the smooth functioning of the organization, and the Israeli delegation was grateful to them.

12. Mr. CAMPBELL (Australia) said that general political questions should be taken before the political bodies of the United Nations. His delegation looked forward to another year of collaboration which would confirm the Agency's deserved reputation as an effective and dedicated organization.

13. He welcomed the People's Republic of China to the Agency and hoped, in particular, that that country would co-operate with Australia in promoting stability and well-being in their region. He also hoped that China would soon be in a position to join the Agency's Regional Co-operative Agreement (RCA). The projects carried out in the context of that Agreement were continuing to prove beneficial for participating countries in Asia and the Pacific.

14. The Australian delegation welcomed the fact that the twelve months since the previous session of the General Conference had seen a process of consolidation and increased activity of the Agency in the fulfilment of its statutory responsibilities.

15. In applying the safeguards required by the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Agency made a unique contribution to international confidence and security and played an essential

role in the context of the Treaty's objectives. Following 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), it appeared that the Conference had been placed on a firm footing in that a draft agenda and a decision-making procedure had been approved. The Conference could make a positive contribution to the work of the Agency, but only in the context of a complementary and universal non-proliferation regime. The success of UNCPICPUNE would depend above all on that of the Third NPT Review Conference, which was to take place in 1985.

16. As the Director General had stated, the Committee on Assurances of Supply (CAS) had made only modest progress, in particular with regard to the elaboration of principles of international co-operation in the nuclear field. Agreement would not be possible, in his opinion, until legitimate non-proliferation concerns and the central role of the principles embodied in NPT had been recognized. In any case, it was necessary to accept that those principles were to a large extent already to be found in a whole range of international agreements which offered the only basis on which nuclear trade could be undertaken in conditions of confidence. A first practical result of CAS would be achieved if the proposed emergency and back-up mechanism it had accepted could now be implemented.

17. The past year had been important for the exercise and development of Australian policy concerning many important matters of interest to the Agency. The Australian Government, which had taken up office only a few months before the 1983 session of the General Conference, had undertaken an overall review of its nuclear policy. The positions adopted in that context might be of interest in view of Australia's enormous uranium reserves. The country had reasonably assured resources recoverable at less than US \$80 per kilogram of approximately half a million tonnes. That represented one third of total world resources in that category outside the countries of the socialist bloc. In November 1983 the Australian Government had decided to permit development of the Olympic Dam uranium mine if it were commercially viable, but it would not be approving the development of any new mines.

18. It had also been announced in November 1983 that all future uranium exports would be subject to the strictest conditions, which would be determined by the Government on the basis of an independent enquiry into

Australia's role in the nuclear fuel cycle. In addition, a permanent commission would be established to examine nuclear fuel cycle questions and Australia's position in that respect. The principal recommendation in the report of the Australian Science and Technology Council, which had been entrusted with the enquiry, had been that no limitation should be placed on exports of Australian uranium as a matter of principle but that such exports should be permitted subject to stringent conditions designed to strengthen the non-proliferation regime.

19. The report acknowledged the importance of national and international security of energy supplies in reducing international tensions and promoting a climate of peace in the world. As a reliable long-term uranium supplier, Australia could make a significant contribution to the assurance of supplies and to non-proliferation. The report stressed the urgent need to establish an international political climate which discouraged vertical and horizontal proliferation. It showed NPT to be the most important multilateral agreement on non-proliferation and arms control.

20. The report also recognized the importance of the Agency and recommended measures by which Australia could assist it to attain its objectives. It included a thorough review of questions relating to radioactive waste management and drew attention to the fact that there were as yet no internationally agreed criteria for the permanent disposal of high-level waste. The potential significance of the "Synroc" waste conditioning process developed in Australia was also pointed out in the report, which recommended that work on that topic should be continued.

21. In July 1984 the Australian Labour Party had decided, in the context of its biennial policy review, to allow the export of uranium from approved mines under the most stringent non-proliferation conditions to countries which the Australian Government considered to have observed the provisions of NPT and which had ratified the necessary international and bilateral nuclear safeguards agreements.

22. The following principles were of particular importance where the policy of the Australian authorities was concerned: Australia believed that it had a moral obligation to supply uranium, under strict safeguards conditions, in order to contribute towards the objectives of Article IV of NPT. By remaining

a reliable and responsible supplier, it would serve the cause of non-proliferation, whereas it would weaken that cause by interrupting its uranium exports. Any decision by Australia which added to assurance of supplies would also strengthen assurance relating to the non-proliferation of nuclear explosives.

23. In the context of the objectives and undertakings of Article IV of NPT, Australia also attached considerable importance to the Agency's technical co-operation activities. It was exploring avenues for expanding its technical co-operation programmes in the nuclear field, especially in its own region. It intended to continue to participate directly in international technical co-operation in spheres such as the use of isotopes and radiation for medical, agricultural and industrial applications. During the past year the Australian Atomic Energy Commission had decided to pay more attention to ecology, nuclear waste management, nuclear medicine and industrial and agricultural applications of radioisotopes and radiation. Australia would continue its active support of the Agency's technical assistance and co-operation programme, in particular in the context of the RCA. In addition, it was considering providing funds for footnote a/ projects of neighbouring countries which complied with the provisions of NPT.

24. He was pleased to announce that the Australian Government was prepared to provide funds for the second phase of the regional project on food irradiation, amounting to a contribution of US \$260 000 over three years. Australia was also playing a leading role in a sub-project of the RCA for Asia and the Pacific on the industrial application of isotope and radiation technology. That project covered the period 1983-86 and would receive an Australian contribution of 665 000 Australian dollars in the form of equipment and training. Again within the context of the RCA, Australia was continuing to support the Agency's project on isotope hydrology and sedimentology by training scientists from South East Asian countries. Direct co-operation with Malaysia was continuing in the form of training nuclear specialists for the Malaysian Prime Minister's Department and providing consultants' services.

25. He welcomed the fact that the increase in resources for technical assistance had been greater in the Agency than in other United Nations bodies and also that the Agency's technical co-operation programme had improved as a result of the adoption of dynamic programming, which had enabled the Agency to

use its resources more effectively. Australia supported the target of US \$26 million for the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund in 1985 and expected to be able to pay its share in full. It had already paid its contribution for 1984. He wished to join the Director General in encouraging all Member States to pledge and to pay in full their voluntary contributions to the Fund.

26. Australia was very interested in the elaboration and application of international guidelines and codes of practice relating to the storage and disposal of spent fuel and high-level waste. It was contributing to the search for an agreed basis for assessing the behaviour of conditioned waste and of repositories over long periods.

27. Australia was also concerned about the effects of sea dumping of radioactive waste and encouraged the Agency to devote sufficient resources to the study of those effects. Within the Pacific Forum it had since 1981 always joined the consensus against the dumping of radioactive waste in the Pacific. With regard to radiation protection in ore mining and milling, Australia, as a uranium producer, had acquired a particular expertise and was making a positive contribution to the Agency's work on that topic.

28. His delegation wished to associate itself with the Director General in encouraging Member States to sign and ratify as soon as possible the International Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material which his country had signed early in the year.

29. Australia had always been and remained a firm and energetic supporter of the Agency's safeguards role. It would continue to provide the Agency with resources for increasing its safeguards activities. In that connection, Australia was engaged in a bilateral safeguards assistance programme established in consultation with the Secretariat and involving cost-free expert services, instrument development and demonstration exercises and a systems study. That programme related, in particular, to the application of safeguards to small enrichment plants and to the surveillance of spent fuel ponds. The current programme was scheduled to run until June 1986 and had a total budget of 695 000 Australian dollars. In addition, Australia would continue to co-operate with the Agency in expert and advisory groups, including the Standing Advisory Group on Safeguards Implementation (SAGSI).

30. Like the Director General, he believed that the world had a vital interest in having, through the Agency and its Member countries, a verification system which worked well and inspired confidence. Measured against the immense value of that system, its cost was relatively small. A comparison with the cost of weapons showed that the cost-effectiveness of the Agency's contribution to the prevention of horizontal proliferation was excellent.

31. He stressed the universal desirability of all non-nuclear-weapon States submitting their nuclear facilities to Agency safeguards in order to provide their neighbours and the world as a whole with assurance that their nuclear programmes were devoted to peaceful purposes. In that connection, he noted that, according to the annual report, it was considered reasonable to conclude that nuclear material under Agency safeguards in 1983 had remained in peaceful nuclear activities or had been otherwise accounted for, with the exception of two cases. He welcomed the additional statement to the effect that further technical measures had been put into effect for those two facilities in order to allow the Agency to perform effective verification in the future. He also welcomed the conclusion of new safeguards agreements during the past twelve months, in particular those with Nauru and Sri Lanka, both of which were in the same region as Australia.

32. The Australian delegation noted that the negotiations between the Agency and the Soviet Union concerning the voluntary submission to safeguards of part of the civil nuclear facilities of that country had resulted in an agreement. That further demonstration of support for Agency safeguards and for the objectives of non-proliferation from a nuclear-weapon State was encouraging.

33. The commencement of negotiations between the Secretariat and the South African Government on the placing of a semi-commercial enrichment plant under safeguards was a positive step. Australia attached importance to those negotiations being without prejudice to the request made by the Secretariat to South Africa that it should begin discussions on the application of full-scope safeguards in that country, and his delegation urged South Africa once again to join NPT.

34. Where Israel was concerned, the Australian delegation hoped that that country would submit all its facilities to Agency safeguards and would join NPT. That would be consistent with the interests of the region in that it would represent progress towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone. Similarly, he associated himself with the many speakers who had urged the major countries of the Indian subcontinent and of Latin America to join the international non-proliferation regime.

35. He also welcomed the fact that on a number of occasions the Director General had mentioned the possibility of the Agency safeguards system being used as a model for disarmament verification purposes, since verification problems lay at the heart of arms control and disarmament issues. A verification system could make it possible to halt and reverse vertical proliferation of nuclear weapons, which would have a positive effect on efforts to obtain a universal undertaking against horizontal proliferation. The example of the Agency was applicable to arms control. It demonstrated that on-site inspection was possible and that surveillance by direct visual or technical means could be acceptable. It also provided a precedent for inspections being carried out in nuclear-weapon States.

36. Without commitments to non-proliferation and without renunciation of the nuclear weapons option there could be no assurance about international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Subterfuge which could be employed in the construction of sensitive facilities and attempts to divert sensitive nuclear technology and equipment gave rise to suspicion and insecurity. The non-proliferation system offered a means of avoiding that danger. By effective and universal application of the safeguards system, it ensured that international nuclear co-operation and trade were and would remain exclusively peaceful. For all those reasons, verification issues had a very close bearing on the role of the Agency, and Australia's commitment to a comprehensive test ban treaty and to full-scope safeguards were twin objectives. They were interlinked as national policy objectives and as substantive political requirements within the context of NPT and of the review of that Treaty which was to take place in 1985. The Agency and the Treaty were closely and permanently linked and the Australian delegation intended to contribute to the strengthening of that link.

37. In conclusion, he congratulated the Director General and the Secretariat on the work they had done in 1983. The Director General's visit to Australia early in the year had provided the Australian authorities with a valuable opportunity to discuss the Agency's role with him, to pledge their moral and material support and to exchange views on the future. His delegation wished to assure him and his staff of its continued support.

38. Mr. HADDAD (Syrian Arab Republic) wished first to ask certain questions relating to procedures and organizational methods followed by the General Conference and the Board of Governors which wasted time and gave rise to controversies and even confrontations.

39. First, for some ten years the amendment of Article VI.A.2 of the Statute had been under consideration by both the General Conference and the Board of Governors - the topic was thus being discussed several times each year. The arguments advanced, the positions adopted and the proposals put forward however, remained unchanged. The question was, therefore, how many more years the General Conference and the Board would need to consider the problem. Similarly, the Agency's policy-making organs were discussing safeguards and technical assistance without being able to break out of a vicious circle. Why not modify that sterile procedure and keep any particular question under consideration for a maximum of three years in the Board - and thus of two years in the General Conference - at the end of which a decision would be taken by a democratic vote?

40. Secondly, the Board held six series of meetings per year, one in the guise of Technical Assistance and Co-operation Committee and another in that of Administrative and Budgetary Committee. In the latter two cases, no decisions were taken, since the questions were referred to the Board when it met as such. Why could meetings of the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Committee and of the Administrative and Budgetary Committee not be considered meetings of the Board proper?

41. Thirdly, the Board of Governors set up committees which it entrusted with the examination of certain important questions. At each of its own series of meetings, the Board did not simply take note of the work of those committees but took up the discussion again. That was true, for example, of the work of the Committee on Assurances of Supply and of the Expert Group on International Plutonium Storage. Why should not a committee established in that way be authorized to submit its report to the Board only after its work had been completed?

42. Those methods were unacceptable in that they were totally illogical. The delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic hoped that the General Conference and the Board of Governors would adopt working methods which would prevent any wastage of time.

43. Desirous as it was of ensuring the universality of international organizations, the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic urged the Director General to make contact through the appropriate channels with Member States of the United Nations which had not yet become Members of the Agency with a view to their joining it.

44. At the present session, the General Conference was again being asked to consider an item entitled "Consequences of the Israeli military attack on the Iraqi nuclear research reactor and the standing threat to repeat this attack for: (a) the development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes; and (b) the role and activities of the International Atomic Energy Agency". At its previous session, the General Conference had adopted resolution GC(XXVII)/RES/409 on that same question, giving Israel one year to comply with it. Even after the change of government, Israel had, however, taken no step in that direction. It was true that document GC(XXVIII)/720, which was before the General Conference, reproduced a letter dated 21 August 1984 and addressed to the Director General by the Resident Representative of Israel. However, that letter was supported by a great Power which was putting pressure on smaller States to adopt an attitude favourable to Israel in that matter and virtually committing blackmail by threatening to withdraw from the Agency if ever the General Conference adopted measures hostile to Israel.

45. Recalling the history of the military attack against the reactor of a country all of whose nuclear facilities were subject to Agency safeguards and which did not intend to acquire nuclear weapons, he said that Iraq had been the victim of a horrible crime. Iraq had complained to the United Nations and to the Agency, but the measures taken by the two organizations had been commensurate with the unanimous condemnation of Israel by the international community. Israel had been requested to place its nuclear facilities under Agency safeguards and to withdraw its threat to repeat the attack. In each case the response by Israel had been negative. The statement that Israel had no systematic policy of bombing nuclear installations was worthless;

moreover, the letter he had mentioned from the Resident Representative of Israel was specious, as the arguments put forward in it would not stand up to analysis. In fact, when the Prime Minister of Israel said that Israel was in favour of international arrangements guaranteeing the status and inviolability of peaceful nuclear installations, he never mentioned the Agency, which was the party most concerned. When Israel declared itself to be in favour of joint and co-ordinated action on the part of democratic States to impose sanctions on international pirates which attacked nuclear facilities, that meant that it recognized neither the Agency's competence nor its safeguards system and that the only international pirates it had in mind were Palestinian organizations. The Agency should condemn Israel for that statement. Finally, the qualification of nuclear facilities as "peaceful" would be left entirely to the discretion of Israel, which would bomb them as it wished and claim after the event that those facilities had not been "peaceful".

46. For all those reasons, the letter from the Resident Representative of Israel - which went beyond the statement by that country's Prime Minister - was unacceptable. It constituted in no way a response to resolution GC(XXVII)/RES/409. Israel's hostile attitude was thus a threat to the region - which was not protected against individual suicidal attacks - and also to Agency Member States, in particular those which had declared themselves in favour of that resolution. Those futile attempts at diversion, which were doomed to failure, were just so many threats of new bombings, since Israel remained blinded by its military madness. It was absolutely essential that Israel make a firm commitment not to bomb nuclear facilities in the region or anywhere else in the world. In fact, the Syrian Arab Republic would be prepared to accept any undertaking of that nature made on behalf of Israel by another Agency Member State.

47. The Syrian Arab Republic asked the General Conference to require of Israel that it comply with resolution GC(XXVII)/RES/409. The statements issued in document GC(XXVIII)/720 had no force of law, and his delegation was prepared to request an opinion from the International Court of Justice in that connection, which it would also be willing to accept.

48. In addition, his delegation asked the General Conference to adopt a resolution by which, in conformity with Article XIX of the Statute, it would suspend Israel from the exercise of the privileges and rights of membership of

the Agency if it bombed nuclear facilities. Such a resolution would be implemented immediately and definitively and would make it unnecessary for the General Conference to reconsider the suspension of Israel from those privileges and rights.

49. Another step was essential for the maintenance of peace and security: the establishment in the Middle East of a nuclear-weapon-free zone. The Syrian Arab Republic was in favour of that idea and, with that in mind, the General Conference or the Board could set up a committee consisting of between five and seven Member States chosen by those Member States that belonged to the non-aligned movement, which would work out a draft convention for the purpose, to be submitted for their comments to Member States in the region. Once those comments had been received, the committee would meet again to draw up the final text of the convention, which would then be communicated to interested States for them to sign and ratify under the auspices of the Agency.

50. The Syrian Arab Republic urged South Africa to comply with resolution GC(XXVII)/RES/408 concerning South Africa's nuclear capabilities.

51. His country also asked that specific measures be taken to correct the imbalance in the geographical representation on the Board and thereby to put an end to the injustice of which the areas of Africa and the Middle East and South Asia were the victims.

52. The Syrian Arab Republic wished the Agency every success in its attempts to make atomic energy serve the interests of peace and to preserve the security of all of mankind.

53. Mr. BRADY ROCHE (Chile) congratulated the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Atomic Energy Agency on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Isotope and Radiation Applications of Atomic Energy for Food and Agricultural Development and wished the Joint Division every success with its future work.

54. The current year was of particular importance for the application of nuclear energy in Chile, both nationally and internationally.

55. At a national level, the promulgation of the Decree-Law defining the objectives of nuclear energy utilization in Chile and of the nuclear policy to be followed in order to meet those objectives constituted a firm decision to use nuclear energy for the political, economic and social development of the country. As a logical consequence of that Decree-Law the Chilean Nuclear Energy Commission had drawn up medium- and long-term nuclear energy utilization plans taking into account the progress accomplished so far in nuclear science and technology. In addition, the Nuclear Safety Law had been promulgated on 16 April 1984. With the accompanying regulations and technical guides, that Law was an essential element in the Chilean nuclear safety and radiation protection programme which ensured that nuclear energy would be applied without undue risk to persons, property or the environment. In that connection, the Chilean delegation wished to thank the Secretariat for the legal consultancy services it had provided during the elaboration of that Law.

56. The isotope and radiation application programme took into account the need to intensify the use of those techniques - which were already well established in Chile - in the sectors of production and services. Thus, the programme fostered the extended use of isotopes, radioisotopes and ionizing radiation in copper mining and milling, the paper industry, food preservation, health care, water resource evaluation, construction and quality control services.

57. The most remarkable peaceful use of nuclear energy was without doubt its transformation into heat for electricity production. Nuclear power represented an energy option for Chile: it would be decided whether the time was right to use it and to what extent to do so when that energy source could join the hydroelectric power and the coal resources of Chile as a technically viable source of supply at minimum cost requiring minimum dependence on imports. In view of the size and cost of the power reactors available on the market and the existence of hydroelectric power resources and coal deposits in Chile, electricity production by nuclear means would be technically and economically viable only in the long term. For that reason the Chilean nuclear materials programme was focused on the medium-term development on a pilot scale of technology for the front end of the fuel cycle, which had already reached the laboratory testing stage.

58. Under the technical support programme, the number of irradiation and analysis facilities and that of the workshops needed for carrying out other programmes was to be increased. In that connection, he pointed out that the La Reina research reactor would soon have been operating effectively and safely for ten years. The reactor, which would be reloaded in early 1985 with new fuel enriched to 45% in uranium-235, had been submitted voluntarily to the Agency's safeguards system.

59. Chile was convinced that the application of nuclear energy could see an expansion only if the whole nation accepted and supported it. Measures to publicize the advantages and opportunities offered by nuclear energy were thus of particular importance. To that end, Chile had set up a national information campaign by means of a mobile exhibition aimed at secondary-school pupils and the general public which had so far been held in sixteen towns and had been seen by almost 170 000 people.

60. At an international level, Chile firmly supported horizontal co-operation as an important means of integrating and accelerating the application of nuclear energy at a regional level. In that connection, the agreements concluded recently between the Chilean and Argentine institutes responsible for nuclear energy illustrated a way in which nations could be brought together for the realization of common development objectives. He noted that the sixth supplementary agreement concluded on 16 August 1984 related to the establishment of mechanisms which would enable Chile to set up the installations and to acquire the knowledge needed for fabricating fuel elements for the research reactor of the La Reina Nuclear Research Centre. The results obtained from the application of the first five supplementary bilateral co-operation agreements - to which the results of the sixth supplementary agreement would be added - showed that certain malicious rumours about supposed nuclear rivalry in Latin America were without foundation.

61. With regard to the application of nuclear techniques, Chile had made some progress which it wished to share with other Latin American countries. In that connection, it supported unreservedly the work of the Inter-American Nuclear Energy Commission (IANEC), with respect both to the meeting of its objectives and to the organization of training courses and regional co-ordination activities. Thus, in April 1984 Chile had hosted a Latin American meeting on public acceptance of nuclear energy which had been

attended by senior staff from the atomic energy commissions of Latin American countries, from IANEC and from the Agency. Under the auspices of IANEC, Chile would in October 1984 host a regional co-ordination meeting on analysis of the prospects for radioisotope production in the region and, in November-December 1984, a training course on research reactor operation. In 1985, still under the auspices of IANEC, Chile would host two regional training courses, one on applications of radioactive tracers in industry and for the study of natural processes, and the other on the X-ray fluorescence technique. In addition, Chile had expressed the wish to participate in the regional uranium prospecting programme launched by IANEC, which in its second phase would benefit from considerable financial support from the Agency.

62. Like other countries in Latin America, where nuclear techniques could help to solve problems of profound importance for the economic and social development both of countries individually and of the region as a whole, Chile believed that regional co-operation was the best means of making progress in nuclear science and technology. Apart from enabling better use to be made of material and human resources, horizontal co-operation between similar countries in the same socio-economic situation made for analogous development and better understanding of the problems encountered. In addition, the most advanced countries of the region which had benefited from bilateral or international co-operation were willing to assist other countries in their turn.

63. The Chilean Government welcomed the fact that the Agency, aware as it was of the wishes of the Latin American region, had launched the ARCAL programme (Regional Co-operative Agreement for Latin America), which would contribute to the development of nuclear energy in spheres of common interest to countries in the region. Chile was fully prepared to support and to participate in the ARCAL programme.

64. Reviewing the Agency's activities since the previous session of the General Conference, he commended the continued efforts to utilize as well as possible the limited resources available for technical assistance and welcomed the pre- and post-project evaluation activities, noting also that multi-year programming of the various projects made it possible to forecast the financial resources which would be required. All those efforts, together with bilateral or regional co-operation between developing countries, suggested that nuclear technology would eventually make a real contribution to economic and social development.

65. There were, however, certain causes for concern which overshadowed those prospects. First, the Board of Governors had still not decided to place technical assistance and co-operation activities under the Agency's Regular Budget, which meant that they were still dependent on voluntary contributions merely because certain Member States maintained that the mechanism for financing technical assistance and co-operation was reliable and predictable and, moreover, that technical assistance should by its very nature be voluntary. Those arguments surely contradicted each other: in order to be certain of having funds to a given amount and to be able to make forecasts, the financial contributions of Member States would need to be obligatory and not voluntary. In addition, that situation contrasted with the financing of safeguards, which came under the Regular Budget and which enjoyed financial resources in excess of those available for technical assistance and co-operation.

66. Secondly, the provision of technical assistance in certain spheres of nuclear technology was made subject to political conditions which were unacceptable to certain Member States. Chile was opposed to the imposition of any political conditions on the provision of technical assistance.

67. Thirdly, the Secretariat had not yet responded satisfactorily to the request made of it on a number of occasions through the Board of Governors that it state the objective policies and regulations governing the recruitment, assignment and promotion of Agency staff in the light of the possibility that subjective elements might also come into play.

68. The Chilean delegation approved the Annual Report for 1983 (GC(XXVIII)/713). It endorsed as a whole the activities carried out by the Agency - despite the difficulties encountered in reconciling the sometimes divergent interests of Member States - which demonstrated that clear progress was being made towards the conquest of nuclear energy in the service of progress and humanity. The Agency would continue to occupy its important place if it limited itself to its purely technical role and remained free of all political influences extraneous to its mandate.

69. Mr. MAKHLOUF (Tunisia) said that the satisfactory results obtained during the past year were due to the efforts made by the Secretariat and by Member States to strengthen international co-operation in the peaceful

uses of nuclear energy. Tunisia considered that the Agency's technical co-operation programmes relating to the applications of nuclear techniques, to nuclear safety and to radiation protection, as well as its safeguards programme, were of very great importance for progress and peace throughout the world.

70. Alongside its intensive oil and gas prospecting programme, Tunisia was currently taking steps to promote alternative energy sources such as solar and nuclear energy and it was grateful to the Agency for the valuable assistance it provided both in that field and with regard to the applications of nuclear technology and radiation protection.

71. The Agency should take particular account of the concerns of developing countries and respond to their special needs and goals. His delegation was pleased to see that the broad lines of the technical assistance provided by the Agency with regard to nuclear power planning, the attention given to training, the proposals relating to the development of small and medium power reactors and, lastly, the emphasis placed on the application of various nuclear techniques were all mutually consistent. It felt, however, that the constraints of zero growth should not affect the Agency's different programmes to the same degree or in the same way. It was clear from document GC(XXVIII)/INF/219 that the resources available for technical assistance remained insufficient to meet the needs and requests of the developing countries. He also noted with regret the appreciable decrease in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) contribution and hoped that it would be possible, firstly, to arrest that downward trend and, secondly, to improve the implementation rate of the Agency's technical assistance projects. While paying tribute to the Department of Technical Co-operation, he stressed the need to strengthen its resources, especially with regard to manpower.

72. Turning to the application of safeguards, his delegation noted with satisfaction that in 1983 the Agency had not detected any anomaly which might indicate the diversion of a significant quantity of safeguarded nuclear material; however, the problem of vertical proliferation remained. It was to be hoped that the Third NPT Review Conference planned for 1985 would yield better results than the previous Conference had.

73. The development of South Africa's nuclear programme unfortunately continued to be a source of concern for Africa and the international community, since South Africa refused to place all its nuclear facilities under Agency safeguards as it had been urged to do by various resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and of the Agency's General Conference. There was as yet no evidence to prove that the most recent statement by the South African authorities - that of 31 January 1984 - was anything more than an opportunistic and propagandistic ploy to gain time. The placement under safeguards of a semi-commercial plant would have no effect on South Africa's nuclear capabilities unless it was extended to the Valindaba pilot plant. His delegation considered that no effort should be spared to ensure the enforcement of all the provisions of resolution GC(XXVII)/RES/408.

74. Since the question of the Israeli military attack on the Iraqi research reactor was similar in nature to the threat posed by South Africa's nuclear capabilities and since, moreover, Israel was engaged in extensive nuclear co-operation with South Africa, he considered that the document concerning Israel circulated at the General Conference did not constitute an adequate response to resolution GC(XXVII)/RES/409. Not only had Israel not withdrawn its threat to repeat its attack on Iraq or other countries but it still refused to recognize the role of the Agency's safeguards system under the Statute. The international community, however, could not allow Israel or any other country to set itself up as a supreme judge deciding arbitrarily whether the nuclear facilities of other countries were peaceful or non-peaceful, especially when those facilities were under Agency safeguards.

75. The amendment of Article VI.A.2 of the Statute was a question which had been on the agenda of the General Conference since 1977. The purpose of the amendment was to remedy the unjust and discriminatory treatment of the two areas of Africa and the Middle East and South Asia. The arguments put forward by the representatives from those two areas had never, unfortunately, given rise to the detailed discussion and understanding which they deserved. Some speakers had maintained that an increase in the number of seats on the Board would diminish its effectiveness and efficiency, while others had invoked the so-called problem of balance. His delegation found such arguments unsatisfactory and felt that the moment had come to initiate a genuine dialogue in order to find a just solution to the problem.

76. In conclusion, he appealed to all countries to support the Agency in its endeavours to better fulfil its function of promoting, for the benefit of the whole of mankind, the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

77. Mr. CASTRO DIAZ-BALART (Cuba) said that the agenda included items of particular importance for the Agency's activities. Many of those items had already been discussed by the General Conference, and efforts should be continued to reconcile the views of different groups or delegations on the main aspects of the organization's work. In spite of everything, some progress had been made in promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

78. The Annual Report for 1983 (document GC(XXVIII)/713) indicated that the receipts of the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund had risen by 20.2% over the 1982 level and that the volume of assistance financed by the Fund had increased by 24.4%. Those two figures were encouraging in that they reflected an intensification in the provision of technical assistance, a basic function of the Agency through which many developing countries had obtained the necessary resources to promote their national programmes. However, his delegation noted with concern the continuing decline of contributions in kind and of UNDP funding. The financing of technical assistance was a problem which must not be neglected. It was worth repeating that the indicative planning figure system provided a mechanism geared to the needs and possibilities of Member States. That mechanism, however, was justified only to the extent that it responded to the needs of developing countries and guaranteed systematic increases in the indicative figures approved and as long as donor countries fulfilled their obligations as defined by the Agency.

79. At the end of 1983 the total output of nuclear power plants throughout the world had been almost 200 000 MW, or 12% of world electricity production. Nuclear power plants were in operation in 24 Member States. A share of 97.6% of that total output had been produced by 19 developed countries, which indicated that nuclear power was another area in which an extreme imbalance existed between developed and developing countries. In that respect, the outlook seemed bleak. The Director General had pointed out in his report that nuclear power trends in the developing countries remained uncertain. In those countries only three new units had been connected to the grid in 1983, and the ten developing Member States which already had nuclear power plants in

operation or under construction would account for most of the growth in nuclear power-generating capacity in the Third World between the present time and the year 2000. The constraints on nuclear development were various, relating to infrastructure, manpower and financing. One constraint was the fact that most of the units currently available on the market were too large for the grids of developing countries. That situation was clearly due to the increasingly severe economic crisis which most of the developing countries were undergoing: quite apart from their energy and financing difficulties those countries were also facing problems in the fields of public health and education which, far from improving, were growing ever more serious. It was not surprising that countries with such difficulties were not in a position even to formulate nuclear power development plans.

80. At a time when many developing countries were struggling against poverty, thousands of millions of dollars were being poured into the arms race each year, thereby increasing tension in the world, and acts threatening world peace were being committed. While nuclear weapons were being further improved, there was talk of limited nuclear conflicts and it was even suggested that a nuclear war could be won. The situation was aggravated by the mounting tensions in various regions of the world, such as the Middle East and Central America, where the just aspirations of the people to peace and development were thwarted by imperialistic policies of aggression and expansionism. The developing countries must deal with those problems despite their low level of industrialization, inadequate technological infrastructure and lack of competent specialists, all of which were factors limiting the ways in which they could apply nuclear techniques in promoting their economic development.

81. With regard to the Agency's programme for 1985 and 1986 and budget for 1985 (document GC(XXVIII)/715), he pointed out that, given the current budgetary constraints, the Agency's promotional programmes might suffer from further reductions in funding which would render their implementation difficult, while at the same time its regulatory activities were to benefit from considerable increases. The Agency should pay as much attention to promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy as it paid to encouraging regulatory activities. Accordingly, his delegation was in favour of an increase in real terms in the Agency's budget which, for the current year, had been very modest.

82. He noted with satisfaction that the study on small and medium power reactors had been included in the Regular Budget for 1985, that being a topic of cardinal importance for the developing countries and of not inconsiderable importance for the developed countries.

83. From another important document before the General Conference - the Agency's Accounts for 1983 (document GC(XXVIII)/714) - he noted with concern that at the end of the financial year the outstanding balances in respect of Member States' contributions to the Regular Budget and their voluntary contributions had increased. He stressed the importance of timely payment by Member States of their contributions to the Agency and announced that Cuba would be paying its full contributions to the Regular Budget and the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund.

84. The General Conference should examine the implementation of three resolutions approved at its twenty-seventh session. The first (GC(XXVII)/RES/408) concerned South Africa's nuclear capabilities. The discriminatory and aggressive policies of that country had been condemned in various international fora. His delegation considered that South Africa had not done what was demanded in the resolution, which nevertheless remained in force. The second resolution (GC(XXVII)/RES/409) related to the consequences of Israel's unjustified attack on the Iraqi research reactor. Everyone knew that the international community had repeatedly condemned that barbaric act. Israel's response to the demands of the General Conference and the United Nations General Assembly was unacceptable and inadequate. His delegation, therefore, continued to consider that resolution also to remain fully in force. The implementation of the third resolution (GC(XXVII)/RES/407) regarding the protection of nuclear installations devoted to peaceful purposes against armed attacks should be fully guaranteed in view of its particular importance.

85. His delegation had taken note of the review of the Agency's activities (document GC(XXVIII)/718) prepared by the Secretariat and approved of its presentation.

86. Regarding the staffing of the Agency's Secretariat (document GC(XXVIII)/723), he noted that at present ten Professional posts on average were occupied by nationals of developed countries for each Professional post occupied by a national of a developing country. The Secretariat should

continue to take all appropriate measures to increase appreciably the representation of developing countries on the Secretariat's Professional staff.

87. His delegation had welcomed China's admission to the Agency the previous year and felt that, in view of China's nuclear development, it was fair that it should have a permanent seat on the Board of Governors.

88. The Agency had continued to participate in the preparatory work for the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (UNCPICPUNE). There was a direct connection between the success achieved by the Committee on Assurances of Supply (CAS) and the preparation of that Conference where the problem of principles of international co-operation was concerned. His delegation therefore considered that, at its next session, CAS should concentrate on that problem. It would not be possible to make progress in formulating such principles until there was a clear understanding of the close relation which existed between co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and the principles governing non-proliferation under generally acceptable conditions.

89. Cuba had continued to promote nuclear energy and its applications in the national economy with a view to meeting the country's needs and sustaining its development. The first two units of Cuba's first nuclear power station were under construction; the station would comprise four reactors each with a capacity of 417 MW. It would be the first in the region of Central America and the Caribbean, and it was an example of international co-operation in the utilization of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, since the Soviet Union had provided invaluable assistance in its construction. It would make for annual savings of 600 000 tonnes of oil per reactor in operation or, in other words, a total of US \$500 million at the present price of oil. The technical assistance (equipment, expert services and fellowships) provided by the Agency had enabled Cuba to introduce, exploit and develop nuclear techniques and their applications in various sectors of the economy. Cuba was pleased to be able to announce, on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of FAO/IAEA co-operation, that thanks to the assistance of specialists provided by the Agency under its technical assistance and co-operation programme, Cuba was about to introduce irradiation techniques for food preservation. In the field of nuclear medicine, considerable progress had been made with the diagnosis and treatment of various diseases by means of radioisotope techniques. The

negotiations on the subsidiary arrangements relating to the first Cuban nuclear power station were proceeding satisfactorily. In addition, a Nuclear Energy Information Centre had been set up under the Cuban Atomic Energy Commission for the purpose of gathering up-to-date information on the various relevant questions and providing valuable services to national specialists and technicians.

90. With its full agenda containing items of great importance for the Agency's work, the deliberations of the General Conference provided an opportunity to pool the experience acquired and work together to ensure that nuclear energy was always used in the service of development and for the benefit of mankind.

91. Mr. CHRISTENSEN (Denmark) said that safety, international trade in nuclear materials, technical assistance and the objectives of non-proliferation were all areas in which the Agency played a leading role and should continue to do so in the future. Denmark strongly supported international co-operation and attached great importance to the Agency's contribution to international peace and stability and to the attainment of non-proliferation objectives. To demonstrate its positive attitude towards technical assistance, Denmark had already announced that it would pay its full share of the target set for 1985. Wishing to be brief, he said he would confine himself to commenting on three specific questions.

92. Regarding the Agency's budget and finances, he recalled that during the past year many Member States had had to cope with budgetary restrictions, as was apparent from the discussion on the draft budget for 1985. He noted with pleasure that the Secretariat was ready to co-operate with Member States in dealing with those problems and to endeavour to identify priority areas. He wished to commend the Secretariat on having drawn up a budget which observed the zero-growth principle while emphasizing areas of special interest. He hoped the Secretariat would continue strict evaluation of all activities so that the limited resources available could be used as effectively as possible. To that end, the Secretariat should be allowed greater freedom to reallocate resources under the approved budget and to carry over resources already approved from one year to the next. In other words, if expenditures

were to be maintained at the present level, the Secretariat should be allowed greater leeway to ensure that the budgetary resources were always used in the areas of high priority.

93. Nuclear safety was a field which should not be underestimated, and the Agency was quite justified in considering it a priority area. The results of the Agency's activities in that field were clearly illustrated by the Nuclear Safety Review and the recently revised Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Materials. He was confident that the advisory group to be established by the Director General would make a positive contribution to the Agency's nuclear safety activities.

94. In the light of the public concern aroused throughout Western Europe by the "Mont-Louis" accident in the English Channel, it would be helpful if the Secretariat could seize the opportunity and provide Member States with specific information concerning whether, and to what extent, the Agency's recommendations on the transport of radioactive materials had actually been converted into binding regulations in Member States. On the basis of such information, the Agency might contemplate various lines of action. By allaying public fears regarding the transport of nuclear materials, such action might help considerably in promoting the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

95. His Government believed that it was essential to Member States that the safeguards applied by the Agency should be considered effective and credible. Only under that condition could safeguards activities contribute towards stability and peace. In that connection, the Agency's safeguards were equally important to all the Member States and should therefore continue to be financed on an equal basis.

96. His Government, which attached great importance to the expansion and continuous improvement of the safeguards system, had noted with concern that there were still six non-nuclear-weapon States in which only some installations were under safeguards and in which there were nuclear facilities in operation or under construction which had not yet been placed under safeguards.

97. Like other countries, Denmark appreciated the fact that various nuclear-weapon States had offered to place some of their civil nuclear facilities under Agency safeguards. That offer, however, would not be of real importance until assurance was given that that was only a first step towards the safeguarding of all civil nuclear facilities. Failing such assurance, it might be difficult in the long term to justify the considerable sums spent on safeguards.

98. He noted that it had not yet been possible to reach an agreement on international plutonium storage and hoped sincerely that the Board would ultimately be able to find a solution to the problem.

99. In conclusion, he hoped that the Agency would continue to show the same high degree of competence it had always shown in its work by endeavouring to meet the sometimes conflicting needs of Member States.

100. Mr. LE BA CAP (Viet Nam) commended the Director General on the considerable contribution he had made to strengthening the Agency's role, which was to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, taking particular account of the pressing needs of the developing countries.

101. The General Conference was taking place at a time of heightened international tension caused by war-mongering imperialistic forces which were determined to pursue the arms race, particularly the nuclear arms race, and were extending their military presence to different areas of the world, thereby seriously threatening peace, safety and national independence and economic development. Mankind was now confronted with the disastrous threat of nuclear extermination. With their expansionist and hegemonistic policies, the imperialist and reactionary forces were attempting to sabotage peace and stability and to provoke confrontations in various areas of the world in spite of the people's fervent desire for peace. Viet Nam supported the peace initiatives of the Soviet Union and other countries, in particular their commitment not to be the first to use nuclear weapons and not to use such weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States, the aim being to reduce nuclear weapons progressively until they were completely abolished. Maintaining peace was a pre-condition for developing the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

102. For more than twenty-five years the Agency had been engaged in a fine mission in the service of mankind and had achieved praiseworthy success, especially in its technical co-operation activities. It was through the effective work done by the Agency that the Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (RCA) had come into being.

103. Viet Nam was taking its first steps towards using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, having commissioned in Dalat in March 1983, its first nuclear reactor with a capacity of 500 kW. His country was also interested in the applications of nuclear energy, especially in agriculture and medicine. For instance, with the Agency's assistance, it was starting a training programme on such agricultural and medical applications for a team of nuclear specialists. Viet Nam's development programme was still very modest, and the assistance of the Agency and of friendly countries was still needed in many fields.

104. In conclusion, he announced that Viet Nam would continue to play its part in making South East Asia an area of peace, stability and co-operation, free from all foreign interference.

105. Mr. HEMPEL (Council for Mutual Economic Assistance - CMEA) recalled that CMEA had held its last economic summit meeting at Moscow from 12 to 14 June 1984. The declaration adopted at that meeting by the CMEA countries reflected their common approach to major international problems. The halting of the arms race, including the nuclear arms race, followed by the reduction of armaments and the maintenance of a strategic military balance at ever-lower levels were the chief prerequisites for improving the world situation. There was no objective that was more important in today's world than that of maintaining peace on earth and preventing a nuclear catastrophe. It was possible to halt the nuclear arms race if all concerned adhered strictly to the principles of equality and security for all, and States could take immediate practical steps towards nuclear disarmament. To that end, it was necessary to show political will and to enter into a frank and constructive dialogue taking account of all the security interests of all nations. The greatest importance should be attached to the socialist countries' proposals for reaching an immediate agreement concerning a total nuclear test ban, a ban

on the use of outer space for military purposes, and a world-wide ban on and abolishment of chemical weapons, and as a first step their elimination from the European continent.

106. The Agency, whose authority was recognized by all concerned with the peaceful uses of atomic energy, had an important role to play in that situation. The CMEA member countries had the highest regard for the Agency's activities in connection with the application of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and were in favour of strengthening the non-proliferation regime.

107. The socialist countries, which had always been opposed to autarchy and economic isolation, were in favour of normalizing international economic relations and establishing mutually advantageous co-operation with all countries, whether they were socialist, developing or developed capitalist countries, in the spirit of the Helsinki Final Act.

108. In their statement on the main guidelines for the further development and strengthening of economic, scientific and technical co-operation among the CMEA member countries, it was recognized that there were benefits to be gained from changing the structure of energy production and broadening co-operation to take account of the development of nuclear power and the full utilization of all energy resources including new and renewable ones. At present the CMEA member countries were finalizing, for the period up to the year 2000, their programmes relating to the construction of nuclear power and heat supply plants.

109. The CMEA countries had begun to build up a nuclear industry which was developing rapidly. It was now 30 years since the world's first nuclear power plant had been commissioned in Obninsk in the Soviet Union and the national nuclear research centres of the CMEA member countries had embarked on their first projects. Whereas in 1960 the Soviet Union had been the only CMEA country to have nuclear power plants, and those producing scarcely more than 100 MW, the total capacity of the plants now operating in Bulgaria, Hungary, the German Democratic Republic, Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union was approximately 28 GW. It was expected that in 10 years' time the total installed nuclear capacity of the CMEA member countries would be 100 GW and that the share of nuclear energy in total electricity generation would be between 20 and 30% in the CMEA countries in general and over 40% in Bulgaria.

110. The rapid growth of that new industry was guaranteed by the development and manufacture of the modern equipment needed for nuclear power plants under a multilateral agreement signed in 1979 by the eight CMEA member countries. A multilateral agreement of such wide scope was without equal throughout the world.

111. Activities had been initiated with a view to utilizing nuclear energy for district heating. The Soviet Union had undertaken the construction of the first nuclear power and heat supply plants (equipped with 500 MW turbines) and nuclear district-heating plants. A water-cooled and -moderated reactor had been specially designed for that kind of plant.

112. The international bodies set up by the CMEA member countries took an active part in nuclear power development. They were co-operating in the production of equipment for the nuclear industry within the framework of international trade organizations such as "Interatomenergo" and "Interatominstrument", and also in the research project on WWER-type reactors, in which Finland had also been participating since 1980.

113. The CMEA had established extensive co-operation with regard to research, not only in the field of nuclear power, but also in isotope production, nuclear instrumentation design and improvement, isotope, radiation and particle accelerator technology and equipment and techniques for nuclear energy applications, as indicated by the information leaflets (in Russian and English) distributed by the CMEA Secretariat at the General Conference. Those leaflets also referred to the activities of the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Isotope and Radiation Applications of Atomic Energy for Food and Agricultural Development, which was celebrating its 20th anniversary in 1984.

114. In the light of the decisions taken at the economic summit meeting, the CMEA member countries could envisage some practical ways in which co-operation with the Agency might be developed on the basis of the Co-operation Agreement between the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance and the International Atomic Energy Agency. The constant exchange of information and regulatory documents between the two organizations and their joint participation in scientific and technical meetings were continuing on an ever-larger scale, as indicated by the review of the Agency's activities during the first

twenty-five years of its existence. The CMEA member countries were ready to intensify that co-operation and to extend it to other areas related to the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

115. Mr. MARTINEZ COBO (Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America - OPANAL) said that the arms race had always been a determining factor in international politics. Disarmament was a fundamental concept of international law acknowledged by hundreds of legal experts and diplomats which had been the subject of innumerable international and regional meetings and activities. However, the utilization of nuclear energy for military purposes had changed the situation dramatically. The spectre of nuclear war had brought an unprecedented threat to mankind: that of the very extinction of the human race. The mere possession of nuclear weapons could give rise to aggression, by mistake, by pure chance or by one of those acts of criminal folly which had been known to occur in the course of history. Preventing the catastrophe of a nuclear war was the greatest moral challenge that man had ever faced: as the Director General of FAO had pointed out, if the world could not rid itself of nuclear weapons forthwith, they would spell the end of human civilization.

116. Given the world-wide consequences of a nuclear confrontation, the world was a hostage in the hands of the superpowers. Even though the nuclear-weapon States would be the most affected by such a confrontation, no nation large or small would be safe from that terrible danger. It was distressing to note the meagre progress made towards nuclear disarmament, despite the efforts deployed in connection with NPT, the Tlatelolco Treaty and bilateral agreements between the nuclear superpowers. On the contrary, nuclear arsenals were increasing in size with each day that passed and horizontal proliferation was accelerating at a dangerous rate. Human destiny today depended on the precarious policy of deterrence pursued by the major Powers, a policy which might fail at any moment.

117. In order to give practical support to the ideal of peace and to help establish a framework for disarmament in international law, the countries of Latin America had set up the first and so far only nuclear-weapon-free zone. The recent accession of Antigua and Barbuda had increased to 23 the number of sovereign States parties to the Tlatelolco Treaty. Despite 17 years of

constructive work, however, those countries had not yet succeeded in extending that zone to cover the entire territory of Latin America. The President of a South American State had announced that his country had mastered the technology of uranium enrichment by gaseous diffusion. Although that spectacular advance was to be welcomed, it made it more urgent than ever to complete the nuclear-weapon-free zone established by the Tlatelolco Treaty.

118. Nothing would be more tragic for the Latin American peoples, with their vulnerable economies labouring under the burden of massive debts and their still unresolved border conflicts, than to embark on a senseless nuclear arms race. That could still be prevented if the political will of all the States of the region to use nuclear energy for exclusively peaceful purposes was translated into an agreement with the international community that nuclear energy should never be diverted for military purposes. Without prejudice to the decisions taken by Governments, it seemed neither effective nor appropriate to translate that will into national laws and regulations when the security and survival of other nations were already compromised.

119. OPANAL, which was linked with the Agency through an extensive co-operation agreement signed in 1972, would continue to maintain close and fruitful relations with it inspired by the common objective of the two organizations: to avoid a catastrophic nuclear confrontation. OPANAL was collaborating actively with the Preparatory Committee of the Third NPT Review Conference. In his opinion, in order to ensure that that conference yielded better results than the preceding ones, the nuclear Powers should accede to the repeated requests by the developing countries for technical assistance and funding to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, requests which they were entitled to make in return for their voluntary commitment not to acquire nuclear weapons. It was also essential that the nuclear Powers take steps to bring about an appreciable improvement in their relations which were so bad at present.

The meeting rose at 1.5 p.m.