

implementing the npt

In his annual address to the General Assembly of the United Nations, in New York in early November, Dr. Eklund stressed his view that it is essential that the initial momentum in the implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons be regained; and he noted that there had been encouraging developments at the IAEA General Conference.

"However," he continued, "progress has been slow in achieving the hopes expressed by the General Assembly" [when it first commended the Treaty]. "This is no doubt due to many factors: the complexity of the question and, perhaps most important, a wait-and-see attitude adopted by a number of States. Progress, or the lack of it, may also be linked to the fulfilment of the other obligations that the Treaty imposes on all Parties — nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States alike. I refer to Article IV, which requires all Parties to co-operate in the further development of the applications of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes with due consideration for the needs of the developing areas of the world, and Article VI, which requires the Parties to pursue negotiations relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race. I refer also to the Preamble to the Treaty, which recalls the determination expressed by the Parties to the Moscow Test Ban Treaty to seek to achieve the discontinuance of all test explosions of nuclear weapons for all time. It is common knowledge that underground testing is continuing and is not even showing a sign of slackening, and the growing dissatisfaction of the non-nuclear-weapon States, many of which are now, in good faith, negotiating NPT safeguards agreements, may be partly understood in this light. I strongly endorse the Secretary General's statement in paragraph 203 of the Introduction of his report: 'For the NPT to remain fully viable and valid, *all* of its provisions must be fully implemented ...' An early agreement in the framework of the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks, which are to be resumed in Vienna, could lead to an improvement in this situation."

Dr. Eklund pointed out that the implementation of Article IV of the Treaty was tied up with a problem of increasing aid to the developing countries. [The relevant paragraph of the Article reads: "All the Parties to the Treaty undertake to facilitate, and have the right to participate in, the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Parties to the Treaty in a position to do so shall also co-operate in contributing alone or together with other States or international organizations to the further development of the applications of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, especially in the territories of non-nuclear-weapon States Party to the Treaty, with due consideration for the needs of the developing areas of the world.]

During the past two years, Dr. Eklund said, there had been some improvement in the Agency's own technical assistance programme. The target for voluntary contributions had been increased from \$2 million in 1970 to \$3 million in 1972. Unfortunately, the real value of assistance which would be provided in 1972 would be about the same as that ten years ago, because of the effects of inflation and currency adjustments. "As I have pointed out before, this programme is of crucial importance in enabling developing countries to embark upon their first nuclear energy activities," he said. "It is the seed from which larger programmes can grow. Experience has shown that the IAEA should place more emphasis on the training of technicians — a line which we are now pursuing.

"The increasing number of 'Special Fund' type projects that the Agency is executing on behalf of the United Nations Development Programmes reflects the growing interest and capability of developing countries to carry out larger projects in the nuclear energy field. It also indicates that the need for international assistance in this field is growing. The industrial countries, and particularly the nuclear weapon States, will certainly be called upon to fulfil the commitments they have made in Article IV of the Treaty. For developing and industrial countries alike, the crux of the matter is how far nuclear power is going to answer their energy needs."

Dr. Eklund noted that, in addition to vigorous construction programmes being implemented in a score of advanced countries, nuclear power stations had been ordered by seven developing countries, and were being contemplated by another dozen. Each of these had been financed in the framework of a bilateral agreement. The IAEA had, however, provided advisory services on request on preliminary economic surveys, assistance in drawing up a national legislative framework, in selecting sites for plants, in bids, and in training personnel. International sources of finance within the United Nations family had not yet made any contribution to the introduction of nuclear power into developing countries. The IAEA was not a financing agency, but it could help developing countries by providing convincing evidence of the extent, nature and location of the market and of its technical requirements. The IAEA was pressing ahead with a detailed market study, of which one aim was to provide manufacturers with reliable information on the size of the future demand for the smaller-sized plant appropriate to the more limited electrical grids of the developing countries.

Dr. Eklund reviewed some of the Agency's current work, which he had touched on also in his address to the General Conference of the Agency (reported earlier in this issue). He ended: "At a time when the Agency is entering a period of increased activities, particularly in nuclear power and safeguards, I wish to assure you that in spite of the difficulties we shall endeavour to fulfil our task... We are determined to make our collaboration with the UN still more efficient to the benefit of Member States."