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RECORD OF THE TWO HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FOURTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Neue Hofburg, Vienna,
on Thursday, 27 September 1984, at 3.20 p.m.

President: Mr. SULLIVAN (Canada)
later: Mr. SEMENOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)

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**/ GC(XXVIII)/730.

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

GENERAL DEBATE AND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1983 (GC(XXVIII)/713)

1. Mr. YRJÖ-KOSKINEN (Finland) began by welcoming the People's Republic of China as a Member of the Agency and expressing the hope that China's membership would strengthen the Agency's universality, credibility, and authority.

2. Continuous and concerted international co-operation was of the utmost importance for the peaceful applications of nuclear energy, and the Agency was too valuable an instrument of international co-operation in that highly technical field to become excessively involved in purely political controversies. His country therefore earnestly appealed to the Members of the Agency to refrain from further attempts to exclude any Member State from the work of the Agency on political grounds. Such attempts served only to distract the Agency from its primary tasks, which were essential to the whole international community.

3. Finland currently had four operating nuclear power units with a total power output of more than 2200 MW; their availability factors had been very high, ranging in 1983 from 83 to 90 per cent. In addition to being reliable, the plants were also economical and safe, both the individual and the collective radiation doses having remained far below international averages.

4. Nuclear power was gaining ground in the global energy mix. In 1983 it had accounted for 12% of world electricity production, as compared with 10% in 1982. In Finland the corresponding figure for 1983 was 41.5%. Nevertheless, the world-wide growth of nuclear power had been slower than expected. Global economic recession, a sharp increase in nuclear power investment costs in some countries and long construction periods had been the major factors in that development. Public anxieties as to the safety of nuclear power, and in particular of waste management and spent fuel disposal, had also had a growing influence on the decisions taken by Governments.

5. The Agency could not be blamed for any of those problems. On the contrary, it had again performed its tasks efficiently in 1983. The Agency's activities should be kept under continuous critical review so that programmes could be adapted to the changing needs of Member States when any significant qualitative or quantitative changes took place in the uses of atomic energy for peaceful purposes.

6. His Government noted with satisfaction that a major study on small and medium power reactors had been launched by the Agency. Finland had gained considerable experience with the introduction of nuclear power into a small country and was willing to share it with other Member States. In particular, it had found that an appropriate national infrastructure and strict safety measures were a prerequisite for the reliable and economic functioning of nuclear installations, rather than an area where savings could be sought.

7. As the Director General had said in his opening statement, the safe management of nuclear waste remained a highly emotional issue for segments of public opinion in several countries. Although technical solutions had been developed, there were still many questions on which international consensus was needed. For instance, the fuel cycle in most countries still remained open-ended. Reprocessing was not economically attractive, and so many countries had developed plans for the direct disposal of their spent fuel. However, the time span needed for cooling spent fuel was long enough to permit consideration of the reprocessing option. More time was needed for the development of commercial reprocessing and the introduction of breeder reactors. The economies of plutonium recycling were also heavily dependent on systems still to be developed for the effective safeguarding of plutonium flows. International solutions must therefore be sought and the Agency should be encouraged to assume a central role in finding them.

8. Owing to the inherent destructive potential of nuclear energy, no international co-operation or trade was feasible without effective checks on military uses. In that sense, his Government concurred with the view that safeguards and other regulatory activities of the Agency were indirectly promotional. It was facile to argue that technical assistance was mainly of interest to the developing countries and safeguards to industrialized States. Both functions were equally essential corner-stones of the foundation on which the IAEA rested. In addition, the Agency must continue to be active in the indisputably important area of nuclear safety norms, guidelines and standards.

9. The Agency's technical co-operation activities had increased substantially during the last years. His country welcomed that development and considered that the target sum for the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund should be raised while, however, maintaining the system whereby technical co-operation programmes were financed through voluntary contributions. Finland had again pledged its share of the 1985 target and was also providing the Agency with extrabudgetary resources for technical co-operation. As the financial basis for technical assistance improved, the Agency must continue to exercise great care in selecting, planning, implementing and evaluating technical co-operation projects. The Agency should be able to provide relevant advice and guidance not only with regard to the direct use of nuclear energy as such, but also in connection with the problems that might arise when nuclear technology and nuclear power were adopted in a particular country. The assistance provided should serve the general economic and social development of the recipient countries and should be kept under continuous review to ensure that it remained efficient and responded to the changing needs of the developing countries and to general technical developments.

10. His Government noted with satisfaction that in 1983 the Secretariat had not detected any anomaly indicating diversion and considered it reasonable to conclude that nuclear material under Agency safeguards had remained in peaceful nuclear activities or had been otherwise accounted for. At the same time, it was a cause for continuing concern that there were six non-nuclear-weapon States in which unsafeguarded facilities of significance for safeguards were known to be in operation or under construction. Finland considered that all non-nuclear-weapon States should accept full-scope safeguards on all their nuclear materials in all their nuclear activities, present and future. The IAEA safeguards system must be not only maintained but continuously examined and developed to meet rapidly changing technological circumstances. The safeguards system was in the interest of all nations, a fact which should be taken into account in the financing of safeguards.

11. The exchange of materials and equipment on the international nuclear market was becoming ever more complex, because Agency safeguards arrangements were usually supplemented by bilateral provisions based on the origin of the nuclear materials. The question of origin in international trade had become a question of book-keeping rather than of physical fact. The book-keeping requirements were often satisfied by simply swapping material because materials of identical composition were interchangeable despite their different origins. With the introduction of fuel recycling that anomaly was likely to become even more serious in the future. The IAEA should pay attention to that practical problem in order to find an internationally acceptable solution.

12. His Government considered that the implementation of adequate physical protection measures in respect of nuclear material by national authorities and a sufficient degree of international co-ordination in that area, as provided for by the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, would create confidence among States and enhance public acceptance of the peaceful applications of nuclear energy. Finland had signed the Convention and would ratify it as soon as the Finnish Parliament had adopted new and comprehensive nuclear legislation which was currently under preparation.

13. The Committee on Assurances of Supply (CAS) was dealing with problems of great complexity, and the method chosen to approach them, that of consensus, was inherently slow. However, progress in CAS was essential for the success of both the Third NPT Review Conference in 1985 and the 1986 United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (UNCPICPUNE). The prospects for a successful UNCPICPUNE had improved substantially during the fifth session of the Preparatory Committee, which had solved the two major outstanding questions, and his delegation hoped that the spirit of co-operation shown by all members of the Committee at that session would prevail throughout the remaining preparatory phase and the Conference itself.

14. The international climate had deteriorated over the past few years. Disarmament negotiations between the nuclear-weapon States had come to a virtual standstill. The present climate of confrontation gave added importance to the forthcoming Third NPT Review Conference. The nuclear-weapon States parties to NPT had undertaken to pursue negotiations on nuclear disarmament in good faith, and the resumption of negotiations on a wide spectrum of issues, including a comprehensive test ban treaty, would be a vital contribution to the success of the Review Conference. At the same time, efforts to halt the horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons must continue. The possibility that non-nuclear-weapon States might acquire a nuclear-weapons capability was a particularly grave danger in regions where international peace was in jeopardy. An efficient and credible non-proliferation regime was therefore of paramount importance apart from being a prerequisite for expanded international co-operation and trade in the nuclear field. No effort should be spared to make the Third NPT Review Conference a success. The IAEA had a key role to play in those efforts, in which it would receive his country's full support.

15. Mr. DHARMAWARDENA (Sri Lanka) said that the importance of nuclear power and other peaceful uses of nuclear energy in maintaining reasonable living standards, particularly in the developing countries, was now well recognized and accepted and that the Agency's role in contributing to the welfare of mankind by promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy was assuming increased significance.

16. Every Member State must have faith and confidence in the Agency's activities and must assist it in fulfilling that important role, and all Member States must accept unconditionally that any nuclear facility placed under the Agency's safeguards was devoted to peaceful purposes and undertake to protect, or at least not to attack, such safeguarded facilities.

17. Promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the developing countries should not be restricted to transfer of proven technology. It must also include the generation of new technology. For example, one nuclear technique used in quality control in a factory in his country had been ruled out previously in two advanced countries as impossible. Projects should not be turned down merely because they had not yet been tried out in an advanced country.

18. One of the advantages of nuclear energy for electricity generation in agricultural countries was that it did not cause acid rain, which had such adverse effects on agricultural crops. However, most developing countries had small power grids which could not accommodate large nuclear power plants. Such countries could benefit from nuclear power only through the use of small and medium power reactors (SMPRs), a subject to which the Agency had not yet given adequate priority.

19. The so-called "brain drain" was another major problem of developing countries: very often the personnel trained to carry out a project were not available till the end of the project. The International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste was playing an important role in controlling the problem. However, its services were limited to physicists and mathematicians. The Agency could easily extend that facility to other disciplines by enlarging the scope of the Seibersdorf and Monaco laboratories to include such a service.

20. The peaceful applications of nuclear energy in medicine, agriculture, hydrology and industry had progressed smoothly during the last year in Sri Lanka. Local training programmes in nuclear science and engineering had also been expanded. One important project that had come up for discussion in his country was the setting up of a tissue bank where human tissue from voluntary donors could be sterilized by nuclear radiation and preserved for later use. His country held a unique record in having donated over 12 000 pairs of human eyes to 45 countries, from the United States to Japan. Thus the setting up of a tissue bank in his country would serve not only Sri Lanka, but the entire world.

21. Finally, the importance of the Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (RCA) and many other Agency programmes had already been mentioned by previous speakers, and his delegation wished to join them in reiterating its appreciation of those activities. As in the past, his country would be contributing its share to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund.

22. Mr. DI BIASE (Uruguay) said that technical assistance and co-operation was an activity of primary importance for developing countries and Uruguay, where a number of projects were currently being carried out, was gratified by the way in which the Agency fulfilled its functions in that area. His country wished to co-operate with the Agency in that sphere and would be making a voluntary contribution to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund for 1985.

23. Safeguards were another fundamental activity of the Agency and an appropriate formula should be found for financing them. The sums to be paid by developing countries should be directly related to their capacity to pay and to the extent of their nuclear activities subject to safeguards. Nuclear-weapon States should bear the brunt of safeguards costs.

24. Uruguay participated in and supported the Agency's work on implementation of the Regional Co-operative Agreement (RCA) for Latin America since it believed that regional co-operation was an appropriate mechanism for national development. For the same reason, it participated in the activities of the Inter-American Nuclear Energy Commission (IANEC), the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE) and the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (OPANAL). Each of those regional organizations was competent in a specific field, and Uruguay was in favour of co-ordinated co-operation which maximized results and economized on resources.

25. In the past year Uruguay had continued its efforts to develop applications of nuclear technology, in particular where medicine and agriculture were concerned, and a feasibility study on a nuclear technology centre had been completed with considerable support from the IAEA, UNDP and the Argentine Atomic Energy Commission.

26. Uruguay wished to congratulate the FAO/IAEA Joint Division on its twentieth anniversary. The Joint Division was concerned with a wide range of agricultural subjects, and its work brought particularly great benefits to countries in which agriculture was of decisive importance for internal consumption and foreign trade. The training of young technicians at the Agency and, in particular, at the Seibersdorf Laboratory was very valuable for developing countries such as Uruguay.

27. His country supported equitable geographical distribution, and also the fair representation of developing countries, especially Latin American countries, in the Professional staff of the Agency. Unfortunately, the proportion of such staff members who came from developing countries was still unsatisfactory. While recognizing the efforts made by the Director General to comply with resolution GC(XXVI)/386, he felt that there was still room for improvement.

28. Reiterating his delegation's position on the amendment of Article VI of the Statute, he said that any amendment should ensure equitable geographical distribution between the regional groups and should maintain the current level of representation of the Latin American region.

29. Finally, he thanked the Agency for the support it had given to his country and also expressed Uruguay's gratitude to friendly countries for their continuing support with its nuclear programme.

30. Mr. MADRID GONZALEZ (Spain) welcomed China as a Member of the Agency and of the Board of Governors. His country maintained excellent relations with China and would now, through the Agency, extend them to the nuclear field. He noted in the context of the expansion of the Board that Spain would pursue its efforts to join the Board on as permanent a basis as was possible under the Statute with as much vigour as it had done before.

31. As in previous years, his delegation wished to describe briefly recent activities carried out in Spain in relation to the peaceful applications of nuclear energy.

32. In 1983, total electrical energy production had amounted to 117 191 GWh, representing an increase of 1.28% over the previous year. The greatest increase had been seen in the nuclear sector which had produced 10 661 GWh, or 21.5% more than in 1982. The installed capacity at the end of 1983 was about 35 000 MW, of which 3765 MW was attributable to nuclear power plants.

33. Uranium exploration had continued in 1983 with 87 000 metres of boreholes being drilled. At the end of the year, reserves amounted to some 30 000 tonnes which represented an increase of 9% over the previous year. National production of uranium concentrates had been restricted to 200 tonnes since arrangements had been made for such concentrates to be supplied from elsewhere.

34. The Juzbado fuel element fabrication plant had been completed. The initial capacity of the plant in terms of uranium content would be 500 tonnes per year. The first fuel elements produced in Spain for power reactors would be supplied in the early months of 1985.

35. In the first half of 1984, his Government had approved and submitted to Parliament the National Energy Plan for the period 1984-1992. The Plan foresaw that the installed capacity of nuclear power stations would reach 7690 MW(e) by 1992. Allowance had been made in that figure for the fact that a number of projects were being terminated to prevent funds being invested in plants which would not have guaranteed a sufficient number of operating hours when connected to the grid. It was planned by 1992 to bring into operation four nuclear power stations which were currently at different stages of construction. Two of those would be coming into operation during the current year while the remaining two were due to be commissioned in 1988 and 1990. According to the Plan, nuclear power stations would be supplying about 30% of all electric power by 1990.

36. The Plan also provided for the establishment of a public company concerned exclusively with radioactive waste management. Accordingly, the Government had approved the creation of such a body the previous July and had drawn up the terms of reference for its operation. An integrated and appropriate policy in that area was essential for the utilization of nuclear power. The key elements in the regulations established in Spain were the performance of disposal site research and construction programmes, the financing of those programmes, the transfer of costs to the producers of waste and the establishment of procedures to ensure the maximum transfer possible. International co-operation was vital in that field. His country had recently joined international research programmes and felt that the Agency had an important role to play in fostering international co-operation.

37. At present, his country's policy on radioactive wastes was to consider spent fuel as waste. Spain currently had no plans for reprocessing such fuel.

38. In order to find the best solution to the problem of waste disposal, it was essential to compare all the different possibilities. The most suitable way of dealing with low- and medium-level wastes was storage on land. His country felt that sea-dumping must be terminated and called on all countries to give careful consideration to the facts that sea-dumping was irreversible and difficult to monitor and that the country dumping the waste relinquished its responsibility for it. Sociological and cultural considerations as well as the views of the countries nearest the dumping zone should not be neglected. National policies should be co-ordinated through international collaboration so as to avoid confrontations between countries. In any case, the selection of dumping sites without taking into account all the above aspects was not acceptable.

39. Extreme caution should be exercised with regard to the burial of high-level wastes in the sea-bed since that subject was still in the very early stages of development.

40. Finally, his Government was satisfied at the progress made with technical co-operation in 1983 despite the limitations imposed by the economic difficulties all countries had been experiencing for many years. Spain had co-operated with the Agency by providing assistance and support for various courses and a seminar which had been held in Spain in 1983. In addition, Agency fellows had received technical and scientific training at Spanish centres and Spanish experts had worked on various Agency projects.

41. Mr. CEIRANO (Holy See) welcomed the important step which the Agency had made towards universality of membership in the year that had passed. It was imperative that all States, especially those which already possessed nuclear power plants, should co-operate effectively within the framework set up by the Statute of the Agency. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and subsequent safeguards agreements should also be regarded as an integral part of those regulations which sought to control the development and use of nuclear energy for the benefit of all.

42. His delegation appealed to Member States to alleviate the fears of humanity by joining together in a common effort to control, restrict and ultimately ban nuclear weapons.

43. It was to be regretted that the general public was too often unaware of the safety standards governing the operation of nuclear installations and the management of nuclear waste. There were many reasons to account for the strong opposition to nuclear power in some sectors of public opinion, but underlying them all was the fear of the unknown. Member States should therefore make a greater effort to inform the general public about nuclear power with realism, honesty and sensitivity.

44. The Church was ready to give help and moral guidance. That guidance had to be based on a careful examination of the matter, such as that carried out by the Pontifical Academy of Sciences in November 1980 on the subject "Humanity and Energy: Needs - Resources - Hopes", and again the study carried out in May 1983 on the effects of ionizing radiation.

45. With the growth in nuclear power production, public attention should be drawn not only to the safety measures required but also to the benefits that the world, particularly the developing world, were deriving from the proper use of nuclear energy and research. The Holy See had repeatedly urged that every country should become self-sufficient in the production of foodstuffs and that technology should be developed and applied in accordance with the needs and capacities of the people, with due consideration for cultural, social, ethical and spiritual values. In that connection, the fruits of the joint work carried out by the Agency and FAO as well as the positive results of various medical projects aimed at reducing disease, especially in tropical climates, should be publicized. The Agency's commitment to supporting institutes in developing countries to enable them to undertake research in various scientific fields also deserved praise and wider recognition.

46. While in the past the scientist might have been viewed uncritically as the solver of all problems, in recent times certain circles had criticized the scientist and had even castigated him for being unfaithful to the noble

aspirations of knowledge and truth. There was no doubt that some used science for personal gain at the expense of others and of the common good. The values of knowledge should always be wedded to the overriding values of the human being in society.

47. In an address to the members of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences on 12 November 1983, Pope John Paul II had concluded that the scientific truth which ennobled the intellect and lifted research to the level of contemplation of the world and of its Creator, should be transmitted to the whole of humanity for the integral development of each human being and of all nations, and for the service of peace, which was the object of everyone's reflections and projects. The words of Pope John Paul were particularly appropriate to the work of scientists in the field of nuclear energy. It was to be hoped that the Agency would have even greater success in its efforts to serve humanity in a field where abuse could mean death and destruction to man and his culture, but where there existed one of the most important sources for the economic and technical progress of future generations.

48. Mr. KOREF (Panama) said that for his country technical assistance was the Agency's most important function, and especially in connection with medicine, agriculture and hydrology since Panama was so well endowed with hydroelectric potential that nuclear power was not even under consideration. Technical assistance was important also for the industrialized countries, however, as it created a demand for more sophisticated imported goods in the developing countries and at the same time enabled those countries to pay for them with their own exports.

49. The annual sessions of the General Conference were not only valuable occasions for professional and political contacts, as the Director General had pointed out in his opening statement, but also a welcome opportunity for the many Member States not Members of the Board of Governors to voice their opinions and to thank the Secretariat for its efforts and donor countries for their contributions in cash and in kind. His delegation was gratified to learn

from the various documents that there had been a substantial increase in technical assistance from 1983 to 1984 as a result of dynamic planning. Increases of 35% for experts, 24% for equipment and 13% for fellowships without any corresponding increase in Secretariat staff were remarkable, and if a few additional staff members should be required to do the work involved there would surely be no objections.

50. However, his delegation noted with dismay that 50 Member States had so far made no voluntary contributions for 1984, whereas a country so poor as his own had paid its full share; however, Panama could not yet commit itself for 1985 because a new Government would shortly be taking office there which had not yet worked out its budget for 1985. In view of the successes of the Agency's technical assistance activities it was to be hoped that those 50 Member States would eventually pay their contributions.

51. His authorities had read with great interest the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) report on the Agency's technical co-operation*/ and noted with satisfaction that many of the recommendations contained therein were being put into effect.

52. His delegation was pleased to learn of the success of RCA activities in Asia and of the attempt to set up a similar scheme for Latin America, where there were several countries sufficiently developed to provide assistance in nuclear matters, for instance in the form of fellowships and seminars.

53. Project evaluation was a very important activity, and his delegation looked forward with interest to the publication of the report on the evaluation of training courses from 1977 to 1983.

54. The expansion of nuclear power had suffered severe setbacks in recent years due in part to the explosion of costs. Fortunately, 1983 had again seen no serious accident in the world's 300 or so nuclear power plants. The Agency had done much valuable work in the field of safety, but it should produce more public information material to counteract those forces which opposed nuclear

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*/ Document JIU/REP/84/9.

power on the grounds that nuclear power plant operation and radioactive waste disposal were excessively dangerous. Nuclear power plants were needed in many places around the world, and the sooner the true situation was made clear the better. An agreement on nuclear disarmament would probably also help to allay public misgivings about atomic energy.

55. While nuclear power plants were becoming safer, the number of accidents in nuclear activities relating to agriculture and medicine was increasing. The Agency should send experts to developing countries to help prevent such accidents, which might pose severe hazards as nuclear activities expanded.

56. With regard to the problem of military attacks on nuclear facilities, his delegation considered that the General Conference should press for world-wide ratification of the 1949 Geneva Convention, which prohibited such attacks. It would be said by some that the Geneva Convention was no business of the General Conference, but he felt that an appeal by the Conference to all its Members to come quickly to an agreement concerning the points at issue would be all to the good and would also have a stimulating effect on the work of CAS, which was doing its utmost but encountering apparently immovable obstacles.

57. Mr. KATTAN (Saudi Arabia) wished to emphasize the Agency's lofty objective of promoting the use of nuclear energy for the prosperity and health of mankind and of preventing its diversion from peaceful purposes with complete impartiality and sincerity.

58. Commending the annual report, he pointed out that it showed the important role which the Agency had played in introducing the uses of nuclear energy in various areas for social and economic development. The international community expected a great deal in that regard from the Agency in co-operation with other organizations of the United Nations system. In that connection, the Agency could make a vital contribution to the success of the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, and it was gratifying to learn that the Preparatory Committee for that Conference had recently agreed on its agenda and rules of procedure. He hoped that the latter Conference would lay a firm foundation for international co-operation in the field of nuclear energy.

59. All Member States were happy that the People's Republic of China had joined the Agency and had accepted its Statute. He had noted how easily the question of that country's membership of the Board had been resolved by recommending an amendment to Article VI.A.1 of the Statute, whereas the amendment of the same Article with a view to improving the representation of the areas of Africa and the Middle East and South Asia had been the subject of fruitless discussion at the Board for a number of years mainly because of the unwillingness on the part of advanced countries to do justice to those areas. His delegation urged the General Conference as well as the Board to find a satisfactory solution to that problem.

60. Israel was in the habit of ignoring the international community, flouting international norms and conventions, and despite international indignation, it continued to attack not only military but also civilian targets. One such act was its bombing of the Iraqi reactor, a peaceful research facility, which was being built under Agency safeguards.

61. As for the General Conference resolution which had called upon Israel specifically to withdraw its threat to attack nuclear reactors, no such undertaking was contained in that country's statement (GC(XXVIII)/719, Annex 4). Furthermore, it arrogated to itself the right to decide whether a facility was for peaceful or military purposes. Since Israel had clearly not satisfied the requirements of resolution GC(XXVII)/RES/409, the Agency should implement that resolution.

62. The Agency's safeguards system was a statutory requirement and was a natural consequence of the possession by industrialized countries of nuclear capability and weapons. Its purpose was not only to deter non-nuclear-weapon States from acquiring nuclear-weapon technology and to ensure non-proliferation but also to prevent vertical proliferation by the nuclear-weapon States.

63. The safeguards programme was of importance from the standpoint of international stability, confidence and security, and his delegation considered that it was a moral obligation on the part of nuclear-weapon States in particular to create favourable conditions for the fulfilment of the objectives of

safeguards by assuming a higher proportion of the costs and also by not providing financial and technical help to countries with aggressive intentions such as Israel and South Africa.

64. Following the teachings of Islam, which enjoined actions promoting human welfare and happiness, his delegation supported the efforts of the world community and international organizations to fulfil their noble mission of bringing benefit to mankind.

65. In conclusion, he observed that his Government had always discharged its responsibilities and obligations towards the Agency without delay and had made additional contributions in excess of its assessed share of the budget.

66. Mr. SODNOM (Mongolia) said that the twenty-eighth session of the General Conference was taking place at a time of serious deterioration in the international situation as a result of the adventurist policies of reactionary and imperialistic circles. Those dangerous policies were aimed at further expansion of nuclear arsenals in order to upset the existing world balance of forces and thereby to achieve military supremacy with which to impose their will on the peoples of the world.

67. The USSR and other countries of the socialist community were against any form of nuclear proliferation, the installation of nuclear weapons in countries where they had not previously existed and the extension of the arms race into space. The Soviet Union had undertaken not to make first use of nuclear weapons. Recently, it had proposed that the behaviour of the nuclear-weapon States should be subject to specific standards which would be mandatory in nature. The Mongolian People's Republic fully supported those initiatives.

68. Ensuring world peace and improving trust between States were tasks for all countries. For that reason, in 1981 Mongolia had proposed that a convention on mutual non-aggression and non-use of force in relations between States in Asia and the Pacific should be drawn up and concluded; in July 1984 the Mongolian Government had further proposed that the agenda for the thirty-ninth session of the UN General Assembly should include the item "The Right of Peoples to Peace" and had submitted for distribution as an official General Assembly document a draft declaration on the right of peoples to peace.

69. His delegation was convinced that, at a time of dangerous deterioration in the international situation, the Agency could and should act as an effective means of easing international tensions and consolidating peace through its statutory functions of safeguards, which were aimed at maintaining the non-proliferation regime. Noting the positive efforts of the Agency in that direction, his Government attached great significance to the increase in the number of parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), was firmly against any attempts to undermine the Treaty and was concerned that not all countries, in particular so-called "threshold" nuclear States, had adhered to it, thereby limiting its effectiveness and universality.

70. The Mongolian delegation welcomed the results of the talks between representatives of the USSR and the Agency on the placing of certain peaceful Soviet nuclear facilities under Agency safeguards. That act of goodwill would contribute to the consolidation of trust between States, to a further strengthening of the authority of the Treaty and of the Agency and also to improvements in the Agency's safeguards system.

71. Application of the safeguards system was one of the Agency's main tasks, and on its effectiveness and reliability depended the confidence between States where compliance with NPT was concerned.

72. His delegation welcomed the Director General's statement about compliance with resolution GC(XXVII)/RES/408 on the exclusion of South Africa from all technical groups of the Agency. The Mongolian Government also welcomed the inclusion in the General Conference's agenda of item 11 on protection of nuclear installations devoted to peaceful purposes against armed attacks and supported the conclusion of a convention designed to prevent such acts in the future.

73. Another important function of the Agency was co-operation with Member States in the peaceful uses of atomic energy. Agency technical co-operation with developing Member States was highly beneficial since it enabled such countries to obtain the know-how and modern technology needed to use atomic energy for peaceful purposes. In that light, his country endorsed the work

of the International Nuclear Information System (INIS), in which developing countries also participated actively. Mongolia also wished to thank the Agency for the technical assistance it had received in the form of expert services and equipment.

74. In Mongolia, nuclear physics research had been under way since 1956, when the International Research Centre of the Joint Nuclear Research Institute at Dubna had been founded, one of the founder countries of which had been Mongolia. At the institutes of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences, at the University and other institutions of higher education and also at various scientific institutes, theoretical and experimental studies were being carried out on the physics of elementary particles and the atomic nucleus and work was being done on the application of isotopes and radiation in industry, agriculture, geology and biology. Medical centres had long been using isotopes and radiation for cancer diagnosis and therapy. A radioimmunological service for early detection set up with technical assistance from the Agency and WHO was in operation. At the Plant Growing Institute of the Mongolian Ministry of Agriculture, work had been begun with the assistance of the Agency on radiation genetics and selection of wheat.

75. The Nuclear Research Laboratory at the University, which had been partially equipped with assistance from the Agency, was successfully engaged in multiple-element analyses with neutron activation, X-ray fluorescence and atomic absorption techniques. The Laboratory's research results were already being applied in production processes. At the Laboratory, an important part was played by the instruction of students in nuclear physics research techniques using modern equipment. The success of scientific research and technical work was to a large extent dependent on the systematic renewal of apparatus and on improvement of the qualifications of local staff. In that connection, his country had high hopes of assistance both from the Agency and from Member States.

76. The experience of previous years had demonstrated the effectiveness and acceptability of voluntary contributions to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund and of the principle of making such payments in national currency. The transfer of the Fund to the Agency's Regular Budget would place a burden on Member States, especially developing countries.

77. With regard to the proposed amendment of Article VI.A.2 of the Statute, Mongolia believed that any amendment of the Statute was a serious step and should be carefully thought out with the interests of all Agency Member States being taken into account. In that connection, the principles of equitable geographical distribution and of alternation should be respected where representation in the policy-making organs of the Agency was concerned.

78. The review made of the Agency's activities over the past 25 years satisfactorily reflected the Agency's successes in the peaceful uses of atomic energy, which had been achieved in compliance with the objectives and tasks of the Agency on the basis of international co-operation. The review also showed the responsibilities borne by the Agency and its importance as a co-ordinator and organizer of the efforts of Member countries to co-operate internationally and to apply atomic energy for peaceful purposes only.

79. Finally, the Mongolian Government endorsed the Agency's activities for 1983 and expressed itself in general agreement with the programme and budget for 1985.

80. Mr. SIAMWIZA (Zambia) reaffirmed Zambia's strong commitment to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. It was the collective responsibility of the Member States of the Agency to ensure that nuclear energy was readily available to all countries for the purposes of improving human living conditions. It was also their responsibility to ensure that nuclear arms were reduced if not completely abolished. In order to achieve those objectives, Member States would have to exercise more political will and flexibility.

81. Although his delegation generally approved of the Agency's Statute, certain sections were clearly discriminatory, particularly in view of the increased membership of the Agency. All provisions of the Statute should be representative of all Member States' interests. In that respect, Zambia supported the amendment of Article VI.A.1.

82. Zambia's economy had continued on a downward trend in 1983 because copper, which was its main foreign exchange earning commodity, had continued to fetch low prices on international markets and severe drought had continued to affect agriculture. However, despite the gloomy economic situation, national efforts in the application of nuclear science and technology had continued.

83. Both the Geological Survey Department and private international companies had continued uranium prospecting. In 1983 Zambia had produced about 9848 GWh of hydroelectricity and about 4628 GWh with coal. Consumption figures were 6504 GWh for hydroelectricity and 4146 GWh for coal. The excess hydroelectric power was being exported. Both hydroelectric power and coal had great potential for further exploitation and so Zambia was almost self-sufficient in energy supplies for industrial uses. Zambia was, however, a net importer of fossil fuel, since in 1983 about 608 225 tonnes of oil had been imported, mostly for use in cars.

84. In the national development plans for 1983 agriculture had continued to be given priority. Good progress had been made on Agency-assisted hydrological and agricultural projects. The project for the application of the sterile-insect technique in tsetse fly control had suffered initially from a lack of equipment, but the problem had been overcome with assistance from the Swedish Government under the 1982 regular programme of technical co-operation.

85. Earlier in 1984, Zambia had hosted an international seminar on the application of the sterile-insect technique for tsetse fly control operations in developing countries of Africa.

86. Zambia supported and encouraged the work of the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Isotope and Radiation Applications of Atomic Energy for Food and Agricultural Development.

87. Steady progress had continued on the establishment of a nuclear analytical laboratory. When completed, the laboratory would provide the most comprehensive and sensitive analytical service in the country. The footnote a/ project on improving nuclear equipment maintenance capability had not been supported and had made little progress owing to the lack of much-needed assistance with spare parts and expert services during the year.

88. The Zambian Government was grateful to the Indian Government for its assistance on the radiation protection service project. That assistance involved training of key personnel and fabrication of radiation monitoring equipment.

89. Although the level of assistance received by Zambia in 1983 was comparatively less than that received in 1982, Zambia was nonetheless grateful for all the assistance received.

90. It was pleasing to note that financial resources for the technical co-operation programme had increased in 1983 as compared to 1982. However, the increased resources still did not match the number of technically sound projects, many of which had remained unfunded. Zambia would therefore continue to urge that the technical co-operation programme be financed from the Regular Budget.

91. Zambia welcomed the positive conclusion that had emerged from the Agency's safeguards inspections and hoped that all significant nuclear facilities would eventually be placed under safeguards.

92. His delegation noted the report by the Director General on the implementation of resolution GC(XXVII)/RES/409 but believed that the threat of a military attack on safeguarded and peaceful nuclear facilities had not yet been banished. Zambia would support measures adopted by the General Conference and the international community aimed at effectively curbing such acts.

93. As far back as 1976 Zambia had urged the Agency to stop contacts which would give the racist and fascist apartheid regime of South Africa any semblance of respectability. His country was therefore pleased to note that some progress had been made in minimizing technical group contacts between the Agency and the apartheid State. It was not surprising that discussions on comprehensive safeguards for nuclear installations in South Africa had been negative. Even if the negotiations on safeguards for the semi-commercial enrichment plant did achieve some measure of success, the enrichment pilot plant would still remain unsafeguarded. South Africa's nuclear programme was intended to defend its racial policy of apartheid, and the international community had a duty to help abolish that policy of apartheid.

94. It was regrettable that once again the Board of Governors was presenting an essentially negative report on the amendment of Article VI.A.2 of the Statute. Efforts should be renewed to find a solution to the problem and to correct the unjust under-representation of the regions of Africa and the Middle East and South Asia on the Board of Governors.

95. Despite Zambia's economic difficulties, it had fully met its current financial obligations to the Regular Budget and the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund for 1984. Zambia had also pledged its contribution to the target figure for the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund for 1985.

96. Mr. PAPADEMAS (Cyprus) said that it had taken man only two generations to harness nuclear energy, which was capable on the one hand of contributing to the betterment of human life and the alleviation of famine and disease but, on the other, of completely destroying all life on earth. It was only when nuclear energy was used exclusively for peaceful purposes that man could congratulate himself on his greatest achievement.

97. Sixteen years previously, he had been privileged to sign the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on behalf of his country. That Treaty continued to be an important instrument for the promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and the prevention of the spread of nuclear weapons. His delegation strongly supported the Agency's verification and safeguards system and the submission by signatories of the Treaty of their nuclear establishments to that system. It was only when all nuclear facilities were submitted to safeguards that the rest of the world would be able to feel safe.

98. In his statement, the Director General had referred, inter alia, to the application of nuclear energy in the fields of medicine, agriculture and animal and food production. Those were important areas in which nuclear energy could make a major contribution towards solving the severe problems which faced the world. His country, for example, had benefited considerably from the use

of nuclear products in agriculture and medicine. The use of isotopes in hydrology was of particular interest to Cyprus. Shortage of water had always been a problem, with aquifers and dams having to be built in an attempt to overcome the difficulties. The correct management of water through research using isotopes was essential to optimize the storage of water in dams and its rational distribution. The protection of crops such as citrus fruits from pests and the improvement of animal productivity were also major concerns of his country. His delegation thanked the Agency for its assistance in projects relating to those subjects and expressed the hope that such assistance would continue.

99. In conclusion, his delegation was grateful to the Government of the United Kingdom for its offer to provide funds for badly needed training in radiation physics in connection with work to be performed in the Physics Department of Nicosia General Hospital.

The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.