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President: Mr. NADJAKOV (Bulgaria)

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* GC(IV)/130.

The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document
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GENERAL DEBATE AND REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR 1959-60 (CC(IV)/114, 126 and Corr.1) (continued from the 38th meeting)

1. Mr. McKNIGHT (Australia) said atomic energy had many facets and raised many and difficult problems. It was not yet extensively employed for power generation, but the possibility of doing so was being studied in the research institutions of many countries. Some 160 reactors were at present in operation throughout the world; countless laboratories, hospitals and industries were using radioisotopes, while other institutions were doing research on nuclear materials.
2. The need to regulate and control atomic activities - with special reference to ensuring the health and safety of persons and the prevention of accidents involving damage to property - was thus becoming increasingly evident. The Agency had already done much in regard to health and safety, but much remained to be done in regard to insurance, third party liability, reactor safety - and in passing on the results of what had already been done. Regulations and procedures must be standardized; and international codes must be based on the same principles and applied throughout the world. In that connection, the Agency should co-operate with bodies like the International Organization for Standardization.
3. During the coming years the Agency should concentrate on that type of work rather than disperse its efforts in other activities which, however tempting, it might at present be premature to undertake.
4. One of the fascinations of atomic energy was that it offered mankind a new source of power, with vast potentialities, that would ultimately provide power more efficiently and economically. The fact must be faced, however, that, at present, nuclear power was less economic than power from conventional sources. There was also the problem of the reliability of nuclear power generators; despite considerable progress in the design and operation of nuclear reactors, much remained to be done, particularly in regard to fuel elements.
5. Australia fortunately had time to do research on nuclear reactors because it was not short of conventional power resources, and was concentrating its research mainly on new methods of reactor construction and on determining the stability of nuclear materials for use in future power reactors. He could

claim without false modesty that, in the latter regard, Australian research workers were with the vanguard. In particular, their work now seemed to indicate that there was a close connection between the behavior of materials under irradiation and the methods of fabrication.

6. Australia was primarily interested in high temperature gas-cooled reactors, and in that connection he emphasized the considerable importance of beryllium and its oxide, beryllia. Little was known about the nuclear properties of beryllium but the problem of preparing it in a pure form had now to a large extent been mastered. However, material testing was long and arduous and it would take much time and effort before the new types of reactor were available to supply economical, efficient and reliable nuclear power. In the meantime, research workers, engineers and technologists capable of ensuring nuclear power development in the coming years must be trained; Australia had already made its arrangements and had been pleased to receive Agency fellowship-holders from other countries.

7. Radioisotopes opened up interesting possibilities in agriculture, medicine and industry, and their use should be encouraged, together with the exchange of research results.

8. He suggested that, as a new regulatory activity, the Agency might ask countries to supply information and reports about accidents and near-accidents, and circulate it to Member States; certain accidents could be avoided by a knowledge of the experience of others.

9. Mr. WERSHOF (Canada) recalled that the Conference was reviewing the Agency's activities for the period 1959-60 which really constituted its first year of normal operation. The pattern of those activities would doubtless serve as a guide in the shaping of future programs.

10. As the Director General had pointed out, it seemed that the demand for nuclear power was not developing as fast as had been originally expected. But intensive research in an increasing number of countries might alter that situation at any time. In Canada, for example, the scientists working on the structure of the atom had just produced what they called a "nuclear molecule". Although that was far from having any immediate practical application, it nevertheless illustrated the insights into the nature of nuclear energy which patient laboratory work would yield.

11. Canada was also pioneering in the production of nuclear power. A 20 000 kW(e) prototype reactor under construction would be completed in 1961. On the shores of Lake Huron, work had commenced on a 200 000 kW(e) nuclear power station which would go into operation in 1964 or 1965; its construction even before the prototype reactor had been tested showed Canada's confidence in the natural uranium, heavy-water-type reactor which Canada believed would soon produce electric power at a competitive price.

12. In view of the vast amount of investigation required, the Agency had an important part to play in encouraging exchanges of experience and information. It was also in a unique position to devise a framework of regulations for the day when nuclear installations would be operating on a large scale all over the world. Little had yet been done in that regard, and States had not yet adopted rigid attitudes. Moreover, international conformity was clearly desirable, and international co-operation could bring great benefits.

13. The Agency had already made good progress towards producing health and safety codes; was investigating the containment and disposal of radioactive waste; was collaborating with the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation in studying the effects of radiation exposure and had offered to analyze samples with a view to determining the degree of radioactive contamination; and was working on the formulation of minimum international standards with regard to liability for damage attributable to land-based nuclear installations and nuclear-propelled vessels - all activities which would increase confidence in the potential benefits of atomic energy. An essential element of that confidence was the principle, enshrined in the Statute, that the activities in question should serve peaceful purposes exclusively. The Canadian delegation paid tribute to the efforts made by the Board to apply that principle in the formulation of safeguards procedures.

14. Canada fully realized the difficulties the Board had to contend with in working out a system of safeguards against the diversion of Agency assistance to other than peaceful purposes. Despite those difficulties, the Board had steered a fair and proper course, basing itself on a reasonable interpretation of the concept of safeguards laid down in the Statute. Member States, in accepting the Statute, had pledged themselves to ensure that assistance made

available through the Agency would not be diverted to military uses. That example would, he hoped, commend itself to Member States when concluding bilateral agreements. Canada, for its part, had included safeguards in its bilateral agreements and was now negotiating with some of its partners - including Japan - regarding the possibility of transferring the administration of such safeguards to the Agency as soon as the Agency was in a position to accept the responsibility.

15. Canada hoped the Agency's operational program would continue to be directed towards using nuclear energy for peace and progress. It was in that spirit that the Canadian Government had established at Chalk River a reactor school which provided basic instruction in the design, construction and operation of nuclear reactors. He was happy to announce that the school had accepted applicants for its present course from thirteen countries, ten of whom were sponsored by the Agency.

16. One main objective of the operational program was to keep the less-developed countries abreast of nuclear progress and bring about conditions in which they could benefit from it on a fair and equitable basis. He noted with regret that many Member States had not given the operational program the support it deserved. Total voluntary contributions in 1959 had not reached 80% of the target; the 1960 contributions were even more discouraging, the total to date being only just over 60% of the target. It was to be hoped that Governments would in future make voluntary contributions in proportion to their ability and, as far as possible, in a form readily usable for an agreed program which, of necessity, must reflect a balance of the different interests of Member States in the various aspects of the Agency's work.

17. Special contributions offered to the Agency from time to time were, of course, welcome in principle, for they represented a definite indication of interest. In some cases, however, they had the effect of attaching special weight to a particular activity and so tended to distort the balance of the program as a whole.

18. Whatever the short-term outlook for the atom as a competitive source of power might be, there could be no doubt that its long-term possibilities were vast. In the meantime, manifold activities were open. But the Agency,

in drawing up its programs, must establish and observe certain priorities, concentrating on the tasks which were particularly appropriate to it as an international organization; in that way would it be most likely to continue to command the support and active participation of all its Members.

19. Mr. EMELYANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said his delegation had noted the Agency's activities during the past year with satisfaction. It had organized many scientific conferences and symposia, published technical directories, organized training courses and granted a considerable number of fellowships (356 in 1959 and 373 in 1960). The services of experts had been made available to a number of countries and 17 States had received scientific equipment. Preliminary assistance missions had gone to 36 countries. Useful work had also been done as regards the use of radioisotopes and in the collection and exchange of various types of technical information.

20. During the preceding three years, there had been 14 bilateral agreements between the Soviet Union and other countries, under the terms of which the Soviet Union had supplied 1 800 kg of enriched uranium fuel elements and a considerable amount of other materials, equipment and apparatus. With Soviet Union assistance, seven countries had begun to operate seven experimental reactors ranging between 2 000 and 10 000 kW(t) and six particle accelerators. With that equipment, it had been possible to establish new research centers. Institutes, laboratories and industrial undertakings in the Soviet Union had trained some 1 300 engineers and technicians from States that had concluded bilateral agreements with it.

21. Over much the same period, between September 1955 and the end of 1959, the United States Atomic Energy Commission had delivered 309 kg of uranium²³⁵ to foreign countries for reactors and for research. Under bilateral agreements, with Government assistance, it had arranged for the construction in 1957 and 1958 of 15 research reactors, 11 of which were of less than 100 kW(t) and 4 of between 1 000 and 5 000 kW(t).

22. The primary purpose of the Agency was "to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world". Three years had passed, and the Agency had not even begun to carry out that fundamental duty. No Member State had in fact received a single gram of the 5 140 kg of uranium²³⁵ at the Agency's disposal.

23. The Soviet Union was in favor of granting assistance on a bilateral basis - always provided that no conditions impinging on their sovereign rights were imposed on the receiving countries. Of the 309 kg of uranium²³⁵ sold or leased by the United States to other States, more than 230 kg had been supplied to France, Canada and the Federal Republic of Germany, the balance being delivered to various other European States. Of the less-developed countries, the Federation of Malaya was the only one to have received a gift of uranium²³⁵ - amounting to less than 10 grams - from the United States. In point of fact, the less-developed countries were not anxious to obtain assistance from States which insisted on laying down totally unacceptable conditions.

24. It was not easy for a less-developed State to buy or rent nuclear materials for the construction of a test or experimental reactor above a given power rating if delivery of the source and special fissionable material was subject to the condition that the supplier State must have access to all operating records, receive reports on the way in which the material was utilized and have the right to appoint inspectors with access to all sites where such material was used and to all experimental, scientific or research results. Scientists in countries receiving assistance under such agreements no longer had power over their own inventions and discoveries, and the States themselves had to pay the very highest price - their own sovereignty.

25. A French legal expert, analyzing the bilateral agreements concluded by the United States, stated that the system of inspection laid down in the agreements was unilateral and all-embracing. Under agreements concluded with the United States in 1956, the Netherlands, Australia and Switzerland were required to cede to the United States all rights and advantages deriving from the inventions or discoveries made on the basis of information obtained from the United States or with the use of equipment or nuclear material supplied by it. Those draconian conditions, said the legal expert, were giving rise to increasingly violent protests by countries that received United States aid. Those conditions were indeed frightening off many States, particularly those that had recently become independent; they rightly feared that such conditions would deprive them of their dearly-bought liberty and sovereignty.

26. Soviet Union assistance to other countries rested on entirely different principles. It was not subject to any condition that might impinge on the sovereign rights of States; and the fact that receiving States in accepting the Statute undertook not to use such assistance for military purposes was regarded as a sufficient safeguard against its being diverted to non-peaceful ends. That was why the Western atomic powers, faced with the growing indignation of countries receiving assistance under conditions that infringed their sovereign rights, were anxious to substitute Agency control for the control they were themselves exercising over those countries. They obviously expected to be able to continue to exercise their own control under cover of international control.

27. Thus, the real purpose of drawing up and installing a system of Agency safeguards was to subject the development of atomic energy in the less-developed countries to the atomic monopolies of the United States and its allies.

28. The Conference had before it a document on Agency safeguards^{1/} which was far from having been unanimously approved by the Board. In fact, seven Members had either abstained or taken no part in the vote; four of them, representing the areas of Africa and the Middle East, South Asia, South East Asia and the Pacific, and the Far East, had expressed their opposition to the safeguards proposed.

29. As far as the Soviet Union was concerned, its representative on the Board had always supported the countries which stood in need of atomic assistance in view of the fact that the countries likely to receive Agency assistance were precisely the countries to which safeguards would be applied. A system of Agency safeguards would be meaningless unless nuclear weapons were forbidden, their manufacture stopped and all stocks destroyed; otherwise, the application of the system would in practice amount to dividing the world into the inspecting countries -- those possessing nuclear weapons -- and the inspected -- mainly the less-developed countries.

^{1/} GC(IV)/108/Rev.1.

30. A glance at the draft program and budget for 1961^{2/} would show that the considerable increase requested in the regular budget was due to the Secretariat's tendency to inflate salaries and finance more and more contract work that was quite irrelevant to the Agency's basic objectives. His delegation believed the Agency should aim primarily at making the most of its resources and should:

- (a) Use the fissionable material at its disposal for the construction of test, research and experimental reactors, particularly in the less-developed countries;
- (b) Use its financial resources to obtain scientific equipment and apparatus for countries needing it for their nuclear physics laboratories;
- (c) Use the specialists at its disposal to a greater extent for the training of key personnel, particularly in the less-developed countries;
- (d) Use the consultants made available by the Soviet Union and the United States in such a way that their knowledge and experience was made available to countries which needed them to develop the peaceful uses of atomic energy; and
- (e) Enlarge the scope of its scientific and technical information program to include questions which were most topical and of interest to all Member States.

31. In spite of international tension and the intensification of the cold war, the forces of peace, led by the Soviet Union, were doing their utmost to extend international co-operation in science and technology. The Soviet Union was known to favor widespread collaboration between all countries in the peaceful uses of atomic energy. It had agreed that the Finnish request for uranium for a sub-critical assembly should be met. It had already given specialist training to eighteen fellowship-holders from Member States, and seven others were studying in Soviet higher educational establishments on long-term fellowships; the total cost involved was over a million roubles.

^{2/} GC(IV)/116.

32. The greatest obstacle to the extensive employment of atomic energy was that material resources and the knowledge of scientists were at present being used to sow death and destruction, not to serve peace and progress. Only if nuclear weapons were prohibited, their development stopped and nuclear stockpiles destroyed could the Agency prosper. Only then would laboratories working in secret open their doors to scientists from all over the world and the results of scientific achievement be made available to everyone. The cessation of nuclear tests must necessarily be the first practical step. That should be the aim of all Members of the General Conference.

33. Mr. FOCACCIA (Italy) said his delegation approved the Board's report, which made a sound analysis of the Agency's work during the period considered. He was pleased to note the importance attached to the training of specialists and technicians, the exchange of knowledge and information, and attempts to solve local problems.

34. He believed technical assistance should continue to be the Agency's main activity, taking the term to mean not only the aid given to a country by another which was advanced in the peaceful applications of nuclear energy but also mutual assistance between countries at the same level of development.

35. Research contracts, under which countries were invited to investigate specific problems and set up centers - open to foreign experts - to study them, stimulated national scientific research. For that reason, Italy was particularly interested, and had already concluded several contracts with the Agency: one for studying the radioactive contamination of marine organisms (awarded to the Fiascherino Oceanographic Laboratory of the National Nuclear Energy Committee); one for studying the biological concentration of radioisotopes and the biological effects of radiation in certain species of aquatic molluscs (the Committee's Ispra Medical Service) and a number for research in radiobiology (Physiological Institute of Perugia University and the Padua Institute of Comparative Anatomy).

36. The initial results of the study on the contamination of the sea had been presented to the Monaco Conference, jointly organized by the Agency and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), with the participation of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). However, the measures recommended by the Brynielsson Panel

on Radioactive Waste Disposal into the Sea could not be applied universally. For example, diffusion, solution and absorption were different in the Mediterranean from what they were in oceans. The Agency was in a position to find out what practically all experts working on those problems thought, and should undertake a broader and more detailed study, using for the purpose the laboratory and services which the Government of Monaco had offered to place at its disposal. It should also establish a system for supervising the disposal of radioactive waste into the sea.

37. Under the technical assistance program, Italy was helping to train personnel, and had sent experts to a number of countries requesting them. The National Nuclear Energy Committee, which had recently replaced the National Nuclear Research Committee, would continue to place ten fellowships at the Agency's disposal.

38. Italy was also interested in regulations for the transport of radioactive materials, nuclear power costing, and the study of civil liability for nuclear hazards.

39. A monopoly of the industrial applications of radioisotopes in the hands of a few countries would tend to widen the gap between the highly industrialized and the less-developed countries. To prevent it, the Agency should try to make such industrial applications better known, particularly in the less-developed countries.

40. His Government was glad to note the Agency's outstanding role in carrying out the agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union, and its contribution to progress and the maintenance of peace.

41. Mr. NOVACU (Romania) said he noted with pleasure that during the previous year the Agency had become an international center for the exchange of information on the peaceful uses of atomic energy. Its scientific and technical publications were highly appreciated by Romanian specialists, and its scientific meetings had given very encouraging results. The fellowship program had also made satisfactory progress; the increase in the number of fellowships from 218 in 1958 to 378 in 1960 showed that States were becoming more and more interested in the training of specialists.

42. He regretted, however, that, after three years of existence, the Agency was still unable to fulfill one of its main statutory functions -- that of supplying fissionable material. The explanation given in the Board's report was that nuclear power still cost considerably more than conventional power and that the world production of uranium was beginning to exceed the demand, resulting in a free market and falling prices. Without entirely disagreeing with that explanation, he felt the real reason why States did not apply to the Agency for fissionable materials was much more serious, namely the institution of a safeguards system whose provisions applied only to States needing assistance and left the supplying countries to do as they pleased. The unilateral character of that system derived from a policy of discrimination that was becoming more and more evident within the Agency. His delegation believed no system of guarantees could be effective in the absence of an agreement to ban nuclear weapon tests, cease their manufacture and destroy weapons already stockpiled.

43. Referring to the Board's proposal for an increase of about 6% in the regular budget, he pointed out that any such increase clearly entailed an increase in the contributions of Member States -- already a heavy enough charge on their own budgets. His delegation proposed that the program and budget resolution for 1961 should expressly provide that the 1961 regular budget should not exceed the regular budget for the current year.

44. In Romania considerable progress had been made in the peaceful uses of atomic energy. Studies in reactor physics had made possible an increase of 50% in the maximum power and about 400% in the thermal neutron flux in some regions of the Romanian research reactor core. The research program had been extended to include beta and gamma spectroscopy and nuclear paramagnetism, the necessary equipment having been manufactured entirely in Romania. A 30 MeV betatron, designed for research on photoneuclear reactions and certain medical and technical purposes, had recently been put into service. A model for the study of power reactor dynamics was under construction.

45. In conclusion, he stressed that discrimination against certain States, particularly the People's Republic of China and the German Democratic Republic, must end if the Agency was to become a truly representative and effective international organization.

46. Mr. REGALA (Philippines) said his delegation was pleased to see the Agency's operational activities expanding, especially technical assistance; but their financing continued to be a problem. Only \$957 837 had so far been pledged of the 1960 target of \$1.5 million set for voluntary contributions to the General Fund. It was to be hoped that a satisfactory solution would eventually be found.

47. Gifts were one resource available to the Agency for its technical assistance program - gifts such as the services of experts, fellowships, and equipment. Under the latter heading, for example, was the offer made in 1960 by the United States to supply equipment to the value of \$200 000. The less-developed countries, the main beneficiaries, greatly appreciated such gifts and hoped they would continue to increase.

48. Preliminary assistance missions had proved beneficial both to the Agency and to the States visited. Contact was made with the national atomic energy authorities and data obtained on the spot, enabling the Agency to make a better assessment of needs and adjust its programs accordingly. The Philippines was pleased to have received one such mission, which had helped the Government to draw up its atomic energy program. Periodic visits by small groups at intervals of, say, three or four years could be very helpful.

49. The Agency's scheme for the exchange and training of scientists and experts merited the unqualified support of all Member States. The lack of qualified personnel continued to handicap atomic development in many countries, and while training was clearly the primary responsibility of the national authorities, facilities for such training would be chiefly confined to the advanced countries for years to come. It was therefore to be hoped that they would continue to place Type II fellowships at the Agency's disposal.

50. International and regional training courses organized by the Agency in existing national centers were also valuable. The experience gained would facilitate the creation of regional centers in the future. The Board had therefore been wise in approving, recently, the organization of radioisotope courses in Cairo, Greece and Turkey. He hoped it would do likewise if similar requests were received from the Far East or South East Asia.

51. Recognizing the importance of documentation and library services for the development of atomic energy, the Philippines had agreed to act as host to the South East Asia regional library workshop, to be organized by the Agency in November 1960. His Government hoped a large number of Asian countries would be represented.

52. His delegation also noted that the Agency was investigating the economics of importing, distributing and, finally, producing radioisotopes in the less-developed countries, and their value in determining the suitability of certain fertilizers for tropical and sub-tropical conditions. The results were eagerly awaited.

53. The Philippines Atomic Energy Commission was setting up an atomic research center, based on a 1 MW swimming-pool research reactor supplied by the United States under a bilateral agreement. Pending the opening of the center towards the end of 1961, the Commission was having the necessary scientists, research workers and technicians trained abroad and was itself organizing regular radioisotope training courses.

54. The Soviet Union delegate had referred to bilateral agreements between the United States and certain less-developed countries. The Philippines had one such agreement. Contrary to what the delegate of the Soviet Union had alleged, it contained no onerous provisions. The reactor and the scientific information supplied under the agreement would be of great service to the Philippines. In making that clear, he felt he was speaking for all States that had bilateral agreements with the United States.

55. The Philippines thanked the Agency for providing the Atomic Energy Commission with the services of an expert and with the nucleonic equipment for a radiochemistry laboratory and was glad a contract had been awarded to the research laboratory and the thyroid clinic of the University of the Philippines for research into the cause of endemic goiter in certain parts of the country.

56. The Government fully subscribed to the system of safeguards submitted to the Conference by the Board. If not perfect, it was as logical and realistic as could be expected in present circumstances; to be applied initially for two years, it could be improved in the light of experience.

57. During the session, the Philippines, Pakistan and other States would submit to the Conference a proposal to establish an international institute of theoretical physics where scientists from different parts of the world could work together on such subjects as reactor theory, high energy physics, plasma physics and thermonuclear fusion.

58. In token of its support of the Agency, the Government had decided to increase the amount of its voluntary contribution in 1961, and thereby associate itself modestly, but sincerely, with the Agency's efforts to "accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world". The Agency must be able to play its part in providing a solid basis for international peace and co-operation. It must also help to bridge the gap which, in nuclear technology, separated the advanced and the backward countries so that the great benefits deriving from the peaceful applications of atomic energy might become accessible to all nations.

59. Mr. SALAM (Pakistan) said it was a matter for satisfaction that the Agency was coming closer to the fulfillment of the objectives laid down in its Statute, and all Member States must support it. It had certainly done useful work in providing technical assistance, awarding fellowships, developing safety standards and arranging conferences and seminars, but that was not enough. It should in future place increasing emphasis on the development of research on all aspects of atomic energy.

60. To start with, the Agency could usefully promote research in theoretical physics. In that connection, his delegation and others proposed that the Agency should sponsor an international institute of theoretical physics. Such an institute would need no laboratories or costly apparatus; a modest building containing lecture halls and a library would be sufficient. The staff would work on nuclear theory, the theory of elementary particles, reactor theory and the theory of thermonuclear fusion. At first the institute would award about 50 fellowships a year, half to experienced physicists who would be granted one year's leave for the purpose by their respective institutes. A similar system had proved successful at the world-famous institutes in Copenhagen and Princeton.

61. The need for an international institute of that kind was particularly evident in the less-developed countries, where there were not enough theoretical physicists to permit the establishment of local research schools; the few physicists there were lived in enforced isolation, and lacked the stimulus that was provided by an interchange of ideas and experience with their colleagues. Institutes like those in Copenhagen, Princeton and Dubna did not meet the purpose. In his view, an active international center, sponsored by a body like the Agency, was required.

62. He had some comments to make on the Agency's training program. The procedure for awarding fellowships was not satisfactory. The Agency should prepare a list of each country's institutions, showing the available facilities, the minimum qualifications for entry and the number of places offered to the Agency. Member States would then correspond directly with those institutes and, once candidates had been accepted, approach the Agency for financial assistance if necessary. That procedure would save time and simplify the work of the Secretariat. The Agency should also earmark some funds for training laboratory technicians for the less-developed countries.

63. Funds allocated for the purchase of equipment should be placed at the disposal of Member States, which would do the purchasing themselves. They could be trusted to comply with the relevant Agency rules.

64. Although first-class experts were generally not available for long periods, the less-developed countries would still prefer them, even if only for short periods. Countries intending to establish laboratories also needed architects and nuclear engineers to design specialized buildings; the Agency could perhaps prepare a list of consultants.

65. Pakistan's bilateral agreements with the United States and Canada were voluntary, the two countries having offered to help in obtaining fissionable materials for peaceful uses. The United States would bear up to 50% of the cost of the research reactor Pakistan was constructing. Nothing in the agreements infringed the sovereignty of the recipient country.

66. Baron van LYNDEN (Netherlands) regretted that Mr. Eschauzier, who for two years had represented the Netherlands on the Board, had been unable, for health reasons, to attend the Conference which, incidentally, marked the end of the Netherlands' period of membership of the Board.

67. That membership had been very valuable to the Netherlands, enabling it to become familiar with the Agency's many problems during the period, and had strengthened its desire to see the Agency take a leading role amongst organizations dealing with the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

68. At the third regular session the Mexican delegation had suggested that it might be sufficient to hold the conference every two years,^{3/} as was the practice in several specialized agencies. However, since that would entail a number of amendments to the Statute, he thought no action should be taken pending revision of the Statute, which was to be considered in principle during the fifth regular session in 1961 and in detail in 1962.

69. In that connection, he warned the Conference against suggestions for altering or enlarging the composition of the Board, which the Conference on the Statute had fixed only after difficult and protracted negotiations.

70. His delegation considered the question of safeguards to be one of the most important on the present agenda. He recalled that Article XII of the Statute had been adopted with but one abstention. The safeguards system submitted by the Board to the Conference might not be perfect, but it did represent the best possible solution in the existing circumstances. His delegation hoped the Conference would share that view, take note of the principles and procedures approved by the Board^{4/}, and leave the Board to arrange for their detailed application and revision as experience dictated.

71. In view of the arguments suggesting that a general safeguards system would be valueless, the Netherlands welcomed the announcement that the United States Government was prepared voluntarily to accept the application of Agency safeguards to four reactors of less than 100 MW capacity^{5/}. It also welcomed Japan's readiness to accept Agency safeguards with regard to operations under its bilateral agreements with Canada and the United States^{6/}. His delegation hoped other countries would follow those examples.

^{3/} GC(III)/COM.1/OR.18, paragraph 17.

^{4/} GC(IV)/108/Rev.1.

^{5/} GC(IV)/OR.38, paragraph 41.

^{6/} Ibid., paragraph 45.

72. Replying to the Soviet Union allegations regarding bilateral agreements to which the United States was party, he endorsed the views of the delegate of Pakistan. The Netherlands had voluntarily concluded a similar agreement with the United States and had not been obliged to subscribe to onerous conditions. Neither had that agreement given rise to "growing indignation" in the Netherlands. It was perfectly natural that the results of research carried out under a bilateral agreement should be communicated to the other party. He doubted whether countries that had bilateral agreements with the Soviet Union had the right to keep secret from it the results of work undertaken under those agreements.

73. Among other Agency activities worthy of special mention were the studies on small and medium power reactors, waste disposal and civil liability. The Netherlands particularly welcomed the Agency's co-operation with the European Nuclear Energy Agency (ENEA) with a view to harmonizing the draft conventions on civil liability and State responsibility which each had prepared; the need for such co-operation provided the best argument for the draft relationship agreement between the Agency and ENEA which had been submitted to the Conference for approval^{1/}.

74. His delegation hoped the Agency would have an important part in preparing a third international conference on the peaceful uses of atomic energy if the United Nations decided to convene one. It also hoped the Agency would properly co-ordinate its activities with those of the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

75. The Agency could develop its operations on a wider and more solid basis by co-operating and co-ordinating, not only with the United Nations and the specialized agencies, but also with regional organizations doing similar or closely related work.

The meeting rose at 1.5 p.m.