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STATEMENT TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE BY THE JAPAN ATOMIC INDUSTRIAL FORUM, INC.

Pursuant to Rule 3(d) of the Rules on the Consultative Status of Non-Governmental Organizations with the Agency,^{1/} the Director General is herewith transmitting to the General Conference, for its information, the attached written statement by the Japan Atomic Industrial Forum, Inc., a non-governmental organization, to which the Board of Governors granted consultative status on 22 June 1960.^{2/}

^{1/} INF/CIRC/14.

^{2/} GC(IV)/INF/32.

STATEMENT OF THE JAPAN ATOMIC INDUSTRIAL FORUM

1. It is a great privilege for the Japan Atomic Industrial Forum to be represented by its observer at the fourth regular session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency as the first industrial non-governmental organization having consultative status with the Agency. It is an honor to be given the opportunity to make a statement on this occasion.
2. The Japan Atomic Industrial Forum was founded about four years ago rather like its American counterpart. The Japan Forum now comprises more than 760 member companies and integrates the effort and contribution of industry to the peaceful uses of atomic energy in Japan.
3. It may have already been brought to your attention that industry in Japan has been interested in a scheme of introducing the generation of nuclear power on a purely commercial basis. Furthermore, research in the uses of radiation and radioisotopes in industry has developed considerably. We now have more than 200 industrial concerns which make use of radioisotopes and radiation.
4. Against a favorable background of such active participation of industry in this new and promising field of science and technology, the Japan Forum is competent to represent voices of industry and communicate them to interested countries and organizations. The Japan Radioisotope Conferences, sponsored by the Forum, which have been held three times at international level, are examples of the Forum's competence in the nation's overall development and utilization of atomic energy for peaceful purposes. The Forum has greatly benefited from various activities of the Agency and we are pleased to state that the Forum, working in consultation with the Agency, can now contribute to further progress in the Agency's activities by informing the Agency of industrial interests.
5. The atomic energy development program of Japan is limited entirely to peaceful purposes and is basically of a commercial nature. Thus it can be said that we have obtained and will obtain unique experience in our development of "commercial" atomic energy and our experiences will prove extremely valuable to those countries which are also expecting to work out atomic energy development programs similar to that of Japan. By the term "commercial" here,

that program of atomic energy development is meant which is based primarily on the long-term consideration of the country's overall economy, including such factors as the supply of energy in the future and the cost of power. This consideration is entirely independent of any other factors such as incentives arising from the national interest.

6. As we are working from such a "commercial" point of view, judgment on proper timing for starting the construction of a variety of nuclear facilities or judgment on the scale and size of any project cannot be a mere imitation of those in the so-called advanced countries. Of course, industrial application of atomic energy is not free from general difficulties inherent in the atomic field.

7. There are too many unknowns in this field, and the lack of practical experience over a long period and the speed with which technology advances tend to emphasize the unpredictable nature of these unknowns. For instance, no one can tell for certain whether or not a drastically more efficient method of uranium enrichment can materialize in ten to 20 years' time. It is easy to understand that such risks are all the greater if one tries to depend on commercial nuclear power, because a commercial nuclear program cannot take refuge in the benevolent and practically limitless government budget.

8. In spite of these difficulties, Japan has started producing nuclear power commercially mainly due to the present high cost, rapidly increasing demand and future situation of power supply. Recently the Japan Forum has concentrated an enormous amount of effort in formulating a long-range development program. This program tries to place the role of nuclear power in its proper perspective and takes into account future oil, coal and natural water resources.

9. An attempt is being made to envisage all phases of atomic development in industry within the next 20 years. In spite of the special nature of our program we believe that our basic approach to the peaceful uses of atomic energy from a commercial standpoint is one which we will have in common with many other countries of the world.

10. These are the experiences which enable the Japan Forum to make a contribution to the Agency. We expect that the Agency's activities will help the

Japan Forum to carry out a progressive program. In order that the Agency may know what Japanese industry has in mind, it would be useful to mention several points in connection with the Agency's own program.

11. First of all, the future supply of enriched uranium is one of the main concerns of those who wish to embark on a long-range nuclear power generation program. As the Statute of the Agency provides in Article III.1 and 2, the Agency is authorized to supply enriched uranium, which should be sufficient for the immediate future. If one is serious in the intention of working out a long-range program, it is quite natural that one should wish to have at least the assurance of fuel material supply covering the period of the next ten to 20 years. Since the demand for enriched uranium in our program is increasing at a surprising rate, the tonnage of enriched uranium required in the distant future may well exceed the present ability of the Agency to supply such an amount. In this connection, we have a great deal to expect from the future expansion of the Agency's activities in this direction.

12. Article III.5 of the Agency's Statute provides the Agency with the important function of establishing and administering safeguards. An appropriate and workable system of safeguards requires a fund of practical experience. We would recommend a cautious start and flexible procedures. We have little experience of the value of various safeguards and consequently cannot say how this will affect our program in the future. For example, we have very little idea as to what kind of safeguard system is to be applied to full-scale commercial reactors.

13. In addition, we would like to request the Agency to take up one of its major responsibilities in establishing internationally acceptable common sense in the field of the peaceful uses of atomic energy. One example is the problem of nuclear liability. We are willing to accept the world-wide tendency to channel liability to those parties which are responsible for the operation of reactors and not to place liability responsibilities on the manufacturers. However, regulations on nuclear liability differ from one country to another on some points, and it will be found that it is necessary to have a basic philosophy agreed by different countries of the world. We think that the same could also be the case with liability for nuclear propelled ships, standards for reactor safety and radiation protection.

14. We realize that a number of important points are still left undecided or unaccepted and that sometimes disagreement still exists even on the method of dealing with such points. We welcome conferences and panels sponsored by the Agency as they help establish internationally acceptable common sense on such subjects as waste disposal and transportation of fuel.

15. The Forum is in a position to emphasize the importance of communicating opinions of industry in such discussions, agreements or decisions at an international level. In this sense, we hope that other non-governmental organizations-working in such a way as ours will be granted the status with the Agency which the Japan Forum now enjoys, so that industry's contribution to the success of the Agency's program may become even greater.

16. Two major points have been mentioned: one is how we can contribute to the work of the Agency, and the other is what we expect from the Agency. This is, we believe, a unique but effective form of international co-operation, which is extremely important and almost indispensable for a balanced development of the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

