

Holy See participation in the IAEA

The Holy See has participated in every General Conference of the IAEA and has made a special contribution in Vienna to international co-operation and the development of the peaceful atom.
On August 20, 1957 the Holy See became a full member of the Agency.

Dr. Frank M. Folsom (left) and Father Théodore M. Hesburgh.



From the beginning its two distinguished representatives have been Frank Folsom of New York City, for many years the President of a large communication corporation, and Father Hesburgh, President of Notre Dame University in the USA. Since the first General Conference in 1957, the Representatives of the Holy See have arranged for a special Mass to be given for all delegates to the annual General Conference. The special Mass has been held in St. Stephan's Cathedral and conducted by His Eminence Franz Cardinal König. The Vienna Boys Choir have sung at the service.

Because of this unique contribution by the Holy See, those who have not had the opportunity to attend the annual Mass may be interested to read the principal portions of the message given by Cardinal König on Sunday, 28 September 1969, in the four official languages of the Agency, namely English, French, Russian and Spanish. He said:

For a number of years I have had the great and indeed exceptional privilege of extending a hearty welcome to the honourable delegates to the International Atomic Energy Agency, who have never hesitated to accept an invitation to attend a religious service during their meetings, that is, to be present at the Sunday Mass at St. Stephan's Cathedral.

I should like to express my sincere congratulations and my respect for the fruitful, steady and fast progress of your researches, reaching its culmination in the non-proliferation treaty, which may very soon acquire its final signature. That is a very important step forward for a better and peaceful future of mankind. By wise and prudent leadership, you surmounted gradually the political obstacles and began to deal very effectively with the practical application of science, technical assistance for less developed countries in the fields of industry, agriculture, food and medical care. You have demonstrated how the most powerful and ambivalent invention can be used for welfare and prosperity of mankind for the community of all nations. And so, the International Atomic Energy Agency has replaced mankind's fear of atomic energy as a destructive force with a great hope and realization that atomic energy may indeed be a force for peace. You are demonstrating how fear of war can be turned into hope for peace.

I express the wish of many, in view of the beneficent task of your Agency for all nations, that your available money will go as far as possible into immediate and direct technical assistance, and less into organization and general administration.

You are promoting peace in a positive and negative sense. Negative, because you are about to eliminate and to prohibit the use of atomic energy for war and destruction in all the countries where you will exercise effective inspection and control. In a positive way, by your realistic approach of technical assistance for every nation for a better world.

I am convinced that you teach by your actions that national prestige — a new danger in different parts of the world — must be subordinated to the welfare of the whole of mankind. National and ideological prejudices should be overcome in the future by your realistic approach to science and its peaceful application for every nation in the interest of peace and justice in the one world. You have already set an example by showing that peace and peaceful development is possible through science and a sincere international cooperation. I hope that your example and realistic planning will attract the attention of the UN and

its branches. What is possible here in Vienna, why should it not be possible within the UN? Love and respect for the neighbour is a greater and nobler force than hatred and enmity. Hatred solves no problem, but prepares war.

A year ago I had the unique opportunity of speaking at a meeting of Nobel prize winners about science and religion. I tried to show that between science and religion there is no opposition today and that a fruitful cooperation between science and the spiritual forces in the world of today must be contemplated in the interest of peace and justice all over the world to avoid abuse of scientific and technical progress and the destruction of mankind by irresponsible political powers. I am glad to say that this appeal met with a positive echo from all sides. And meetings are in preparation to discuss such a practical and realistic cooperation between modern science and Christian religion. This is in keeping with the spirit and the words of the Agency's Charter of 1956: "To accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world."

training for animal sciences

An intensive six-week training course in the use of isotopes and radiation in animal sciences and veterinary medicine is to be held in Yugoslavia from 4 May to 12 June next year.

The course is being organized by the Food and Agricultural Organization/Agency Joint Division of Atomic Energy in Food and Agriculture, with funds supplied by the Swedish International Development Authority and in cooperation with the Institute for the Application of Nuclear Energy in Agriculture, Veterinary Medicine and Forestry at Zemun, Yugoslavia, and the Yugoslav Nuclear Energy Commission. Governments have been invited to make nominations for the limited number of places.

The training will be particularly suitable for scientists who have had some years of experience in research with animals which are of agricultural importance to their countries and who, in the problems they are now studying, have reached a stage where they feel the need for a knowledge of isotope and radiation techniques in order to make further progress.