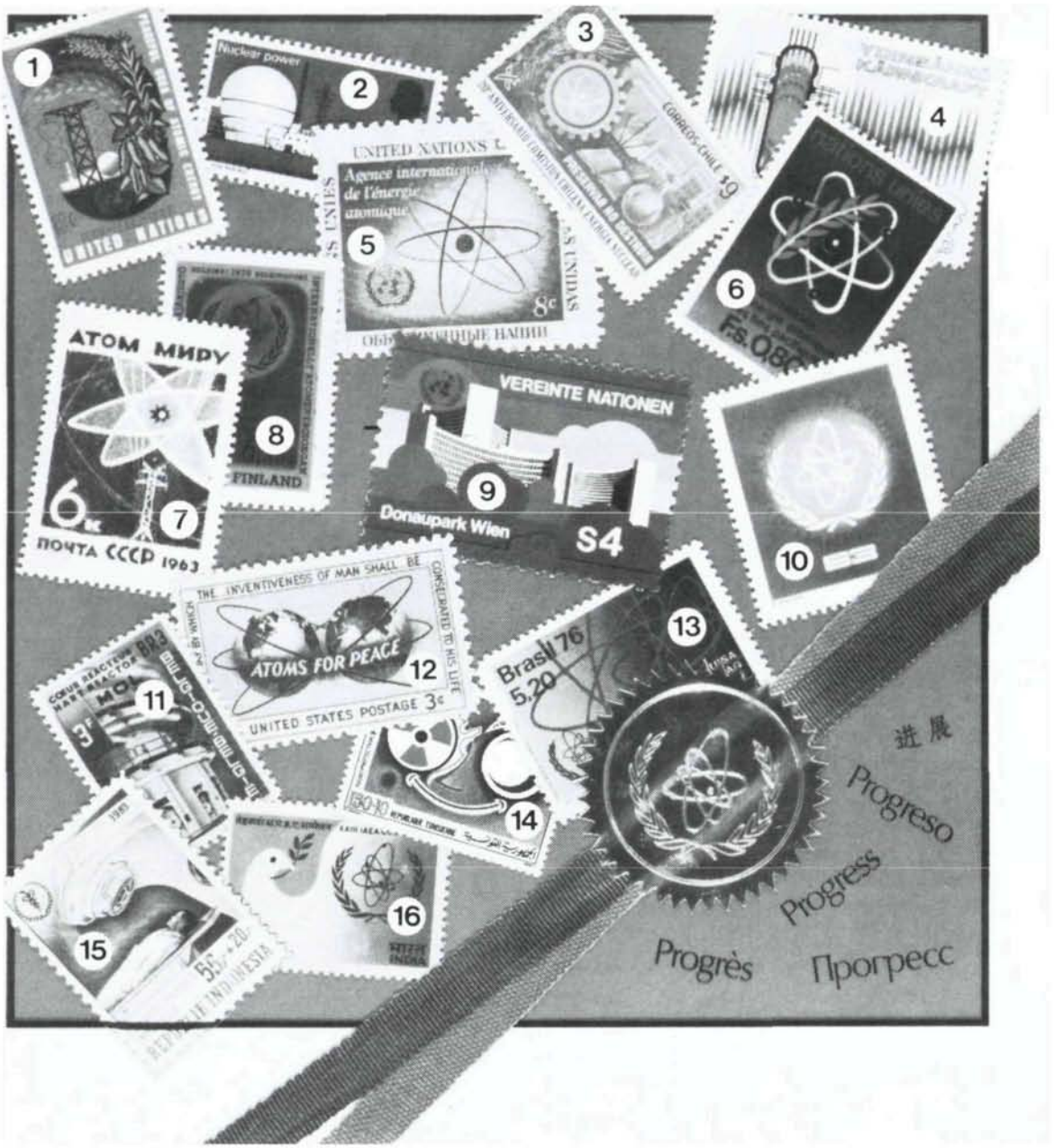

Stamps of nuclear technology: **(1) One of the IAEA's 20th anniversary stamps, issued by the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) on 18 November 1977. (2) The Windscale advanced gas-cooled reactor in the United Kingdom. (3) The 20th anniversary stamp of the Nuclear Energy Commission in Chile. (4) Issued by Finland to commemorate the country's use of nuclear power. (5) The first commemorative stamp of the IAEA, issued by UNPA on 10 February 1958 to mark the Agency's founding. (6) Another of the IAEA's 20th anniversary stamps, issued by UNPA on 18 November 1977. (7) Commemorative stamp of nuclear power in the USSR, issued in 1963. (8) Finland's stamp commemorating the IAEA's International Conference on Nuclear Data, convened in Helsinki in 1970. (9) The opening of the Vienna International Centre, headquarters of the IAEA and several UN organizations; issued by UNPA in 1979. (10) The IAEA's 20th anniversary stamp, issued by Austria in 1977. (11) The BR-3 reactor in Mol, Belgium. (12) The "Atoms for Peace" stamp issued by the United States in 1957, bordered by a quotation from the historic address of US President Dwight D. Eisenhower to the UN General Assembly on 8 December 1953, which led to the IAEA's founding. (13) Issued by Brazil for the IAEA's 20th Regular Session of the General Conference, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1976. (14) Issued by Tunisia in 1987 for the promotion of radiation protection and the country's National Centre for Radiation Protection in Tunis. (15) Issued in 1983 by Indonesia to commemorate the use of radiotherapy in medical treatment; shown is a cobalt-60 teletherapy unit. (16) Issued by India for the 23rd Regular Session of the IAEA General Conference, held in New Delhi in 1979. — The ribbon and seal shown appear on legal agreements of the IAEA.**

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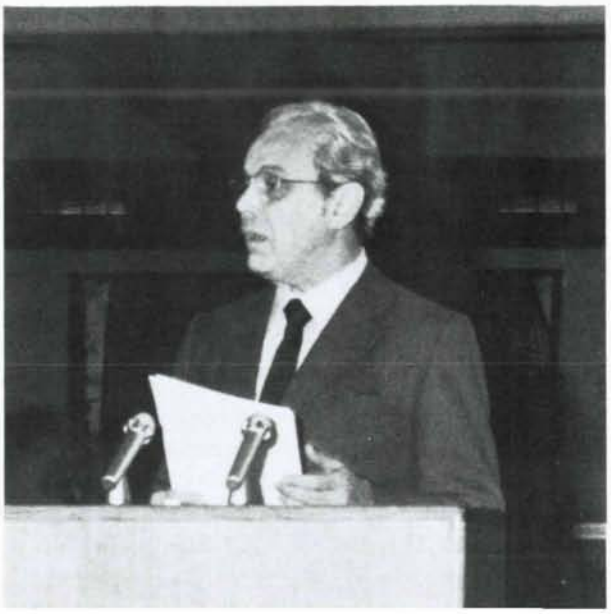

Message from the United Nations Secretary-General

"Nations of the world have greatly benefited from the IAEA"

by Javier Pérez de Cuéllar

Thirty years ago the International Atomic Energy Agency came into existence as a new member of the United Nations family. From its inception the IAEA has played a major role in fostering the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and technology through international co-operation and by helping to ensure that peaceful nuclear developments and applications are not used for destructive purposes or for creating threats to the security of others. In doing so, the IAEA has made a distinct contribution to the purposes of the United Nations as expressed in its Charter.

Two inter-governmental fora of the United Nations in the past 2 years have confirmed the value of the IAEA in assisting nations to co-operate in the field of peaceful nuclear energy and its applications for their economic and social development. The Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held in Geneva in September 1985, expressed the conviction that IAEA safeguards play a key role in preventing proliferation of nuclear weapons, promoting confidence among States, and helping to strengthen international security. And, the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (UNCPICPUNE), in its final summary report in April this year, recognized the extensive role of the IAEA in peaceful nuclear co-operation and urged that "as the central organization for nuclear co-operation" the Agency "should continue to play an important role in promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy".

The International Atomic Energy Agency provides a framework for systematic international co-operation on a global basis in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Today, nuclear energy accounts for about 16% of the total electricity produced in the world. This is approximately the amount of electricity produced in the entire world from all sources in 1955. Most of the world's nuclear-generated electricity is so far to be found in the industrialized countries. This is not unexpected in view of the advanced technological and capital-intensive character of this energy form, and the requirements it poses for trained expert manpower and adequate electrical transmission networks. That very fact, however, highlights also an opportunity: facilitating wider access to nuclear power through continued and intensified training, technical co-operation, and assistance to an increasing number of developing nations — some poorly endowed with fossil fuel resources — that are reaching the stage at which they might include nuclear-generated electricity in their overall energy planning for the future.

Electricity production is only one of many constructive uses of nuclear technology. All countries, both industrialized and developing, have benefited and seek to continue to benefit from other applications of nuclear technology in agriculture, food preservation, health, medicine, industry and hydrology. In all of these areas the IAEA has played a leading role as a channel for transfer of technology to its Member States; and, through its technical co-operation programme, in co-ordinating the provision of related exports and equipment, and in helping to provide the requisite basic training, information, and know-how necessary to their use. In many countries of the world the use of nuclear technology in these important applications is now well established.

In addition, the IAEA has an important role, together with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and International Labour Organization (ILO), in ensuring that all users of nuclear materials understand the need for their safe handling and are trained accordingly. Radiation protection programmes related to public and

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occupational safety, transportation of nuclear material, and radioactive waste disposal have been in train for a number of years, while activities related to safety in the design, management and operation of nuclear power plants have assumed even greater prominence in recent years than heretofore, as nuclear power production has expanded, especially after the tragic accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant last year. Intensified efforts of States to increase the level of nuclear safety, partly through enhanced international co-operation and their readiness to use the IAEA as a channel for this co-operation, demonstrates their recognition that international co-operation in this area is necessary and that the IAEA is widely recognized as being the main international instrument for that co-operation.

Mankind is confronted with major challenges, including the need to ensure ample supplies of energy to achieve growth, to provide for the health and welfare of its increasing population, to preserve its environment so that it may pass a positive legacy to future generations, and to free the earth from the risk of nuclear war. The work of the IAEA is relevant to all of these challenges.

One of the Agency's most important contributions, which so far has no parallel, is the on-site safeguards inspection and accounting system that it has devised to verify that activities are not being used to further nuclear weapons proliferation. Here I must stress that non-proliferation means not only preventing the horizontal spread of nuclear weapons, but also curbing the growth of the nuclear arsenals that already exist. The world has been less successful in this latter respect than in restraining the spread of nuclear weapons to more countries. The IAEA's safeguards verification system may serve as a model for future efforts to verify nuclear arms control agreements for which we all must continue to work. This contribution alone would justify the support the IAEA receives from its membership.

The nations of the world have greatly benefited from the IAEA. The IAEA has been a valued member of the United Nations family and the co-operative arrangements that have been established with the UN system have been mutually beneficial. I trust that when we come to celebrate the Agency's 40th Anniversary we will look back on the intervening 10 years from now until then as a period in which the world community enjoyed even wider use of safe nuclear energy and in which its verification experience was used to improve international stability and security. It is with great pleasure that I congratulate the IAEA on its achievements over the past 30 years and that I express my confidence in its readiness and ability, supported by its Member States, to rise to the challenge of the future.

Congratulatory messages on IAEA's 30th birthday

On 29 July 1987, the day when the IAEA officially marked its 30th anniversary, congratulatory messages of appreciation and support were received from a number of Member States. Extracts from some of the messages:

US President Ronald Reagan described the IAEA as a "model of effective international cooperation" and an "organization of singular importance to the United States and one within the broader UN system which has demonstrated exceptional commitment to the purposes and principles for which it was established 30 years ago".

His Holiness Pope John Paul II conveyed "the assurance of his prayers that the Agency will ever serve as a powerful instrument of peace dedicated to ensuring in a spirit of brotherhood and cooperation the health, progress, and prosperity of the whole human family".

Mr Joe Clark (right), Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs, reaffirmed his country's "firm support" for the IAEA's work and said it is "deeply indebted to the Agency for its activities at the international level as well as for the support it has consistently provided to Canada's own nuclear programme and nuclear cooperation activities".

Mr Bernardo Sepulveda Amor, Foreign Minister of Mexico, wrote that his country "believes that the work of the IAEA has had an important influence on the progress of peace and disarmament and in the application of the peaceful use of atomic energy in the fields of medicine, electricity, and other industrial applications".

Other messages on 29 July 1987 included those from Prof. Ivan Pandev, Chairman of Bulgaria's Committee on the Use of Atomic Energy for Peaceful Purposes; Prof. Georg Sitzlack, President and State Secretary of the Office for Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection of the German Democratic Republic; Dr Heinz Riesenhuber, Minister for Research and Technology of the Federal Republic of Germany; Prof. M. Sowinski, President of the Atomic Energy Agency of Poland; Prof. F. Ovchinnikov, Director General of Interatomenergo of the USSR; Mr Michael Harrison, President of the Canadian Nuclear Association; and Mr V. Malyshev, Chairman of the USSR State Committee on the Supervision of Nuclear Power Safety.