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ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR THE YEAR 1965-66

Explanatory Note

1. By Resolution GC(X)/RES/205 the General Conference decided that the Agency's Annual Report to the General Assembly of the United Nations for 1965-66 would consist of the annual report of the Board of Governors to the General Conference for 1965-66, together with a supplement.

2. The annual report has been issued as document GC(X)/330. The present document contains the supplement which deals with developments in the Agency's work during the period 1 July to 1 October 1966, including action taken by the General Conference at its tenth regular session which took place in Vienna from 21 to 28 September 1966.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE FOR THE YEAR 1965-66

A. Membership of the Agency

3. At its tenth regular session in September 1966, the General Conference approved applications for membership of the Agency by Sierra Leone, Singapore and Uganda. The membership of the three countries will come into effect when instruments of acceptance of the Agency's Statute are deposited with the depositary Government. On 30 September 1966, 96 States were Members of the Agency.

B. Technical work

4. During the period July to September, the Agency organized the following three training courses:

(a) An international advanced school in reactor physics, at Sandefjord, Norway, in order to enable the participants to review the latest developments and problems in the interpretation, analysis and utilization of reactor physics experiments;

(b) An international survey course on economic and technical aspects of nuclear power intended primarily for senior engineers, scientists and organizers connected with nuclear power programmes and feasibility studies for nuclear projects, in Vienna in September 1966. It reviewed the current status of nuclear power, fuel cycles, the economics of nuclear power, methods of conducting the feasibility studies for nuclear power projects with illustrations from actual cases and some technical problems relating to power programmes, particularly for developing countries; and

(c) A two months' study tour in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom, France and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, on the use of radioisotopes and radiation in industry, which was financed from funds made available under the United Nations Development Programme. The participants had the opportunity to observe the latest developments in these countries, and evaluate the various radioisotope techniques and their applicability to conditions in their own countries, and to make recommendations which would be of general benefit to their homelands.

5. During this period, the following four scientific meetings were held:

(a) A symposium on magnetohydrodynamic electrical power generation, convened jointly with the European Nuclear Energy Agency. At this symposium, much attention was given to experimental closed-cycle magnetohydrodynamic generators using seeded inert gases, such as helium, neon and argon, which are operating in many advanced countries. This form of power generation in which an ionized gas or a liquid metal converts part of its heat energy directly into electricity when passing through a magnetic field, holds much promise for the future but many technical problems have still to be overcome;

(b) A seminar on the use of radioisotopes and radiation in dairy science and technology, convened jointly with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The application of nuclear techniques to control processes in the dairy industry, the use of isotopes in studies on the biochemistry of milk fermentation and cheese ripening, the ways of decreasing radioactive material in milk after accidental contamination and the present status of irradiation preservation of milk and dairy products, were discussed;

(c) A symposium on neutron monitoring for radiological protection. Many papers dealing with experiences and development in this field, with emphasis on instruments and methods, were presented at this meeting. Neutron monitoring is important for the protection of persons working in nuclear plants and presents special technical problems; and

(d) A symposium on isotope use in plant nutrition and physiology, convened jointly with FAO and dealing with soil chemistry and fertility, experimental techniques, transport, assimilation and metabolism and other aspects of plant nutrition and growth.

6. In a lecture series arranged to mark the meeting of the tenth regular session of the General Conference, nuclear scientists from France, India, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States of America examined the impact of atomic energy on our society, the technical potentialities of nuclear power systems, the commercial future of nuclear power, the effects of nuclear science on the life sciences and the state of fundamental research in atomic energy centres.

C. Safeguards

7. In September 1966 the Board of Governors approved two further Safeguards Agreements, one relating to the bilateral agreement for co-operation concerning the civil uses of atomic energy between the Governments of Australia and the United States, and the other to the bilateral agreement between the Governments of Spain and the United States. The Board also approved a project embodying the appropriate Agency safeguards, to provide fuel for a research reactor in the Philippines.

8. The Board has thus approved a total of 32 agreements under which Agency safeguards are being, or will be, applied to 57 reactors in 25 Member States; the total power of the reactors safeguarded being slightly under 2500 MW(th).

9. The Government of Canada has arranged to notify the Agency on a regular basis of its international transfers of nuclear materials. A similar arrangement had previously been made by the United States.

10. The Agency is studying ways to simplify the agreements that bring about the application of the Agency safeguards system. Consideration is being given to the possibility of concluding bilateral agreements with Member States, which would provide for the application of Agency safeguards on all nuclear materials and equipment imported by the States concerned.

D. The tenth regular session of the General Conference

11. The General Conference met from 21 to 28 September 1966. It approved the Agency's Programme for 1967-68 and the Agency's Regular Budget for 1967 in the amount of US $9 491 500 (an increase of 8.55% over the 1966 budget); it approved allocations of US $2 408 000 under the Operational Budget, and decided that the target for voluntary contributions to the General Fund for 1967 should be US $2 million, as has been the case since 1962.

12. In Resolution GC(X)/RES/215, the General Conference requested the Director General of the Agency to consult with the Directors General of the International Labour Organisation and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization with a view to intensifying the co-operation and co-ordination already established in the field of education and training, in particular for academic and technical purposes.

13. In Resolution GC(X)/RES/217, the General Conference requested the Board of Governors, in consultation with the Director General, to review the activities of the Agency in order to find ways and means to increase its assistance to developing countries, and invited the Board to undertake promptly a systematic and objective review of the Agency's future activities, paying particular attention to the needs and views of the developing countries.

14. The tenth regular session of the General Conference provided an opportunity for taking stock of the Agency's accomplishments since its Statute was approved at United Nations Headquarters in October 1956. It was generally felt that the Agency had developed sound programmes, and was satisfactorily discharging most of its statutory functions. However, since the main contribution of atomic energy to the welfare of nations lies ahead, it was felt that the Agency had only begun its task and that there was considerable room for expansion and the requirement of greater resources, particularly in putting nuclear energy at the service of the developing countries.