

# toward the realization of the npt

The Safeguards Committee (1970)

adjourned on 22 July after a series of meetings during which it reached consensus on essential parts of proposals for the basic part of the agreement to be concluded between States which have become parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and the IAEA.

As this issue of the Bulletin went to press the Board of Governors of the Agency was about to meet to consider the recommendations of the Safeguards Committee. If these are adopted, the Director General of the Agency will be in a position to respond to requests by States party to the Treaty to begin negotiations on the necessary individual agreements.

On the day after the committee adjourned for the summer Dr. Kurt Waldheim, its chairman, held a press briefing at which he recalled the terms of the NPT and described the committee's work. He gave it as his opinion that what it has achieved so far "has very significantly advanced the realization of the NPT."

Dr. Waldheim reminded the journalists attending the briefing that under Article III of the NPT, which was opened for signature on 1 July 1968 and entered into force on 5 March this year, the so-called Non-Nuclear Weapon State Party to the Treaty undertake to accept safeguards as set out in an agreement to be negotiated and concluded with the IAEA. The Treaty does not give detailed guidance on the contents of such agreements; it obliges the initial parties to commence negotiations with the Agency on them within 180 days of its entry into force and provides that they shall come into effect not later than 18 months after negotiations have begun. This means that the Agency must be in a

position to start negotiations on 1 September, 1970.

Dr. Waldheim recalled that the Board of Governors decided in April to establish a committee, on which all Member States of the Agency could be represented, to advise the Board on the contents of the agreements required. All States were asked to give their views in advance.

The Committee met for the first time on 12 June. Its first series of sessions continued until 3 July, when it broke off until 13 July. "In its 33 meetings," said Dr. Waldheim, "it developed the basic part of the agreement to be concluded between the Agency and NPT Parties, and had a preliminary discussion of procedures to permit the Agency actually to apply safeguards under NPT."



Dr. Kurt Waldheim. Photo: IAEA/Voitl

Among important points dealt with by the Committee so far as listed by Dr. Waldheim, are:

- the basic undertakings which each State would accept in concluding an agreement with the Agency;
- the principles to be included in the agreements to protect the States' interests in the field of economic and technological development;
- provisions regarding the protection of commercial and industrial secrets;
- technological principles to be followed in applying safeguards;
- the obligation of the State to set up a national system for control of nuclear materials, of which the Agency would make use in the application of safeguards;
- the right of the Agency to carry out independent verification measures as necessary;
- the kind of information to be provided to the Agency by the State;
- general rules for the admission and activity of Agency inspectors;
- conditions under which safeguards are terminated;
- the steps that the Agency's Board of Governors may take, in case it can no longer be certain that nuclear material has not been used for nuclear weapons;
- the responsibility of the Agency in the case of damage arising from safeguards inspections;
- and measures to be taken in case of a dispute between a State and the Agency.

Dr. Waldheim said the Committee was expected to reconvene in October to continue its discussion on detailed proposals for the Safeguards procedures to be used, and added that it should also deal then with the financing of safeguards applied under the Treaty.

Dr. Waldheim, Minister for Foreign Affairs in the previous Austrian Government, earlier represented Austria as Ambassador to the United Nations, New York. He has now been designated to take up the post of Ambassador to the UN for a second time.