

# GROWING RESPONSIBILITIES

Many of the statements at the eleventh session of the General Conference referred to the role which could be expected of the Agency as a result of the proposals for a non-proliferation treaty, and of the increasing responsibilities which could be expected. In debating a review which had been made of Agency activities, the importance of the provision of equipment was stressed.

The outgoing President, Mr. Pote Sarasin of Thailand, noted that the meetings marked the beginning of the Agency's second decade. He hoped that governments would do all they could to ensure that future work would bring far more benefits from atomic energy for all mankind.

Mr. Jan Neumann of Czechoslovakia was elected as the new President. His final words reflected a subject constantly recurring during the sessions when he said "I am sure that the General Conference would want me to express the readiness of the Agency to undertake its appropriate role in safeguards to be established under the proposed non-proliferation treaty and to affirm that the Agency would be prepared to accept this task."

While he did not propose to address himself to the specific provisions of such a treaty, Mr. Neumann thought it was entirely appropriate for him as President of the General Conference to express, on behalf of the Agency, the profound interest of Member States in the successful conclusion of the negotiations for the treaty. This was a subject of direct interest to Member States and closely associated with the Agency's fundamental mission.

The safeguards of the IAEA, he continued, were being considered in connection with the suggested treaty, and to undertake such a responsibility would be entirely consistent with the Agency's purposes. On behalf of the General Conference he would like to voice the determination of its membership to have the Agency take such steps as might be necessary to prepare for its increasing responsibilities under a non-proliferation treaty.

## DEMONSTRATIONS OF CONCERN

On the same subject Dr. Sigvard Eklund, Director General, said at the opening session that growing concern among the peoples of the world at the present development of nuclear weapon techniques, their future potential and the fatal consequences of a nuclear war had been demonstrated in several ways. One was a request by the General Assembly of the United Nations for a full review of the effects of possible use of nuclear weapons. Another was the conclusion of a treaty for the prohibition of nuclear weapons in Latin America,



Jan Neumann of Czechoslovakia.

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Warm tributes were paid at the General Conference to the memory of Sir John Cockcroft, seen here giving a scientific lecture at last years session.



which provided that the Agency should exercise certain verifying functions. Additionally the deliberations of the 18-Nation Committee on Disarmament had been followed with keenest interest, and it had been particularly noted that the two major nuclear powers had presented in identical proposals a draft treaty for discussion.

"If I express my deep satisfaction over the results achieved so far" commented Dr. Eklund "it is because as a citizen of this world I believe that the proliferation of such powerful forces as nuclear weapons will increase enormously the possibilities and consequences of conflict and thus make the world less safe for mankind".

From a modest beginning, the Agency's Safeguards System had been extended to include reactors of any size, and also plants for processing irradiated fuel. A further extension to plants for converting nuclear materials and fabricating fuel was to be studied by a working group of the Board of Governors, who had already requested that ways and means be investigated for extending the system to uranium separation facilities. Should this come about the system would cover all principal nuclear facilities in a complete fuel cycle.

## A PROMISING START

Although present agreements, including 65 reactors in 29 countries with a total thermal capacity of 3 200 million watts, covered less than 8 per cent of the capacity of existing civilian reactors, a promising start had been made. Expansion raised the question of the way in which the Board and the General Conference should exercise supervisory functions, and Dr. Eklund repeated a previous recommendation for the establishment at an appropriate time of an external auditing unit for safeguards.

It was striking that 18 developing countries had placed reactors under IAEA safeguards, but unfortunate that many countries in Europe had up to now not found it possible to express their support by similar action.

If a safeguards system were to be credible and give assurance to the people of the world, it surely must be international. Would the Agency be able to cope with the task if entrusted with the control function not yet specified in the famous blank Article 3? A complete answer could not be given without knowledge of what might be required. But if what were proposed would be the application of their present system to cover all nuclear activities in the non-nuclear weapons countries, his answer was that the Agency had the necessary background experience. What would be needed, however, would be an expansion of the staff to handle the safeguards and the inspection task which might immediately confront the controlling organization. Further increases would later be needed to meet the needs of the growing nuclear programmes. Some of the workload could be met by utilizing suitably qualified staff from other parts of the Agency. Research and development might bring about simplifications in



Japan, which in 1959 was the first country to accept Agency safeguards, placed a large reactor under the same control during the General Conference. An agreement by that country, the United Kingdom and the Agency was signed transferring safeguards, previously applied by UK as supplier of the reactor and fuel, to the IAEA, in respect of the Tokai-Mura nuclear power station. It has a power of approximately 550 megawatts thermal. As a result all significant nuclear activities in Member States of South-East Asia and the Pacific are covered by Agency safeguards. Ambassador Shinsaku Hogen, of Japan (left), Dr. Sigvard Eklund (Director General, IAEA) and Lord Penney (Chairman, UK Atomic Energy Authority, right) signed the agreement.

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the present inspection procedure; technical representatives of nine Member States, the European Nuclear Energy Agency and Euratom had exchanged views on this subject. They would need not only more staff but well trained competent technicians; to assist this he was proposing a training course in 1968.

He believed he was expressing the will of the Agency in saying that its services were available to undertake the control function envisaged in the draft treaty. He would do this with the confidence that in their existing safeguards organization they had the inherent capability for doing so, and might be justified in claiming that it was the organization most capable for undertaking this important task.

## HOPES FOR AGREEMENT

Most of the delegates who spoke expressed hopes that a Non-Proliferation Treaty would be agreed, and belief in the Agency's ability to undertake any task that might be required of it. There were comments also on the system itself, on possibilities of improving it and making more use of automation in the methods. Czechoslovakia and Poland spoke of the offer made at the previous conference, and Bulgaria and Hungary expressed their willingness to place their nuclear installations under Agency safeguards if the Federal Republic of Germany would do the same. The reply of the Federal Republic of Germany was that such a move should be in the context of a world-wide non-proliferation treaty.

## ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Last year's General Conference had requested a review of activities in order to find ways and means of increasing assistance to developing countries. This had been prepared and was presented together with comments by the Board of Governors. Views of Member States had been sought in preparing the report, and more were expressed during the debate. Ten countries prepared a resolution, which was adopted, urging that instead of the normal practice in the Technical Assistance programme, equipment be provided without necessarily also requiring the services of experts.

Once again a warning was given by the Director General of the inadequacy of funds for technical assistance. Praise for these activities was not reflected in the pledged contributions, and the situation in 1968 threatened to be even worse than before. Unless there was a marked increase in voluntary contributions it would be possible to meet less than thirty per cent of the requests, and he urgently appealed for pledges to be, if possible, substantially more than the assessed contributions. It was tragic that progress in nuclear power in the developed countries would probably increase the gap between them and the developing countries. Now that the advanced countries had solved the fundamental scientific and technical problems of large scale application of nuclear energy it should be an overriding consideration for them to assist the less developed countries on an expanded scale.

By the end of the conference a total of \$1 333 608 had been pledged by 55 countries, against the target of \$2 million.

## INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR INFORMATION SYSTEM

Proposals for an International Nuclear Information System, the intention of which is to use modern computer methods to promote the exchange of scientific and technical information with the co-operation of nations and organizations, drew favourable comments and interesting suggestions. The Director General gave an assurance that particular account would be taken of the views

that there should be co-ordination with the work of national and regional organizations.

## BUDGET

Together with the programme which has been worked out for 1968/69 the Conference approved the budget for 1968, totalling \$12 907 000. Of this \$2 430 000 is under Operational budget and \$10 477 000 under the Regular budget. The latter is an increase of \$985 000, or ten per cent over the figures for 1967. Dr. Eklund pointed out that the increase must be seen against the background of last year's budget, which allowed only for a programmatic increase of less than 1.5 per cent. The continued increase in costs had been such that of the present budget increases only 5.4 per cent was attributable to programme expansions. Five per cent would be needed to meet added costs for the present work without any expansion.

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## THE NEW BOARD OF GOVERNORS

At the General Conference this year seven countries were elected to serve on the Board of Governors for a period of two years each, thus bringing the total number to the necessary twenty-five. The full membership for 1967/68 is:

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|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| * Algeria                   | * Madagascar              |
| Argentina                   | Mexico                    |
| Australia                   | Norway                    |
| Brazil                      | * Peru                    |
| * Bulgaria                  | * Philippines             |
| Canada                      | Portugal                  |
| * Ceylon                    | South Africa              |
| Czechoslovakia              | * Turkey                  |
| France                      | Union of Soviet Socialist |
| Federal Republic of Germany | Republics                 |
| India                       | United Kingdom of Great   |
| Indonesia                   | Britain and Northern      |
| Japan                       | Ireland                   |
| Lebanon                     | United States of America  |

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\* Elected this year.