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OFFICIAL RECORD OF THE TWENTIETH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Neue Hofburg, **Vienna,**
on Friday, 26 September 1958, at 10.30 a.m.

President: Mr. SUDJARWO (Indonesia)

later, Mr. YEMISCIBASI (Turkey)

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* GC(II)/57.

N.B. The list of delegations attending the second regular session of the General Conference was issued as document GC(II)/INF/17/Rev.3.

GENERAL DEBATE AND REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR THE YEAR 1957-58 (GC(II)/39) (continued)

1. The PRESIDENT observed that various speakers had complained of the intrusion of politics into the debates of the General Conference and into the Agency's affairs. In view of the political situation in the world and the international importance of atomic power, it seemed hardly practicable to exclude politics entirely; but the success of the General Conference and the Agency would be greatly helped if all concerned exercised the maximum of political toleration and did what they could to foster international good will.

2. Sir Edwin PLOWDEN (United Kingdom) said that the Agency could not have been expected to achieve a great deal in its first year. In view of its unavoidable early staffing and administrative difficulties, the Secretariat was to be congratulated on having drawn up the programme and budget in time for the General Conference.

3. His Government wanted to see the Agency firmly established in its rightful place within the United Nations family. Satisfactory relationships would have to be worked out between it and other international organizations. The agreements with the specialized agencies[1/], being necessarily in general terms, would need to be supplemented by continuing consultation to prevent friction and duplication. While much could be done by friendly collaboration between the respective secretariats, the key to the matter was in the policy of Member States and in proper co-ordination within national administrations. The United Kingdom regarded the Agency as the paramount organization dealing with the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

4. In the view of his delegation the Agency had two major functions: to provide a channel for international agreement and action on problems of common concern, and to assist the technologically less developed countries.

5. Matters in which he hoped the Agency would act under the first head were: insurance to cover third-party liability in the event of reactor accidents; regulations for the transport of radioactive materials by land, sea and air, and for the operation of nuclear-propelled ships; disposal of radioactive

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1/ GC(II)/46 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, GC(II)/47, GC(II)/48, GC(II)/49, GC(II)/50 and Corr.1.

waste, and safe handling of radioactive isotopes. Agreement would have to be reached on the order of priority of those tasks.

6. Another need was exchange of information. The two United Nations International Conferences on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy (the Geneva Conferences) had been most valuable, but his delegation believed that in future a more profitable form of gathering would be a specialized conference of more modest size dealing with limited aspects of nuclear science and technology. It hoped that a series of such specialized conferences would be held under the Agency's auspices.

7. With regard to assistance to the less developed countries, special surveys, either national or regional, would be required to ascertain the nature of the assistance needed by particular countries. The proposed regional training centre in Latin America might, if it proved successful, set a pattern worth following in other parts of the world. His country had provided an expert to participate in the Latin American survey[2/], and would be glad to give similar help on future occasions.

8. The Agency could best help the less developed countries by organizing training schemes. It was to be hoped that the proposal to expand the fellowship programme, in paragraph 132 of the Board's First Annual Report (GC(II)/39), would receive general support. Training schemes ought to be linked with aspects of nuclear technology which could be exploited fruitfully in the immediate future, such as isotopes. Research directed to the development of new uses for isotopes might be undertaken partly by the Agency alone and partly in conjunction with national organizations.

9. The Agency's programme had been criticized for failing to encourage the early building of small research and power reactors in the less developed countries. Some time must, however, elapse before small reactors became an economic proposition; the best thing the Agency could do for the less developed countries at present was therefore to help to prepare their scientists and engineers to operate the reactors when the time came. Another task of immediate importance was to make economic studies of individual countries to ascertain where nuclear power could profitably be used, or to encourage countries to make such studies themselves.

2/ Report of the IAEA Mission to Latin America (GC(II)/INF/19).

10. In order to perform its functions the Agency must have both equipment and staff. It required a laboratory, which need not be large but should provide adequate facilities for the Agency's technical staff. The need for staff was obvious, and although the Agency was not yet working on safeguards, his delegation was strongly in favour of the early staffing of the Division of Safeguards, in view of the Japanese delegate's statement earlier in the debate[3] and because safeguards were one of the Agency's statutory responsibilities. Since, in addition to its own staff, the Agency would need outside advice, he welcomed the decision recently taken by the Board at its ninety-seventh meeting to establish a special Scientific Advisory Committee.

11. The proposed programme for 1959[4] represented a reasonable and workable compromise between divergent views, and his delegation would do everything in its power to ensure the programme's success. He hoped that delegations would adopt a constructive attitude and support the programme as a whole. It had been conceived as a whole, and deletion of individual items might distort the pattern of the Agency's development, destroying the necessary balance between its two major functions. The United Kingdom Government wholeheartedly supported the Agency and the ideas for which it stood.

12. Mr. NICUTZA (Romania) stressed the importance which his delegation attached to the successful operation of the Agency as an instrument for raising the living standards of the peoples of the world, protecting their health and maintaining and strengthening peace. To assist the Agency as it deserved, Romania was contributing to the fellowship programme. It had granted training fellowships at the Faculty of Physics of Bucharest University and in the Nuclear Technology Department of Bucharest Polytechnic Institute and fellowships for specialized study at the Romanian Institute of Atomic Physics. In view of the steady expansion in Romania of research, of the practical applications of nuclear energy and of training, the Romanian Government intended to make a still larger contribution towards the Agency's activities in future.

13. The Atomic Centre of the Academy of the Romanian People's Republic possessed a 2,000 kW reactor for research and isotope production, a 12.5 MeV cyclotron and well-equipped radiochemical, nuclear spectroscopy, cosmic ray and

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3/ GC(II)/OR.17, paragraphs 9 and 10.

4/ GC(II)/36.

other laboratories, most of the electronic apparatus for which had been made in Romania. The Soviet Union, under a bilateral agreement, had given the country a great deal of help in laying the material foundations for the peaceful utilization of atomic energy - on very favourable terms, without any preferential or discriminatory conditions. The agreement, which had been published, was a model for agreements of that kind.

14. In addition to research, a great deal of work on the practical uses of radioisotopes was being done in the Academy's scientific institutes, in the institutes of Government departments and in some large industrial plants. For example, the Ministry of the Oil Industry and Chemistry had had outstanding success in core-sampling oilfields with neutrons and radioisotopes, the Academy's Institute of Applied Mechanics in the use of isotopes as lubrication tracers and the metallurgical industry in the use of gamma rays from cobalt-60 radioisotopes for fault-detection. Increasing use of radioisotopes was being made in institutes of medicine, agricultural research, nutrition and other sciences.

15. After eight months of activity the Agency already had certain modest achievements to its credit. The fellowship programme, for example, now comprised 268 fellowships. Assistance to the less developed countries was the Agency's most important task, and those countries needed, above all else, trained scientific and technical personnel. The fellowship and technical assistance programme ought accordingly to be implemented in full, and even extended. On grounds of economy use should be made in the first place of the numerous experts offered by the more advanced Member States.

16. His delegation was glad to note that more than 40,000 scientific works and documents were now in the Agency's possession, and hoped that the appropriate Division would manage to make them available to Member States in the near future.

17. Despite its achievements, however, the Agency was not yet fulfilling effectively the main tasks prescribed for it by the Statute and recommended by the Preparatory Commission in its report[5/] - namely co-ordination, and assistance

5/ GC.1/1.

to the less developed countries. There was indeed a danger that it might be diverted from them to less important activities. Certain proposals had been made which would involve it in a programme of large-scale research. Resources were still limited, and big laboratories were not required at the present stage of the Agency's activities; they would have to be built in stages over a long period and, despite their heavy cost, would never be able to compare in effectiveness with laboratories in the highly developed countries. The less developed countries had nothing to gain from the Agency's transformation into a research institute.

18. Besides producing specialists who could handle atomic energy, it was the Agency's duty to provide countries with the physical means of improving their living standards. Yet, despite the initial high hopes of material betterment as a result of the Agency's operations, all it was able to show at present was paper offers of fission products. No agreements for their acceptance or delivery had yet been concluded. It was time a common effort was made to settle such questions as prices and delivery. Incidentally, countries providing products were bound to supply them to the Agency on preferential terms.

19. It was thus surprising - to say the least - that certain Member States should be pressing for the early establishment of a Division of Safeguards, and one of quite disproportionate size. Perhaps their object was to apply the Agency's safeguards to agreements concluded outside the Agency. Just as important as the question of establishing the Division was that of selecting its staff. Unless the posts were allocated on a correct geographical basis, fears might be aroused in certain quarters, to the detriment of the Agency's work. Instead of being an organ for international co-operation, it might become an international policing organ, playing a part quite unrelated to its task of developing the backward regions of the world.

20. The Agency could only perform its lofty task by securing the widest possible measure of international co-operation and by strictly respecting the provisions and spirit of its Statute. Its primary preoccupation ought to be, as various delegates had urged, to secure widespread and varied utilization of atomic energy.

21. It ought therefore to take the necessary steps to make good the existing shortage of atomic scientists and technicians in the world; to become a body co-ordinating the exchange of scientific information and experience between all countries; to promote co-operation between national research institutes with a view to expediting the application of new discoveries; to collect and circulate general information on a variety of health and safety questions; to enter into still closer relations with other international organizations so as to forward projects of common interest; and to give special attention to the economic aspects of the peaceful utilization of atomic energy, and particularly to the economics of power reactors. The United Nations regional economic commissions could give it valuable help in those matters.

22. Romania would continue to support the Agency and would do everything possible to ensure that it worked for co-operation between all countries, for progress and for peace.

23. Mr. WERSHOF (Canada) said that the development of the peaceful uses of atomic energy had been almost exclusively a national endeavour until President Eisenhower had proposed at the United Nations General Assembly in December 1953 that an international organization should be established within the United Nations family for that purpose[6/]. That proposal had been designed as part of an imaginative effort to expand the peaceful uses of atomic energy for the benefit particularly of the poorer countries which could not develop their own atomic energy programmes without assistance. It had also aimed at providing a channel for international consultation and effort. Canada had participated fully in the discussions which had led to the adoption of the Statute and the establishment of the Agency, and had actively tried to promote the Agency's development, because it wished to foster the rapid growth of the peaceful uses of atomic energy and believed that the Agency would make a valuable contribution to that end.

24. As many previous speakers had pointed out, the Agency was still very young but offered almost infinite promise, given a patient determination to bring it to strong and productive maturity.

6/ See United Nations document A/PV.470, paragraphs 79 - 126.

That promise of a greater contribution from atomic energy to the peace, health and prosperity of all nations would only be fulfilled, as the second Geneva Conference had confirmed, through the unremitting devotion and industry that every lofty aim demanded. The Agency's first year had been a year of hesitant first steps but also of progress. It was encouraging to review the record of past achievement in the Board's Annual Report and the plans for 1959 and subsequent years, in that report and in the Programme and Budget.

25. The Board of Governors had already taken most of the basic policy decisions on which the day-to-day administration of the Agency depended, and in the coming months aimed to complete further work which would have the effect of making the Agency's activities more productive and balanced. In a few months the Director General had recruited an able staff of scientists and administrators and arranged satisfactory working premises for them; at the same time effective work on some of the most important parts of the Agency's programme had begun. Relationship agreements were being concluded with other international organizations; the Director General was participating in the United Nations Administrative Committee on Co-ordination; and the United Nations Economic and Social Council had adopted an important resolution[7/] which had helped to clarify the Agency's predominant position in regard to atomic energy.

26. Some delegations might have expected even greater progress to be made in carrying out the programme recommended by the Preparatory Commission; but experience had shown that any such expectations had been somewhat unrealistic and had not taken account of the initial difficulties of such an intricate and ambitious enterprise. The recruitment of competent technical staff had, for example, taken far longer than the Board had at first expected. The key personnel that the Agency needed had all held responsible positions in the atomic energy programmes of their own countries, and it was not surprising that the scientific staff of the Agency had not begun to take shape until early 1958. It was a measure of that staff's ability and enthusiasm that it had been able to carry out so much of the Agency's programme in such a short time.

7/ Resolution 694 E (XXVI).

27. Thus, taking a realistic view, the Canadian Government was generally satisfied with the situation set forth in the Report of the Board of Governors. About some aspects of the situation, however, it had misgivings.

28. One of those aspects was recruitment. Article VII.D of the Statute provided that the paramount consideration in the recruitment of staff was the need to secure employees of the highest standard of efficiency, technical competence and integrity; only after that paramount consideration had been satisfied should due regard be paid to Members' contributions and the importance of recruiting on the widest possible geographical basis. Paragraphs 81 to 84 of the Report of the Board of Governors indicated that the Director General had made a great effort to achieve a reasonable balance between those requirements. Some delegations believed that the principle of equitable geographical distribution should be given even greater emphasis. The Canadian delegation respected the right of any delegation to hold that view, but could not share it, because it conflicted with the paramount consideration laid down in the Statute, because it made the task of recruitment unnecessarily difficult and because the scientific competence and efficiency of the Agency would suffer if it prevailed.

29. That statement should not be construed as a reflection on the Secretariat. The Agency must be congratulated on so quickly gathering together such a competent body of international civil servants; but the Director General's future success in expanding the Secretariat would depend largely on the support he could expect from Member Governments, first in making available the services of some of their best scientists, inconvenient though that might be, and secondly, in accepting the Director General's judgment when he decided that the technical qualifications of one candidate outweighed the geographical qualifications of another.

30. Another fact which had disappointed the Canadian Government was the failure to attain the first session's modest estimate of $250,000 for voluntary contributions for fellowships in 1958[8/]. It hoped that the initial difficulties of Governments in providing for the Agency in their budgets would soon be overcome, and felt very strongly that the fellowship programme, one of the Agency's fundamental activities, must be given adequate financial support in order that it might serve the needs of the under developed countries.

8/ GC.1(S)/RES/6.

31. The Canadian Government was also concerned about a trend in the fellowship programme's development. It was beyond dispute that type I fellowships, financed by the Agency out of voluntary contributions to the General Fund, gave the Agency and the fellows the greatest freedom to select the most suitable place, conditions and programme of study. The Canadian delegation fully realized the value of type II fellowships, granted by Governments in their own institutes and at their own expense, and appreciated the generosity of those Governments that offered them; it believed, however, that such fellowships should be additional to the programme of type I fellowships, and was therefore disturbed that some Governments were offering type II fellowships instead of monetary contributions to the General Fund. That tendency was bound to reduce and distort the fellowship programme as envisaged by the Preparatory Commission and the first session of the General Conference, and other Members might feel impelled to follow it.

32. The Canadian delegation believed that, in addition to continuing the multilateral activities on which its attention had so far quite properly been concentrated, the Agency could also act as an intermediary in the conclusion of bilateral arrangements for technical assistance between Members. After assisting a less developed country, at its request, to determine its needs, the Agency might then put it in touch with a technically advanced country which was prepared to assist it in carrying out its projects by providing information, facilities or financial assistance. Provision was made for that case in Article XI of the Statute, and for analogous services relating to health, safety and safeguards in Article XII.

33. It was also important to draw attention to a fundamental statutory duty concerning which the Board had not yet acted effectively: the Agency's duty under Article II to ensure that assistance provided by it or at its request, or under its supervision or control, should not be used to further any military purpose. To discharge that duty was admittedly a complex and difficult task but it was also an important one and the Canadian Government was therefore gratified to note in paragraph 30 of its Report that the Board intended to come to grips with it in the near future. The statement by the delegate from Japan that his Government intended to ask the Agency to implement the safeguard provisions of the bilateral agreement between Japan and the United States had been most satisfactory.

34. To look to the future, the proposed Programme and Budget for 1959, which would be discussed more fully under item 12, was ambitious - some might say over-ambitious. Nevertheless, the enterprise in which the Agency's Members were engaged called not only for realistic analysis but also for daring and vision. The promise offered by the Agency was a challenge to the scientific staff, to the Agency as a whole and to all its Members individually. Obviously nothing would be accomplished, and all brave words and plans would prove vain, unless all Governments were prepared to provide the necessary financial support. All who wished the Agency to succeed must therefore have heard with special pleasure at the eighteenth meeting the generous declaration of support by the delegate from the United States[9]. The Agency's future would be assured if all Governments followed that example.

35. He repeated the assurances of support given by the Government of Canada at the first session[10]. Subject to parliamentary approval, the Canadian Government intended to contribute its share to the proposed operational budget for 1959. It had also joined in sponsoring a proposal[11] to convene a pledging committee of the whole General Conference at which pledges of voluntary financial contributions to the General Fund could be made. He sincerely hoped that the pledging committee would meet before the end of the second session; if so, he expected to announce to it the details of the Canadian contribution. The degree of success achieved in securing enough voluntary contributions to cover the operational part of the budget would be a measure of the desire of its Members to give the Agency an active and significant role in promoting the use of atomic energy for the benefit of mankind. Canada would continue to do its utmost towards that end. The promise had been given; its fulfilment lay in the hands of Member Governments.

36. Mr. ORTIZ TIRADO (Mexico) said that the United Nations General Assembly could feel satisfied that its resolution of 4 December 1954[12] had given rise to such promising developments. The Geneva Conferences had brought scientists together from all over the world to examine ways in which atomic energy could be developed for the greater benefit of humanity, and those

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9/ GC(II)/OR.18, paragraphs 10 - 29.

10/ GC.I(3)/OR.8, paragraphs 12 - 23.

11/ GC(II)/54.

12/ General Assembly resolution 810(IX).

conferences had been an unprecedented success. Now the International Atomic Energy Agency was holding the second regular session of its General Conference; international co-operation - as the Preparatory Commission had foreseen - had prepared the way for the fruitful application of atomic energy and would enable countries, so far as their resources allowed, to provide their peoples with its innumerable benefits. Everything could not be done at once, but that was immaterial so long as the road ahead was clear; it could be cleared if each nation co-operated conscientiously to the extent of its resources, and if due attention were paid to the rights and needs of each country.

37. He had listened with great interest to what the Director General had said[13] about work done to date and the proposals for the coming year. The Director General had mentioned the possibility of an international agreement to register with the Agency all foreign shipments of source materials. Any such register, in accordance with Article XII of the Statute, could refer only to materials provided by the Agency itself for a project or arrangement agreed upon with a Member State or a group of Member States; it could not include source materials produced by a Member State or acquired by it otherwise than in connexion with such a project or arrangement. That point had been made perfectly clear at the Statute Conference in New York and had been the subject of specific statements made by various delegations. His own country was profoundly pacifist by tradition, and that fact was itself the best moral and political guarantee that any atomic material or equipment Mexico might possess or obtain would never be used for warlike purposes.

38. Although technical assistance was essential to the proper development of atomic energy, great and small countries alike could contribute their share to the common fund of scientific and technical knowledge. That had been clearly realized by the Preparatory Commission, the guiding principles of whose report were faithfully reflected in the Board's Annual Report to the Conference and the Agency's report to the General Assembly[14]. It was scarcely possible to deal with all the achievements which the Board was reporting to the General Conference. He would refer only to technical assistance, which for

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13/ GC(II)/OR.14, paragraphs 32 - 50.

14/ GC(II)/40 and Corr.1.

most countries was absolutely essential if the hopes they had placed in the Agency were to be realized. That fact had been fully recognized by the Board in Chapter IV, section B, of the Report, dealing with the exchange of scientists and experts, the fellowship programme and the ways in which those schemes were being carried out.

39. It was even more encouraging to find that the Agency, without troubling about spheres of competence, had fully recognized the work of the United Nations, which had set up the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and had made its own contributions to the development of atomic energy in connexion with such grave problems as safety and protection against radiations.

40. Of particular interest was the Agency's reactor programme and its work on technical supplies and services, contained in the Board's Report, Chapter IV, sections F and G. Experimental and power reactors would help to provide countries with new sources of energy, enabling them to raise their standards of living, and the Agency's work in that regard would undoubtedly one day represent the major part of its activities. That stage should be prepared for by an unhurried assimilation of the necessary technical knowledge, and by the training of technicians who would be responsible for the operation of the equipment which was so useful but potentially so dangerous. Long-term planning was required, and the co-operation of all.

41. The Mexican National Atomic Energy Commission dealt mainly with research, training in nuclear and related sciences, prospecting and the mining of source materials. Under an extensive fellowship programme Mexican scientists and technicians were being sent to various countries to specialize. Courses in the handling of radioisotopes and other radiation sources had also been started. Theoretical and experimental nuclear physics had been included in the programmes of Mexican research centres for several years. The Commission had set up training centres for experts in related subjects such as electronics and uranium chemistry. It was carrying out a vast programme of prospecting, and deposits so far discovered were very promising.

42. In the Agency his country saw a great hope, not only for Mexico but for the whole world.

43. Mr. SAMSURI (Albania) said that the establishment of the Agency had been welcomed throughout the world as an important step in the progress of mankind, which hoped for ever greater benefits from the continually expanding applications of nuclear energy. In pursuing its peaceful objectives the Agency must continue to encourage international co-operation for the benefit of the peoples of the world. Its activities should be based on broad international co-operation achieved through better understanding, the relaxation of international tension and world peace.

44. The successes achieved in the application of nuclear energy indicated its tremendous possibilities for improving the living standards of all peoples; but the Agency would not be making its full contribution towards that end unless all countries of the world were included among its Members. The Agency should promote research on atomic energy and its application everywhere, in accordance with the principle of universality, which underlay all international organizations. Membership in the Agency should be open to all countries unconditionally; but some were still excluded, such as China, of which the only legal representative was the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China. The Agency should bring to an end the abnormal situation whereby not all countries wishing to become Members were admitted, for it prevented the Agency from fulfilling its objectives. The contribution that might be made by scientists in those countries should not be disregarded. Unless all countries of the world had equal rights, the Agency's basic objectives would be unattainable.

45. Those objectives, which were laid down in Article II of the Statute, should be kept continually in mind by the Agency, especially as the threat of atomic warfare still hung over the world and weapons of mass destruction were still being produced and tested. If the example of the Soviet Union were followed by other States which still continued weapon tests, and if both the testing and the production of such weapons were stopped as a first step towards full disarmament, the Agency would have much greater scope for its activities. The Agency was required by its Statute to adopt health and safety regulations and to contribute to the reduction of radiation hazards; it should therefore heed the call of all peoples for the prohibition of nuclear and thermonuclear weapons.

46. Thirteen years before, Albania had been a backward country, but since the establishment of the Albanian People's Republic it had achieved great successes in all fields, due largely to the generous assistance of the Soviet Union and of the other peoples' democracies, with whose help its industry and agriculture had been developed and the large-scale use of electric power had been introduced. Its scientific talent had been organized and many scientists had been trained. As a member of the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, it had received valuable assistance from other countries, and many of its scientists had been sent to those countries for advanced training.

47. The energy requirements of the world were constantly growing, but could be met through the immense potentialities of nuclear energy. Many countries remained backward for lack of energy resources, but the gap could be bridged by the rational use of nuclear energy in industry and agriculture to improve living standards. The Agency's programme should be so conceived as to give as much assistance as possible to the under-developed countries, not only by training scientists and technicians but also by taking into account the vital needs of those countries for industrialization and improvements in agriculture, so as to enable them to catch up with the more advanced countries.

48. Mr. WEN (China) expressed his delegation's agreement with the statement made earlier in the debate by the delegate of the Union of South Africa[15], to which he wished to add only four general observations of his own.

49. First, he associated himself with the delegate of Ceylon[16] in stressing the importance of giving the highest priority to the training of technicians and experts. The field was vast and the need great, but until the demand for a sufficient number of technicians and experts in the under-developed countries had been rapidly and effectively met, their development programmes could never advance beyond the stage of paper planning.

50. Secondly, the possibility of training more technicians and specialists depended on the willingness of all Member States to do their utmost to contribute generously to the General Fund. His Government would do its best with its small financial resources, though its contribution might be rather modest.

15/ GC(II)/OR.16, paragraphs 13 - 28.

16/ GC(II)/OR.19, paragraph 62.

51. Thirdly, the Agency's relations with specialized agencies whose activities extended to the peaceful uses of atomic energy should be marked by loyal co-operation rather than by any attempt to claim primacy in activities already competently undertaken by those agencies.

52. Fourthly, in order not to overload the budget with excessively high appropriations for technical staff, the best consultants should wherever feasible be called in for limited periods to serve on study missions which the Agency sent abroad.

53. In Taiwan a start had rightly been made on the utilization of radio-isotopes in medical research and treatment. A radioisotope laboratory had been operating at the University Hospital since 1957, and a series of experiments for the study of endemic goitre by means of iodine-131 had yielded interesting results. Irradiation of rice to produce gene mutations had been carried on as part of agricultural research since 1950, but the results were still too inconclusive to be of real scientific interest.

54. The annual rate of increase in the production of power from conventional sources had been remarkably rapid in recent years owing to the high tempo of industrialization. A time would soon come when those sources would be insufficient to meet demand. By then, perhaps as early as 1966, nuclear energy might become commercially competitive and nuclear power plants might have to be introduced into the economy and made its principal source of power. With that possibility in mind it was planned to establish in early 1959 a swimming-pool type reactor for training personnel and studying the best means of obtaining cheap nuclear power for industrial and other purposes.

55. Although its atomic energy plans were modest at present, Taiwan would soon be requiring the help and co-operation of the Agency on an increasing scale to ensure that they were wisely carried out and that firm and solid foundations were laid with a view to the rapid utilization of atomic energy for peaceful purposes in the near future.

56. Mr. FOCACCIA (Italy) expressed his delegation's approval of the content of the Board's report. In spite of many difficulties important results had been achieved in a short space of time.

57. In addition to the programme presented by the Board, the Agency should undertake work on radioisotope and reactor research, the establishment of health and safety standards, economic problems, the exchange of experts and technicians and problems raised by the fellowship programme. His Government had learned with satisfaction that under the fellowship programme many atomic scientists and research workers in the under-developed countries would be able to benefit from the experience and laboratory facilities of the more advanced countries; it had therefore decided to renew its contribution to that programme in 1959. It also proposed to offer equipment for the research on radio-isotopes that was to be undertaken in the laboratories which the Agency intended to set up.

58. It might be advisable to consider two objectives in connexion with the Agency's programme: the adoption of adequate health and safety measures and the detailed study of the economic problems of nuclear energy. With regard to the first he noted with satisfaction that the Agency had already drawn up a draft manual of practices for safe handling of radioisotopes and hoped that similar work would be undertaken on health and safety standards for the transport and handling of fuels and the disposal of radioactive materials. It was particularly important for Italy, with its peculiar geographical configuration, that the discharge of such materials into the sea should be regulated and that certain tolerances should not be exceeded in internal waters, as a result of the anticipated increase in the number of nuclear installations. Italy had no regulations on health and safety standards as yet, but was anxious to collaborate with as many countries as possible in establishing such standards.

59. The second objective comprised studies and projects which might assist Member States in evaluating the advantages and disadvantages of using nuclear energy as compared with conventional energy. Italy had a growing need for energy and was therefore very interested in the economic aspects of the problem. It should also be borne in mind that the cost of conventional fuel was relatively high and that a large part of the country's hydro-electric resources had already been exploited to the economic limit. Together with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development the Italian Government had carried out a study known as the ENSI project (Southern Italy Nuclear Energy Project), certain results of which had been announced at the

second Geneva Conference. That study had shown that a nuclear electric power station with a capacity of 150 MW could be built in Southern Italy, as the cost of the power obtained would be only slightly higher than that of power from a conventional modern thermal plant. In time, however, nuclear fuel and installation costs were likely to fall, so that nuclear energy could be expected to compete with conventional energy.

60. He had just learned that the National Electro-Nuclear Society, which was carrying out the work, had announced that the first Italian nuclear power station would be of the boiling-water, enriched-uranium type. Italy would be happy to put the experience of those who had worked on the ENSI project at the disposal of the Agency for similar studies to determine the economic suitability of different types of installation for the interested countries.

61. Finally he expressed the hope that the Agency would organize conferences and meetings of nuclear energy specialists, for the exchange of technical and scientific information, and conveyed his Government's sincerest wishes for the speediest possible performance of the basic task laid down in Article II of the Statute, namely "to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world."

Mr. Yemiscibasi (Turkey) took the Chair.

62. Mr. SOHN (Republic of Korea) said that his country had made considerable progress in laying the foundations for the practical application of atomic energy and had recently set up a National Committee on Atomic Energy to organize research, training and the development of technical facilities. It also planned to set up nuclear research installations and an isotope laboratory.

63. Korea's major long-term interests were in atomic power production and the application of radioisotopes to medical science, agriculture and fisheries; it therefore attached great importance to the Agency's technical assistance programme for the acceleration of projects in those fields.

64. The Korean delegation wished to express its satisfaction with the Report of the Board of Governors and considered that the Agency's activities during its first year had been as effective as could reasonably be expected.

65. Some of the main points of the initial programme deserved comment, with a view to drawing the attention of delegates to certain tendencies which might be significant for the future development of the Agency.

66. In view of the wide authority and responsibility it enjoyed, the Board of Governors should, as the delegate of South Africa had already suggested[17], concentrate primarily on its functions as a technical body. The Korean delegation considered that the Board should avoid lengthy political debates and that its members should devote themselves to the common interests of all Member States or at least the interests of those in the area they represented.

67. The working relations which the Agency was required by its Statute to establish with other international bodies such as the specialized agencies and regional intergovernmental organizations should be confined to bodies which genuinely subscribed to the principles and purposes of the United Nations.

68. The Korean delegation also believed that in developing its technical assistance activities in favour of the under-developed countries, the Agency should bear four points in mind. First, it should continue its efforts to promote the fellowship programme and that programme should be mainly devoted to assisting under-developed countries to help themselves in enlarging their technical knowledge in the field of nuclear science. Secondly, it should increase the technical assistance to be provided under its own projects and at the same time make all possible use of the existing international machinery for the provision and financing of such assistance, placing greater emphasis on voluntary contributions by Member States. Thirdly, in view of the acute need for increased power capacity in under-developed countries, it should provide all possible advice and assistance on the major aspects of reactor projects, including the possibility of assistance in obtaining source materials and outside loans for building power reactors. Fourthly, existing regional training facilities should be utilized as fully as possible for the training of nuclear specialists, but the Agency should not hesitate to plan new regional facilities where existing facilities proved inadequate.

69. In conclusion, the Korean delegation supported the view of previous speakers that the Members of the Agency, whatever their economic status, were in fact associated for the purpose of furthering the peaceful applications of atomic energy; it hoped that the continued co-operation of the most advanced countries would result in a further expansion of the technical assistance programme and so in an important step towards the achievement of the Agency's objectives.

17/ GC(II)/OR.16, paragraphs 16 - 17.

70. Mr. BUU-HOI (Viet-Nam) expressed his great pleasure at the marks of esteem and confidence bestowed on the countries of Asia and Africa by the General Conference through its election of many delegates from those regions to hold important offices. His satisfaction would have been more complete if the credentials of the delegation of China had not been unjustly called in question at the beginning of the Conference, for he believed that however much the area controlled by the Government of the Republic of China might have been reduced by the fortunes of war, that government nevertheless spoke in the name of a free nation which, moreover, enjoyed the allegiance of a considerable number of scientists and technicians prominent in the nuclear sciences at home and abroad. That fact alone, independently of all conceivable political considerations, could not but command the greatest respect for the delegation sent by the Republic of China and necessitated the continued presence of its members at the Agency's conferences.

71. The consideration given to under-developed countries during the Conference had also been evident in the wish expressed by several speakers that one of the Agency's major activities should be the provision of rapid and realistic aid to those countries, in such a way that the masses of their people, and not merely the elite, could learn something of the means by which atomic energy could be applied to serve the peaceful progress of mankind. With the same aim in view the President of the Republic of Viet-Nam had recently created an Office of Atomic Energy to further the cultural and technical interests of the nation. With a view to the attainment of that objective, which was certainly shared by many other less developed countries, the delegation of Viet-Nam appealed for the help of the Agency and of all its individual Members.

72. His delegation hoped particularly that the realistic six-point programme outlined by the United States delegate[18/] would receive the unanimous approval of the Conference, since that programme would provide a rapid means of attaining the objectives of the Agency in under-developed countries. In particular it would enable the scientists and technicians whom the Agency sent abroad for training in nuclear sciences to continue their research in their own countries, serving there as living evidence of the continuing fruitfulness of international co-operation under the Agency's auspices.

18/ GC(II)/OR.18, paragraphs 19 - 27.

73. It would be naive to assume that implementation of that programme would not place a considerable burden on the Agency's budget. For the purpose of deciding who was to bear the additional expense, the world could perhaps be devided into three categories of nations: first, the great scientific nations which had been able to achieve national power by harnessing and utilizing atomic energy, for example Canada, France, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom and the United States of America; secondly, nations such as Argentina, Australia, Italy, Japan, Sweden and Switzerland which were on the threshold of the industrial use of atomic energy; finally, the under-developed countries such as Viet-Nam in which no fissionable material was being handled except for research purposes. It would not be fair if the States in the last category did not pay a token contribution; but he was sure that the rest of the necessary funds would be generously supplied by the nations in the first two categories, possibly in proportion to the degree of world power they had attained through the use of atomic energy.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.