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President: Mr. FURUUCHI (Japan)

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* GC(III)/88/Rev.2.

N.B. The list of delegations attending the third regular session of
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GENERAL DEBATE AND REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR THE YEAR 1958-59
(GC(III)/73, 85) (continued)

1. Mr. NOVIKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) made the following statement^{1/}:

"The third regular session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency opens in circumstances which, unlike those of previous years, are distinguished by a manifest relaxation of tension in relations among States and particularly the Great Powers. This conclusion is confirmed by the not unimportant events which have occurred between the second and third sessions of the General Conference. It will be useful if we recall here at a plenary meeting what these events were and if I draw certain conclusions of interest to the Agency.

"At Geneva on 31 October 1958 the meeting of representatives of the Soviet Union, the United States of America and the United Kingdom began its work on the question of discontinuing tests of all types of nuclear weapons, as has been so earnestly desired by the people in all countries of the world. A year of unremitting labour by the meeting brought forth definite results: the texts of the great majority of articles in the agreement on the cessation of atomic and hydrogen weapon tests have been agreed. Three or four clauses of the agreement are still to be agreed, the main one concerns the number of the inspection teams to be sent annually into the territories of States parties to the agreement to investigate events suspected of being nuclear explosions. This is the most serious disagreement of substance among the three Powers. If agreement can be reached on this question, there will be no great difficulty in reaching agreement on the other matters which have not been agreed.

"Unfortunately, to judge by the statement by Mr. Herter, the Secretary of State of the United States of America, at the plenary meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on 17 September 1959, the United States intends to make this question an insurmountable obstacle to

^{1/} This statement is reproduced verbatim at the speaker's request under Rule 92(b) of the Rules of Procedure.

achieving agreement on the cessation of tests. The United States of America is demanding that the number of visits of inspection should be determined on a scientific basis. In effect, this implies a revision of the conclusions and recommendations of the meeting of experts which took place at Geneva in July and August 1958. We consider that to review today something that was agreed yesterday is an unacceptable way of conducting discussions. Those who raise the question of revising the Geneva agreements are acting only out of a desire to prevent the cessation of tests, in other words the cessation of the construction of new and ever more destructive kinds of nuclear weapon.

"But let us return to the question of the international situation.

"In that same city of Geneva in May 1959, the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Soviet Union, the United States of America, the United Kingdom and France began its work, which is not yet completed. Although unfortunately the meeting has not yet succeeded in reaching agreement on the items which formally appear on its agenda, the very fact that such a meeting was **convened** is a striking indication of the relaxation of international tension. It is encouraging to note that this meeting has prepared a solution for a question as important as the establishment of a small body to examine the question of disarmament. The establishment of such a body with a membership of ten States - the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United States of America, the United Kingdom, France, Bulgaria, Italy, Canada, Poland, Romania and Czechoslovakia - has been approved by a resolution of the United Nations Disarmament Commission. Agreement on establishing, on a basis of parity, a small body to review the question of disarmament constitutes a distinct contribution to reducing international tension.

"The visit of Mr. Macmillan, the Prime Minister of Great Britain, to the Soviet Union was an important event. Particular significance also attaches to the visit of Mr. N.S. Khrushchev, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, to the United States of America and the forthcoming visit of Mr. Dwight D. Eisenhower, President of the United States of America, to the Soviet Union. The meetings between Mr. Khrushchev and the President of the United States may well result in a fundamental transformation of the relations between States and

may clear the way for the solution of such problems as the discontinuance of the cold war, disarmament, the prohibition of all types of atomic weapons, the extension of economic co-operation, the elimination of trade restrictions, and so on. Agreement on all these matters would deliver mankind from the threat of a new world war involving the use of all types of destructive weapons, and this is, in the final analysis, the most important consideration for the peoples of all continents.

"It is for just this reason that all peace-loving peoples are eagerly awaiting the meeting between the leaders of these two Great Powers. This is clearly the kind of event for which the world has been waiting. The meeting between the two heads of Government is also of great importance because the United States and the Soviet Union are the two leading world powers in atomic energy and in other advanced scientific and technical developments, such as rocket-building, artificial satellites, etc. You, gentlemen, fully realize the enormous importance which attaches to international co-operation, and in particular to co-operation between the Soviet Union and the United States of America, for the future peaceful development of mankind. The rejection of a policy of international co-operation has, in the past, led to dangerous consequences, to wars, destruction and suffering by many nations. In our age - the age of atomic and rocket techniques - war threatens mankind with ever more inevitable calamities.

"Thus it is of particular value and importance that the leaders of the two mightiest countries in the world, masters of the most advanced military techniques, should now be applying their efforts to eliminate these dangers and to achieve co-existence and the peaceful development of nations.

"Mr. President and gentlemen, I have drawn your attention to events which do not themselves yet mean the cessation of the cold war but which constitute definite grounds on which genuinely friendly relations among all States of the world can be based, without regard to the social systems existing in those States.

"This trend in international events allows us to hope that the activities of the International Atomic Energy Agency will become more fruitful than they have been till now.

"If the International Atomic Energy Agency is really interested in extending and reinforcing its activities - and we hope it is - then it too is bound to take action with a view to hastening the conclusion of an agreement on the prohibition of atomic weapons. In this connexion, the Soviet Union delegation has much satisfaction in mentioning the initiative taken by the Czechoslovak delegation, which this morning proposed^{2/} that the General Conference of the Agency should address an invitation to the countries concerned to apply their efforts to the prohibition of atomic weapon tests. For its part, the Soviet Union is prepared immediately to sign an agreement with the Western Powers on the permanent cessation of nuclear weapon tests. It would be difficult to overestimate the importance of such an agreement. It would be the first significant step towards the complete prohibition of atomic weapons, their elimination from national armaments and the destruction of stocks of such weapons.

"At every conference, the Soviet delegation speaks on the need to put an end to the atomic arms race and to prohibit atomic and hydrogen weapons. We are told in reply that we are merely indulging in propaganda or that we want the conference to discuss political questions. This is nonsense, of course. Surely it must be evident that as long as atomic weapons form part of national armaments, the general use of the atom for peaceful purposes cannot even be discussed and hence there can be no full-scale activity on the part of the Agency. Those who suggest that we should close our eyes to the continuation of the atomic arms race are inhibiting the development of the Agency's activities, whether they want to or not.

"The Soviet Union has more than once come forward with proposals on the disarmament question. This it still continues to do. Only a few days ago Mr. N.S. Khrushchev, the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, speaking to the United Nations General Assembly, placed before it a proposal for general and complete disarmament. We propose that all States should, over a four-year period, do away with all their armed forces and armaments, including atomic, hydrogen and other types of weapons of mass destruction, and should establish appropriate control measures.

^{2/} GC(III)/OR.26, paragraph 48.

"The adoption of this proposal would open up the widest prospects for the development of science and engineering for the benefit of all mankind, and particularly for the benefit of the economically less developed countries. Allow me to cite one example in this connexion.

"On 14 September 1959, a Soviet rocket conveyed a container of scientific apparatus and the pennant of the Soviet Union to the moon. With that achievement, mankind's age-old dream of reaching out to another planet was realized. And if Soviet scientists, engineers, technicians and workers were able to achieve such a fantastic shot in present circumstances, it can be imagined with what rapidity it would be possible, by combined effort, to advance in science and engineering, once the problem of disarmament had been solved, if all forces and resources were re-directed exclusively to peaceful construction.

"Gentlemen, the powerful atomic ice-breaker Lenin was recently completed and launched in the Soviet Union. This ship embodies important modern achievements of science and engineering. In this connexion, Mr. N.S. Khrushchev, the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, addressed the following appeal to the whole world:

"The launching of the ice-breaker Lenin, whose engine is now powered by nuclear energy, has also a symbolic significance. It is no accident that the Soviet people, who were the first in the world to put into operation an atomic power station, were also the first to build an atomic ice-breaker. In so doing, we have once again given visible proof that the Soviet people are fully determined to utilize the energy of the atom for peaceful purposes.

"Our atomic ice-breaker, the Lenin, will crush not only the ice of the oceans but also that of the cold war. It will open the way into the minds and hearts of the nations, calling them to turn from rivalry among States in the armaments race to rivalry in the use of atomic energy for the wellbeing of mankind, to fire the human mind and body and to create all that is necessary to meet the needs of mankind. We are prepared to co-operate with all peoples in the peaceful use of atomic energy and it would be a great pleasure to us if this appeal were taken up by all States."

"It is not only atomic vessels that we in the Soviet Union are now building. A number of large nuclear power stations are also under construction at Ulyanovsk and Voronezh and in the Urals. The construction and operation of these stations will provide a wealth of material on which the future rapid development of atomic power engineering will be based.

"Is all this feasible in other countries? Yes, definitely. In some countries it is even more essential than in the Soviet Union, for the simple reason that the USSR is extremely rich in such conventional forms of fuel as coal, oil and natural gas. However, there are many countries in the world where there is a severe shortage of fuel resources or no fuel whatever. As Dr. Homi Bhabha stated yesterday in his interesting talk, nuclear energy may already represent an economically feasible source of power for certain less developed countries possessing inadequate power resources for the development of their economies.

"To this end, we must apply nuclear energy exclusively for peaceful purposes. To achieve that, the States Members of the Agency must make their contribution; they could make their voices heard in demanding the prohibition of the use of atomic energy for military purposes and the complete channelling of the atom into the service of the peaceful needs of humanity. The sooner this is done the better, particularly for States possessing slender fuel resources.

"In the meantime, however, the end of the use of nuclear energy for military purposes is still not in sight. For example, the press is full of reports that France intends to proceed to atomic weapon tests in the Sahara in the near future. The peoples of Africa, particularly those in the regions immediately adjoining the Sahara, where the testing of the atomic bombs is planned, are seriously concerned at this action of the French Government. A reflection of this concern is the fact that the matter has been placed on the agenda of the fourteenth session of the United Nations General Assembly. We believe that the conduct of tests of this kind merely places fresh obstacles in the way of achieving agreement on the prohibition of nuclear weapons and the prohibition of tests of such weapons.

"The continuing use of atomic energy for military purposes is one of the principal obstacles in the way of a genuine expansion of the activities of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

"I cannot pass over a further circumstance which is having a deleterious effect on the development of the Agency's work, and that is that there are practically no applications to the Agency by Member States for the supply of fissionable materials, although it is common knowledge that the Agency has at its disposal 5 140 kg of nuclear fuel enriched up to 20 per cent. The Agency has no plans for the use of these materials. Translating the matter into commercial language, one may say that the goods are available but there is no demand for them. Why? On what grounds do States refrain from purchasing nuclear fuel? Why are there no applications from Member States for assistance in building, say, large or small nuclear power stations, or in the use of atomic energy in industry, transport, etc.? The answer to this question does not appear in the report of the Board of Governors (GC(III)/73).

"The USSR delegation considers that the indifference of Member States towards the types of assistance which I have indicated is to some extent explained by the fact that, for all but two or three countries, atomic power stations and atomic ships represent something new and untried, and therefore these countries are bound to display a certain prudence in the matter and to wait until countries which are more advanced in nuclear matters have accumulated experience in these fields.

"There is no doubt that this factor is holding back the demand for assistance in the construction of nuclear power stations or vessels. However, it is only a secondary factor. One of the main causes, in our view, is the fact that the strict control which the Agency wishes to exercise over the utilization of the assistance which it renders is repellent to States and prevents them from applying to the Agency. This is indeed entirely understandable, as the control measures proposed by the Agency in effect constitute intervention by the Agency in the internal affairs of States and an infringement of their sovereign rights.

"Gentlemen, what is it that arouses doubts and misgivings in many people when they consider the question of control? The Agency has thus

far not allotted a single gramme of the 5 140 kg of fissionable materials at its disposal, while there has already been established in the Agency's Secretariat a Department of Safeguards and Inspection, as it is called, whose duties include control of the use of these materials and which is made up of the Office of the Inspector General, the Division of Safeguards and the Division of Inspection.

"The Board of Governors is engaged on the urgent preparation of a comprehensive system of safeguards and inspection, which will even extend to uranium and to plutonium isotope separation plant. The Western Powers, as the discussion at the last series of meetings of the Board of Governors showed, are attempting to introduce safeguards in such a desperate rush as would give the impression that the Agency is already handling so many projects that their implementation may involve the risk of diversion of fissionable materials to military purposes.

"In considering the problems of controlling the use of atomic materials exclusively for peaceful purposes, the question also arises whether such control achieves its purpose. We of the USSR delegation answer this question in the negative.

"The uses of atomic energy are in fact at present developing in three directions. There are, for example, countries such as the Soviet Union, the United States of America and the United Kingdom. These Powers are in a position independently to produce nuclear source materials, concentrate them, and utilize them for peaceful or for military purposes without the assistance of anybody, and consequently without any control whatsoever by other States. There are also countries which are unable to use atomic energy independently and must rely on the assistance of other countries, provided under bilateral agreements. Experience of bilateral agreements shows that the United States, for example, links its atomic assistance to other countries with the imposition of a rather strict control of the use made by the latter of the nuclear materials and facilities provided. In contrast to this, the Soviet Union does not impose any kind of control in the bilateral agreements which it concludes. There are also countries which wish to obtain assistance in the form of

nuclear materials or facilities from, or through, the International Atomic Energy Agency. It is intended to make such assistance conditional upon the acceptance of a system of strict control.

"The overall picture is therefore as follows. A number of States have the power to produce nuclear materials in any quantity without control and to use them either for peaceful or for military purposes. Other States may have at their unrestricted disposal such fissionable materials as they are able to produce by their own efforts but may be subject to control in respect of the fissionable materials or the facilities which they obtain as assistance under bilateral agreements (with the exception of those concluded with the Soviet Union) or under agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency. Finally, a third group of States, working solely with nuclear materials supplied through the Agency, will be under full Agency control.

"I have described this matter in considerable detail in order to demonstrate the full absurdity of the situation which has arisen whereby one group of States is entirely free from control, a second group is under partial control, and a third group is under full control.

"Under the pressure of certain Powers, attempts are now being made to channel the Agency's attention towards control and safeguards questions and to make them the Agency's main task. As a large number of scientists and statesmen have justly pointed out, Agency controls and safeguards will, in fact, be imposed on those countries which, even if they have access to enough fissionable materials, will be unable in the coming years or even decades, owing to their present technical and economic weakness, to manufacture atomic weapons and still less to use them for military purposes. This becomes quite evident when it is remembered that requests for assistance in the form of fissionable materials and facilities will mostly come from less developed countries which do not possess a developed industry and are unable to manufacture nuclear weapons. On the other hand, countries which do possess such facilities are not and will not be recipients of Agency assistance, and will consequently be outside the range of that control upon which some countries - be it noted, incidentally, countries which will in fact not be subject to control themselves - are insisting. Thus, the Agency's safeguards

system is of no possible use as a means of controlling countries which are intent on embarking upon a nuclear armament programme.

"The proposed system in fact can only lead to the dominion of the strong over the weak. In this connexion, I must refer to a statement by Dr. Gunnar Randers, the prominent Norwegian scientist, who is well acquainted with the Agency's work, in his article in the April number of the "Bulletin of Atomic Scientists". Referring to control within the framework of the Agency, he comes to the conclusion that the only form of positive control is that prescribed for countries possessing no atomic weapons, no nuclear source materials and no means for the direct procurement thereof, and that it is thus the kind of control established by rich relations over poor.

"In this way, under the pretext of control, the nascent atomic industry in these countries could easily become dependent on various companies and corporations in the countries which are technologically most advanced. What purport to be safeguards against the possibility of producing atomic weapons would really become economic control over the development of atomic industry and science in the less developed countries, and possibly over their economies as a whole.

"This system which is now being introduced, in the absence of an agreement providing for the prohibition of nuclear weapons under international supervision, would have a one-sided character and would apply only to countries receiving assistance from the Agency. It would not prevent the more extensive use of atomic energy for military purposes since it would not affect the nuclear powers or countries which do not ask the Agency for assistance.

"The procedure for elaborating a system of control and safeguards which has been chosen by the Secretariat is also a matter for surprise. Under this procedure, the general principles for establishing control and safeguards were to be elaborated and approved by the Board of Governors here and now. It may well be asked why the Board of Governors, in which only a few Members of the Agency are represented, should approve the control and safeguards system. Why should that be done in the absence of all those Members of the Agency who will in future be subject to control?

The Soviet delegation proposes that the General Conference, and not the Board of Governors, should approve the draft general principles for establishing the control and safeguards system. Let those countries which will be subject to control express their views on the matter.

"The Soviet delegation would like to refer to two or three other questions. It is only too obvious that one of the serious shortcomings in the Agency's work is that, in defiance of common sense and the real state of affairs, a number of States are excluded from taking part in the Agency's activities. On the other hand, the Chiang Kai Shek clique is a Member of the Agency.

"The presence of a representative of the Chiang Kai Shek clique, which consists in fact of a private group of emigrants who have been driven from the mainland by the Chinese people and maintain themselves for the time being in Taiwan with United States assistance, cannot be regarded as lawful in the Agency any more than in any other international organization.

"Nor is it possible to accept as normal the fact that only South Korea is a Member of the Agency, while the People's Democratic Republic of Korea continues to be excluded. In violation of the Geneva Agreements on Indo-China, South Viet-Nam is also a Member of the Agency.

"We also cannot pass over in silence the discriminatory decision taken by the Board of Governors to reject the application by the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) for the grant of consultative status with the Agency. At the same time, two other international trade union organizations were granted consultative status. This is clear discrimination against a trade union organization which is, incidentally, the largest of the three. Moreover, on more than one occasion the Agency has already used the services of scientists and experts who are members of this organization. It is rather a strange state of affairs when members of the WFTU are accepted by the Agency as experts and yet the Agency refuses to recognise an organization which really exists and functions, enjoys consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural

Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Labour Organisation and is fully entitled to similar status with the Agency.

"The Soviet delegation has decided to put the question of the grant of consultative status to the WFTU forward as a separate item on the General Conference's agenda^{3/} and hopes that the General Conference will reconsider the decision of the Board of Governors in accordance with Article V of the Statute.

"Another defect in the Agency's work is the fact that on a number of questions the Secretariat has taken steps which cannot be regarded otherwise than as attempts to circumvent the Board of Governors. This happened, for example, with the allocation of the funds received by the Agency from the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance. The Secretariat did not even ask the Board's opinion on the technical aspects of the projects for which appropriations were made, but merely submitted a document for information. The grant of technical assistance to Members of the Agency is a question which should be decided by the Board of Governors and not by the Agency's Secretariat.

"I should also like to refer to the Agency's excessive preoccupation with administrative questions of all kinds, which results in an inflation of the administrative machinery at the expense of the scientific personnel, as well as to inefficient use of members of the Secretariat, unnecessary waste of funds and unjustified travel by administrative staff on numerous missions.

"The Agency is incurring unjustified expenditure by engaging a considerable number of consultants, who in fact become permanent members of the staff; furthermore, this is permitted at a time when not all the existing posts have yet been filled. This practice results in unnecessary expenditure and failure to observe the principle of equitable geographical distribution in engaging experts to carry out the Agency's tasks. We are impelled to utter a fully justified warning against the unhealthy tendency which is manifest in the inflation of the Agency's budget. The budget

^{3/} GC(III)/94.

submitted to the General Conference for approval^{4/} exceeds last year's budget by more than US \$ 600 000. We consider that there is no justification for this increase and that it outstrips the volume of the Agency's operational activities. The Soviet delegation will give its views on this question in the Programme, Technical and Budget Committee.

"Another feature of the Agency's work that I should like to refer to is the absence of publicity for the work of the Board of Governors. The Soviet representative has raised this question at meetings of the Board. In our view, it is time to make the Board's work open to the public, as is done in the case of the corresponding organs of the specialized agencies, and to stop holding meetings in camera. The meetings of the Board of Governors should not be closed meetings and its decisions and deliberations should take place in public. Representatives of the press should be admitted to the Board's meetings. In this way the Agency would receive assistance from the public in its work, for it would be easier for the Board of Governors and for the Agency's Secretariat to take decisions on many questions if they could hear the voice of public opinion. In many instances this would make it possible to avoid the mistakes and blunders which have occurred in the past two years of the Agency's work.

"It is true that during the past year the Agency has devoted more attention to practical activities than in the year before, and in a number of cases some progress has been made. In this connexion we may refer to the training of scientific and technical personnel, the convening of conferences, seminars and symposia and the grant of technical assistance to a number of Member States. However, the Agency has still done very little. Basically, its practical achievements in the space of two years amount to the following:

- (a) It has helped Japan to obtain three tons of natural uranium;
- (b) It has awarded 165 fellowships and selected 349 candidates for the receipt of fellowships;

^{4/} GC(III)/75.

- (c) In 1958, Agency fact-finding teams visited Latin America, Pakistan, Thailand and the United Arab Republic, Greece, Morocco and Tunisia. In 1959, missions visited Burma, Indonesia, Thailand and Ceylon, Japan, South Korea, South Viet-Nam and the Chiang Kai-Shek regime, Argentina, Brazil and Venezuela. In other words, a total of six missions was sent out. Plans have been made for the provision of technical assistance to a number of countries. In connexion with the organization of the above missions, the Soviet delegation has just one remark to make. For what reasons was the Chairman of the mission to the Latin American countries sent to Washington both before and after the visit to Latin America? Why did the Secretariat have to send him to Washington both before and after?
- (d) The Agency has held 12 conferences, symposia and seminars;
- (e) The Agency has published a manual on the safe handling of radioisotopes and directories of reactors and nuclear electronics;
- (f) The Agency has collected a variety of information which may prove useful in the future.

"That is, in fact, the sum total of the Agency's practical work.

"The results achieved in the Agency's two years of activity in no way justify its enormous expenditure, even taking into account the expenses entailed during the period of initial organization.

"I wish to make one further remark about the statement made by the Director General today. The Soviet Union delegation has not had time to study that statement and reserves the right to comment on it if necessary, but I would like to make one observation about it now.

"At one point the Director General said 'Atomic power is not yet generally economic'^{5/}. Firstly, this assertion seems to us premature. And secondly, on the basis of what data, for what countries and in relation to what conditions was it made? On the basis of what work of the Secretariat and by what scientists has the general conclusion been reached

^{5/} GC(III)/OR.26, paragraph 26.

that atomic energy is at present not generally economic? It seems to us that the Director General has been a little too hasty with his statement for, as anyone who was at the lecture yesterday and heard the delegate of India knows, under certain conditions and in certain countries atomic energy can be very important and even now can compete with electricity produced from thermal or hydroelectric sources.

"The Soviet Union regards the Agency as an organ of international collaboration and co-operates with it at all times. It has concluded with the Agency an agreement for the supply of uranium-235.^{6/} Students and scientists have been sent by the Agency to train in the Soviet Union, and Soviet experts have gone out to a number of Member States to provide assistance free of charge and to work out plans and measures for the utilisation of atomic energy for peaceful purposes. The USSR has earmarked 500 000 roubles for technical assistance to the Agency's less developed Member States.

"The Soviet Union will continue to take an active part in the Agency's work. In its view, the Agency's activities should be based on the principles of business-like collaboration and goodwill, principles which preclude decisions being imposed by an automatic majority. On that depends the success of the Agency's work.

"The Soviet delegation trusts that the Agency's conference will be fruitful."

2. The PRESIDENT observed that, although it might be impossible to exclude all reference to political issues from the general debate, it was highly desirable that speakers should avoid such references to the greatest possible extent.

3. Mr. LOPEZ (Argentina) said that during the year which had elapsed since the last session of the General Conference, the Agency's progress had been significant, if modest. The preliminary stage of its existence had come to an end and all its efforts must now be devoted to making a success of the 1960 programme. A certain period of consolidation was necessary and the

^{6/} INFCIRC/5.

scientific side of its work, together with its technical assistance activities, had to be organized on a permanent basis. The Agency was wise in not trying to construct too hastily.

4. Argentina had been glad to participate in the work of the Board of Governors in 1959 and to help in drawing up the 1960 programme. The work done had been considerable. Missions had gone to various parts of the world and experts had been sent to help in organizing atomic energy programmes. At the present phase of the Agency's activities the Government of Argentina believed that the Agency should concentrate on technical assistance work, providing experts and equipment, and that it should continue to arrange for the exchange of scientists and the provision of fellowships. Compared with the programmes of some specialized agencies, the Agency's programme was modest. However, the quality of the advice and services supplied had been extremely high and the technical assistance programme would undoubtedly be gradually extended.

5. Atomic energy had only recently begun to be utilized for peaceful purposes. Some countries were already very advanced in that field, others had made some progress, yet others had begun to realize its potentialities and there were some which had not so far been able even to make a start. Argentina was one of the more advanced countries and was in a position to help, through the intermediary of the Agency, those countries which did not yet have programmes of their own. In 1959 it had been happy to put a considerable number of fellowships - almost all taken up - at the Agency's disposal; it was also providing facilities for an international course on the application of radio-isotopes which would be held from 9 November to 18 December 1959 and had offered the services of experts, one of whom had been placed at the disposal of the Government of Venezuela.

6. He wished to emphasize again the importance his Government attached to the Agency's technical assistance programme.

7. The Agency could make a significant contribution to the scientific knowledge of mankind, and it should concentrate on research which was likely to give practical results, and avoid duplication.

8. Mr. KIM (Republic of Korea), recalling that from the outset the Republic of Korea had participated enthusiastically in the Agency's work, said that it was pleased to be able to express satisfaction with the policy which

had been followed. It had been a member of the Board of Governors for the year which was coming to an end and he was glad to pay tribute to the work accomplished by the Board.

9. In spite of its tragic recent history, the Republic of Korea had succeeded in rebuilding its system of education and was now trying to raise the standard of its science and technique. It gratefully acknowledged the help received from friendly States in training engineers and technicians for various branches of work connected with atomic energy.

10. At the beginning of 1959 an Atomic Energy Authority and a research institute had been set up and a radioisotope research section would shortly be established. A small research reactor would be completed by the end of 1959 under a bilateral agreement with the United States of America. Any fundamental research which could contribute to the advancement of science was also being encouraged.

11. The Republic of Korea had an abundance of ores, including uranium and thorium, and the working of the latter formed an important part of its atomic energy programme. Being a less developed country, its economic policy had to be based on a realistic appreciation of conditions as they were. In that connexion, it had been very glad to receive the visit of an Agency preliminary mission in June 1959. Visits from such missions would always be welcome.

12. He hoped the Conference would study the question of setting up regional training centres and also see if work in certain branches of nuclear research could not be assigned to the less developed countries. The example of the regional training centre for Latin America should be followed in other areas, including the Far East and South-East Asia. Such centres would not only help to improve technological and industrial conditions but also lead to greater co-operation between the Governments concerned. It should also be borne in mind that the award of contracts to the less developed countries for research on subjects which particularly concerned them would greatly stimulate their research activities.

13. Mr. ORTIZ TIRADO (Mexico) remarked that another year in the Agency's history had plainly shown that genuine international co-operation was beginning to yield some of the fruits expected from the spread of the peaceful uses of

atomic energy throughout the world. It was now possible to move confidently on to further achievements, given faith in their purpose and the efforts and understanding of all nations in furthering the common work from which they, without doubt, would increasingly benefit.

14. It augured well that a number of Member States had already submitted requests for assistance which the Agency was beginning to meet within the limits of its budget. The annual report of the Board of Governors showed how the resolutions of the second session of the General Conference on vital activities of the Agency were being implemented. Co-ordination of its activities with those of the United Nations and the specialized agencies was beginning to show results. The Agency's participation in the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and its agreements with the specialized agencies provided solid bases for fruitful international co-operation.

15. It could not be considered other than an act of international justice to accord priority in the Agency's work to activities for the benefit of the less developed countries. The counsels of the Scientific Advisory Committee which had been established would be most valuable in so far as they were based on sound scientific and technical considerations and the Board and the Director General continued to pursue the objectives laid down in the initial programme recommended by the Preparatory Commission.^{7/} While the training of technicians, experts and research workers was proceeding more rapidly than before, the number trained, though gratifyingly large, was not yet enough to keep pace with the urgent demands created by population pressure throughout the world, the use of new sources of energy and the drive for constant improvement.

16. The large number of requests for Agency assistance in regard to health and safety measures was not surprising because it was generally realized that radioactive substances must be handled by really competent experts if mankind was to be protected from the dangers of uncontrolled irradiation. The Agency's activities in that connexion were invaluable and all he had to suggest was that the studies already under way be completed as rapidly as possible, without prejudice to their quality and the performance of other necessary work.

^{7/} GC.1/1.

17. He had noted with the greatest interest the efforts made to find a solution for the problem of waste disposal, particularly disposal into the sea. Apart from the widespread misgivings on scientific and technical grounds about the possible risks involved in that method of waste disposal, the alarm felt by the general public must also be borne in mind. The Conference on the Law of the Sea, held in Geneva in 1958, had concluded that it was the duty of every State to take steps to avoid contamination of the sea by disposal of radioactive waste, in accordance with rules and regulations to be laid down by the competent international agencies. He accordingly believed it of vital importance for the Agency to pursue its studies on the matter with the utmost dispatch so as to put definitive regulations at the disposal of States as early as possible.

18. Without underestimating the efforts of the scientists concerned, one could not deny that research teams had not as yet succeeded in establishing exact criteria regarding the possible harmful genetic effects of irradiation or in determining the maximum permissible doses for human beings. It being one of the loftiest duties of Governments to protect the health of their peoples, it was entirely legitimate to hope that the Agency would do its utmost to stimulate and support such work, and at the same time to disseminate the latest information on the subject.

19. On the most important question of safeguards, the possibility that the Agency might assume responsibility for administering safeguards prescribed in bilateral agreements and not merely those it itself established was a highly attractive one. His delegation wished to emphasize how important it was that the work already done by the Board of Governors in preparing draft principles for the application of safeguards should ultimately lead to definitive regulations which would give Member States intending to submit requests for assistance a clear idea of the obligations they would have to assume in respect of certain types of assistance offered by the Agency and would, at the same time, enable the Agency to apply uniform safeguards in all similar cases.

20. The provision of technical assistance was still regarded by the Mexican delegation as one of the most important of the Agency's functions and a valuable means for enabling countries, particularly the less developed countries, to institute or pursue national atomic energy programmes. Mexico accordingly

continued to attach primary importance to the fellowship programme and, despite its gradual expansion, was of the opinion that the Board of Governors and the Director General should intensify their efforts to ensure even better results. New criteria to govern the granting of fellowships, plans to grant them in such a form that the holders could subsequently work together in groups where desirable, and a scheme for improving qualifications at the sub-professional level, might all be considered.

21. It was also desirable to study ways and means of appreciably increasing the number of fellowships offered, in view of the wide gap between the needs of the less developed countries and the help the Agency was at present in a position to offer them. Such an increase should, however, be achieved without laying an additional financial burden on those countries whose financial resources were as small as their training needs were great. His delegation might be submitting draft resolutions on those matters as a constructive contribution towards improving the services rendered by the Agency to less developed countries.

22. The preliminary assistance missions despatched at the request of certain Governments had proved most valuable and led to the drawing up of specific programmes conforming to the actual needs of the countries concerned. It would be a fitting consummation of the work of the missions for the Agency to provide the experts, equipment and other assistance requested.

23. He also thought that the Director General should go further afield in the visits he was making to Member States in order to establish direct contact with their Governments and the officials in charge of the development of national atomic energy programmes. Visits of the kind were especially necessary in the case of countries far distant from the Agency's headquarters.

24. He had listened with the greatest attention to the Director General's statement and wished to pay a tribute to the zeal with which he had discharged his functions.

25. The diversification of the Agency's activities, essential for its normal development, merited encouragement and support, with due regard to the views of those Members who ardently desired effective aid in improving their national

programmes, so as to enable the less advanced countries to press forward with the development of the peaceful uses of atomic energy as far as was consonant with their special circumstances.

26. In its constant preoccupation with the problem of shortage of personnel, Mexico had taken every opportunity to send staff abroad for training and the National Atomic Energy Commission and the National University had organized basic courses on radioisotopes (including the manufacture of the necessary equipment). On their return, staff thus trained trained others and carried out experimental work. In that way, technical training was being extended throughout the country and additional training centres were being formed in local universities and institutes, which had been provided with the requisite equipment.

27. Promising results had been obtained in prospecting for uranium-bearing ores, and plans were in preparation for setting up processing plants. Work was going forward on setting up and developing laboratories dealing, inter alia, with radiological protection, the uses of radioisotopes, electronics, radiobiology and inorganic chemistry. Studies preparatory to the drawing up of an integrated programme covering the various peaceful uses of atomic energy were also being pursued with the utmost vigour.

28. It was Mexico's intention to take as active a part as possible in the Agency's work. With that idea in mind, it had put forward its candidature for the seat on the Board of Governors which Argentina would be vacating.

29. The PRESIDENT, noting that there were no further speakers for the time being, suggested that the list of speakers in the general debate be closed at noon the following day, closure of the list would not apply to discussion of the draft resolution introduced by Czechoslovakia at the 26th meeting.

30. It was so agreed.

The meeting rose at 4.45 p.m.