



FIFTH REGULAR SESSION

## OFFICIAL RECORD OF THE FIFTY-THIRD PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Neue Hofburg, Vienna  
on Friday, 29 September 1961, at 10.45 a.m.

President: Mr. QUIHILLALT (Argentina)

### CONTENTS

<u>Item of the agenda*</u>		<u>Paragraphs</u>
11	General debate and report of the Board of Governors for 1960-61 (continued from the 52nd meeting)	1 - 99
	Statements by the delegates of:	
	Portugal	1 - 8
	Turkey	9 - 17
	Hungary	18 - 22
	Indonesia	23 - 34
	Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	35 - 50
	Australia	51 - 69
	United Kingdom	70 - 89
	Burma	90 - 99

\* GC(V)/171.

The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document GC(V)/INF/42/Rev.3.

GENERAL DEBATE AND REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR 1960-61 (GC(V)/154, 168)  
(continued from the 52nd meeting)

1. Mr. de LEMOS (Portugal) said the President represented a country with which Portugal had long maintained the warmest relations, and congratulated him on his appointment.
2. The work done during the early years of the Agency was now beginning to bear fruit and the Board's annual report (GC(V)/154), the Program and Budget for 1962<sup>1/</sup> and the Director General's statement<sup>2/</sup> held out promising prospects for the Agency's future; its technical work had really promoted the peaceful uses of atomic energy, and most Member States had been considerably helped.
3. He was especially glad to see the attention the program devoted to assisting laboratories in Member States through research contracts and providing more experts and equipment than hitherto.
4. The Agency's recommendations and reports on various technical aspects of nuclear energy very usefully complemented or extended the scope of the valuable work done by national atomic energy commissions and other international organizations.
5. Portugal needed an ever-increasing number of scientists and technicians and hoped that its new nuclear research center and the universities would supply that need. To do so, however, the center would need more, and more elaborate, equipment and installations, together with the co-operation and assistance of scientists and technicians from other countries. A request in that sense had been submitted to the Agency and it was hoped that two highly qualified scientists and equipment for nuclear chemistry research would be forthcoming as a result. As the center developed, requests of that sort and applications for Agency fellowships would no doubt increase.
6. Assistance was not one-way, however. Portuguese radioactive ore prospecting experts had taken part in technical assistance missions, thus passing on to other countries the benefit of their experience, and other technical personnel had been made available to the Agency. The scope of the Portuguese contribution would increase as the center developed; technicians from other countries would be welcome to use its research facilities - no doubt to their benefit and to that of the center itself.

---

<sup>1/</sup> GC(V)/155.

<sup>2/</sup> GC(V)/OR.48, paragraphs 68-94.

7. He would like to pay tribute to the work of the Director General during the difficult formative years of the Agency.
8. There had been times in the past when civilization had been in dire peril, but the human intellect had always triumphed in the end. The Agency had brought many nations together for the purpose of developing the peaceful uses of atomic energy. It could now encourage all countries, in the interest of peace and international co-operation, to contribute to its technical work without the intrusion of politics, and thereby inspire mankind with more confidence and hope.
9. Mr. KARATAY (Turkey) paid tribute to the memory of Mr. Hammarskjöld, whose work for peace would always be remembered with gratitude in Turkey.
10. He congratulated the President on his election. He also wished to pay tribute to the work done by the Director General.
11. His delegation approved the Board's annual report and was confident, now that the purely organizational work was complete, that the Agency could in future concentrate more closely on the development of nuclear technology.
12. He hoped that, through close co-operation and with the help of the advanced countries, nuclear power would become competitive sooner than the Secretariat now anticipated<sup>3/</sup>. A praiseworthy example had been set by the United States Government in inviting the Agency to co-operate in the design, construction and start-up of seven small power reactors.<sup>4/</sup> He welcomed the studies made in the Philippines<sup>5/</sup> and Finland<sup>6/</sup>. The scope of such investigations should be broadened and similar studies made in other countries.
13. He was glad to learn that the Agency considered preparing a long-term program which would take account of past experience, the anticipated progress in nuclear technology and the present and future needs of Member States, particularly the developing countries.
14. Technical assistance, scientific research, protection against radiation and radioisotope applications had been main concerns of the Agency during the preceding year. The attention given to the technical assistance needs of the

---

<sup>3/</sup> GC(V)/INF/38, paragraphs 53-55.

<sup>4/</sup> GC(V)/161, paragraphs 8-10 and GC(V)/INF/41.

<sup>5/</sup> STI/DOC/10/3.

<sup>6/</sup> STI/DOC/10/2.

less-developed countries was gratifying, but he agreed with the Director General that the present method of financing the operational program was unsatisfactory and needed improvement<sup>7/</sup>. There were some administrative shortcomings which should be remedied, such as the delay in announcing fellowship awards - detrimental alike to the offering country and the successful candidate. The difficulty of recruiting suitable experts sometimes meant that their services were not available in time. Scientific conferences, seminars and symposia were extremely useful, but an excessive number of them should not be held.

15. During the preceding year, Turkey had concentrated on the organization of advanced training courses on the applications of radioisotopes in medicine and agriculture, nuclear training and work connected with the start-up of the swimming-pool reactor in Istanbul. A course on health physics had just started in Ankara under the supervision of an Agency expert. In 1962, an international training course for Middle East countries on the agricultural applications of radioisotopes was due to take place in Ankara, and research was being carried out in various laboratories. Prospecting continued. It was hoped that the sub-critical assembly supplied through the Agency would soon be available to students and research workers at the Faculty of Science in the University of Ankara, where radiochemistry, radiobiology and fall-out laboratories were soon to be provided also. A two-year theoretical and practical program in nuclear engineering was now open to graduates of the Technical University of Istanbul. The first Turkish reactor, which had been under construction since 1959, was expected to start up within the next few months and during the coming year new laboratories would be established for physics, chemistry, biology, metallurgy, medicine, agriculture and technology.

16. Turkey welcomed the admission, every year, of new Member States, and particularly those from the rapidly developing continent of Africa.

17. His Government was confident that close co-operation, devoid of political considerations, between the Member States of the Agency would continue to contribute to the welfare and prosperity of mankind.

---

<sup>7/</sup> GC(V)/OR.48, paragraph 87.

18. Mr. JANOSSY (Hungary), after congratulating the President on his election, said that certain difficulties encountered by the Agency during the past year had been due to one group of Member States, and the fact that China and the German Democratic Republic were, for political reasons, denied membership of the Agency and that the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) was not granted consultative status reflected a very unsatisfactory state of affairs which made fruitful work very difficult.
19. The Agency should support technical and scientific progress in the developing countries, but many of the meetings it organized were of more benefit to the more advanced countries.
20. The Hungarian Government had offered four fellowships per year, but there was no reference to that offer in the budget document. That might be due to an administrative error, but such errors should be avoided. An effort was made in Hungary's Central Institute of Physical Research to combine atomic research with other types of research, and many people in other countries who had expressed the desire to work there had been advised to apply for Agency fellowships. If they had applied, their applications had apparently been unsuccessful. He understood that several countries had had the same experience. That indicated that for some reason fellowship applications were being rejected without due cause.
21. Agency experts should make a genuine effort to help the nationals of countries to which they were sent and should not treat them in a condescending manner, as had sometimes happened.
22. If the new Director General was a national of an African or Asian neutral country, it would help to eliminate the difficulties he had mentioned. He believed, furthermore, that if there was genuine disarmament, the Agency's work would be much more efficient and scientists could then do valuable work. A new spirit was required in the Agency, and disarmament would play a great part in producing it.
23. Mr. DIAH (Indonesia), after congratulating the President on his unanimous election, and expressing deep regret at the tragic death of Mr. Hammarskjöld, turned to survey the Board's annual report.

24. It was a pleasure, he said, to learn that the Agency had made great progress in the past year, especially in its scientific and technical work. Nevertheless, he would like to put forward some suggestions.

25. Indonesia was one of the many developing countries which had recently embarked on an atomic energy program. The difficulties which confronted Indonesia had doubtless been faced by other countries and would be experienced by many more. Atomic scientists in Indonesia were anxious to have guidance in the phasing and execution of their plans once they had been formulated, and it was very desirable that the Agency should include in its program for 1962 some investigations based on the experience gained in the developed countries and should produce a guide or directory indicating the most efficient lines of work.

26. The gap between the developing and the developed countries was very wide, and the latter need not fear that the developing countries might become competitors. In the peaceful uses of atomic energy it was essential to consider the needs of mankind rather than those of countries or groups of countries.

27. The Agency's budget for fellowships and technical assistance should not be decreased; on the contrary it should, if possible, be increased. As long as the facilities for training experts in the developing countries were insufficient, fellowships would be necessary.

28. In regard to technical assistance, priority should be given to geological surveys and the study of nuclear power costs and development. Those problems should be handled seriously and without scepticism.

29. In regions which were in process of development but where water power was not available and the transport of conventional fuel presented problems, as was the case in several parts of Indonesia, serious consideration had to be given to the possibility of generating power from nuclear energy. The Agency must realize that success in geological survey was closely related to an acceleration of nuclear power development.

30. With regard to the creation of isotope training centers, Indonesia considered that the best solution would be to create regional centers, and was prepared to act as host country for the region of South East Asia and the Pacific.

31. There was a tendency in the Agency to increase the number of visiting professors. Their work was undoubtedly useful, but it was essential that the country to be visited should already be provided with laboratories and other equipment, which were expensive and not always available in the developing countries. They should not be provided, however, at the cost of decreasing fellowships.

32. Indonesia would like to see a more equitable geographical distribution of staff in the Agency, particularly at the Professional level. It was regrettable that nationals of the developing countries often served only in the lower echelons. A points system might be introduced to determine the number of vacancies allocated to a Member State.

33. His delegation wished to make quite clear its view that the next Director General should be selected from the nominees of the uncommitted nations or some other group of nations outside the West. That was a question of principle. The new Director General could succeed in his difficult task only if he had broad support from Member States including both the United States and the Soviet Union. Any candidate imposed on the Agency against the wish of one of those two Powers and of many uncommitted nations would not be able to develop the Agency successfully.

34. The Indonesian delegation wished to express its warm appreciation of the assistance and co-operation which had always been offered by the Secretariat, under the capable and sympathetic guidance of the outgoing Director General.

35. Mr. BORISEVICH (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the present session of the General Conference was being held at a significant and crucial moment. It was a significant moment in view of the rapid progress that was being made in the conquest of the universe and the efforts that were being deployed to place atomic energy at the service of mankind. The oppressed peoples were resolutely casting off the chains of colonial slavery and the colonial system was collapsing. It was a crucial moment because the leaders of countries in the aggressive Western bloc were bent on aggravating the effects of the Second World War, inflating the so-called German problem which they had themselves created and increasing international tension. Faced with the threats and military preparations of the United States and its Atlantic

bloc allies, the Soviet Union had been forced to take serious defensive action - including the resumption of nuclear testing - in order to safeguard its own frontiers and those of its allies - the sister socialist countries.

36. The atom must be harnessed to serve mankind and the noble ideal of human welfare and prosperity, and not as a means of intimidation and an instrument of war.

37. If general and complete disarmament were achieved, the resources of the whole world would be devoted to satisfying the vital needs of all peoples, and broad new prospects would be opened up for aiding the developing countries and furthering human progress in all directions. It was also the key to the unlimited application of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and would open up vast possibilities of action for the Agency and enable it to contribute to the welfare of all countries.

38. His delegation believed that the Agency could and should make its contribution to the cause of general and complete disarmament and warmly welcomed the Soviet Union proposal that the Conference should adopt an appropriate resolution<sup>8/</sup>.

39. Nuclear science was developing apace. Recently, new successes had been achieved in solving difficulties connected with controlled thermo-nuclear reactions. If those complex problems were solved, mankind would have an inexhaustible supply of power at its disposal. Significant results in the peaceful uses of atomic energy had also been obtained in the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic; vast research programs were being carried out on nuclear power production, nuclear physics, solid-state physics, radiobiology and physiology. Isotopes and radiation sources were being successfully used for checking purposes and for automating technological processes in a vast range of branches of the Republic's economy. The building of a research reactor and the creation of a nuclear research center, which was being equipped with chemical, physical, biological, medical and other laboratories, were opening up for Byelorussian scientists wide perspectives in the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

---

<sup>8/</sup> GC(V)/OR.51, paragraph 1 (13); see also GC(V)/175.

40. It must be a main object of the Agency's work to provide nuclear materials, equipment and facilities in order to help Member States, and especially the developing countries, to carry through their peaceful nuclear energy programs. Over the last four years, however, the Agency had in fact done very little along these lines and, for three years, not one gram had been used of the 5140 kg of uranium at its disposal. Only recently had agreement been reached on the supply of a small quantity of enriched uranium to Finland<sup>9/</sup> and Yugoslavia. Instead of devising the best and most advantageous ways of providing aid and thus fulfilling its statutory obligations, the Agency, under pressure from the United States and its Western allies, had recently focused its attention on working out a system of safeguards and controls which, as had been pointed out at the last session of the Conference, served only one purpose - to allow a few countries to subjugate and enslave others and to enable the strong to exercise control over the weak.

41. One of the main reasons why the Agency's efforts were being hamstrung was to be sought in the domination of the Western States and their unwillingness to turn the Agency into a center of effective international collaboration in the peaceful uses of atomic energy. For several years, the United States, aided by an obedient majority, had been preventing the representatives of the People's Republic of China from occupying their place in the Agency. Instead, China's place in the Agency was taken by the bankrupt Chiang Kai-shek clique, which represented nobody except itself. The same discrimination against the socialist countries could be seen in the opposition put up by the Western States to the admission of the German Democratic Republic and other socialist countries.

42. Impelled by political considerations, certain countries were hindering a just solution of the question of granting consultative status to WFTU, although it was the most powerful trade union organization in the world and had a membership of over 100 million, and despite the fact that consultative status had long ago been granted to two far less important trade union organizations - the International Federation of Christian Trade Unions and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions. The reason was that the United States viewed with disfavor WFTU's work for peace and international co-operation.

---

<sup>9/</sup> INFCIRC/24 and Corr.1 and Add.1.

One wondered how long activities to safeguard peace had been a crime and whether such activities were legitimate grounds for preventing such an organization from being accepted by an international organization.

43. His delegation considered that the Agency's decisions on the subject of technical aid to Member States were unjust and tendentious. Was it right that some 75% of the Agency's appropriations for technical aid in 1960-61 should be earmarked for countries which belonged to military and political blocs associated with the United States, or that only 5% should be allocated to the countries of Africa (Sudan, Morocco, United Arab Republic), while South Korea alone was to receive 2.5%? It was no coincidence that 10% of the Agency's total EPTA funds went to Taiwan, South Korea and South Viet-Nam. Again, in 1959-60, over half the money spent on all forms of technical assistance by the Agency - including fellowships - was given to countries which belonged to Western military and political blocs. More was spent on Taiwan and South Korea than on India, Burma, Tunisia, Ceylon, Morocco, Sudan and Cambodia together. That was a vicious practice, which the Agency must abandon if it really wanted genuine international collaboration.

44. There was another point: the tendentious methods adopted by the Secretariat in staffing preliminary assistance missions, and especially in the appointment of the heads of such missions. It was the general rule for citizens from the socialist countries to be artificially debarred from such missions - hardly evidence of international co-operation in the Agency on a basis of equality. The result was that the recommendations made were not objective and failed to take account of the opinions of the Governments of the countries investigated; they were based instead on the interests of monopolistic circles which were not interested in the development of certain aspects of nuclear energy - e.g. the working of uranium deposits - in those countries.

45. As regards research contracts, there were serious shortcomings because of the absence of proper control by the Board. Of the 104 research contracts concluded by the Agency to date, results had been published for 29 only and had appeared, not in Agency publications, but in national scientific journals. The value of the work done had still to be demonstrated. His delegation had pointed out at the fourth session of the Conference that the subjects of the contracts had very largely been selected on a haphazard basis and were of no

interest for very many Member States<sup>10/</sup>. They were in fact chosen haphazard by the Secretariat in a one-sided manner and in the light of irrelevant circumstances. Another equally bad practice was that most of the contracts were awarded to Western countries. Of the 94 research contracts listed in Annex XIV to the Board's report, more than 60, i.e. two-thirds, had been placed in Western countries and only 10 in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

46. The procedure for accepting the subjects of research contracts and allocating funds for them should be much stricter. They should all be discussed by the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) with the assistance of other scientists from Member States; reports should be submitted on all research carried out under contract and on the practical utility of the results; and contracts should be awarded in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

47. Commenting on the composition of the Board of Governors, the Agency's executive organ, and on the existing structure of the Secretariat, he pointed out that the shortcomings in the Agency's work mentioned earlier were largely due to the situation which had developed within the executive. Thus of the 23 Members of the Board, 16 were representatives of Western Powers linked with the United States in military-political blocs, and only seven represented the socialist countries and the neutral countries of Africa and Asia. That could not be considered right. All three groups of States now existing in the world should be equitably represented on the Board. That would provide a guarantee that the work of the Board and of the Agency in general would not be detrimental to any one group of States. That solution would satisfy all claims, including the just claims of the African and Middle East countries to broader representation on the Board.

48. Parallel with the reorganization of the Board, changes should also be made in the structure of the Secretariat, which was responsible for carrying out the decisions of the Conference and the Board. There again, as in the Board, one group of States was predominant. That had been convincingly demonstrated on the previous day by the delegate of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.<sup>11/</sup>

49. Speaking of the Secretariat, he criticized the tendency towards over-staffing. Every year 30 to 40 specialist posts remained vacant in the Secretariat and yet the Secretariat submitted for the Board's approval and for

---

<sup>10/</sup> GC(IV)/OR.41, paragraph 69.

<sup>11/</sup> GC(V)/OR.52, paragraph 21.

approval by the Conference plans for increasing the establishment, which were in fact approved, although entirely unnecessary, despite objections from a number of States. In the previous year an increase in the establishment of 27 posts had been approved, and it was now proposed to increase the establishment by another 22 posts. Constant staff increases within the Secretariat led to a corresponding increase in the Agency's already enormous administrative expenditure. That could not be considered right either. During its four years of existence, the Agency's expenditure had grown from \$4 089 000 to \$6 168 000. The Program and Budget for 1962 provided for a new increase of \$93 000 in administrative expenditure, bringing the total to the enormous sum of \$6 261 000. At the same time, the Secretariat was continually complaining that the Agency did not have the funds to provide assistance to Member States.

50. Finally, there was the question of the appointment of the Director General. In his view, the correct way of dealing with the question was to set up a tripartite governing body within the Secretariat. He realized, however, that many States were not prepared to approve that idea and that the question of a Director General had to be settled by the present Conference. He therefore thought that under the circumstances the most acceptable candidate for the post would be a representative from the Afro-Asian countries - those most interested in Agency assistance.

51. Mr. McKNIGHT (Australia) paid tribute to the memory of the late Secretary-General of the United Nations, and went on to congratulate the President on his election.

52. He noted that, in the Board's annual report, 1961 had been described as a year of consolidation. That might perhaps convey a slight feeling of disappointment. But there was sometimes a tendency to expect too much from the Agency at the present time. It was true that over the past four years it had not produced any spectacular results, but a careful assessment would show a total of solid achievement.

53. That achievement flowed from many, diverse activities. In the first place there was a very broad technical assistance program, but the Agency had not been in existence long enough yet for many of its initial activities to have been completed. Until quite recently, comparatively few fellowship-holders had finished their training, and few individual projects of technical assistance were as yet complete.

54. The Agency was becoming a central point of reference for scientists; there was clearly a growing tendency for Member States to rely on it as a broker of scientific and technical advice.

55. Whatever other functions the Agency might have, either now or in the future, it was essential to recognize that one of its main functions must always be that of a high-level technical regulatory body. As radioactive materials became more and more common in international commerce, it became increasingly important that there should be world-wide regulatory codes to govern their movement. The Australian delegation noted with satisfaction that the Agency's regulations for the safe transport of radioactive materials<sup>12/</sup> had been distributed to Member States; they should become the basis for national and international regulations. Australia spoke feelingly on that point, being so far removed geographically from the advanced countries which could supply and process radioactive materials. It was a matter of high priority that international regulations should be developed which would enable nuclear materials and radioactive substances to move freely between supplying and receiving countries in accordance with a common code. Moreover, those codes required interpretation and application in an atmosphere of goodwill and practical common sense.

56. Regulatory activities were generally unspectacular, but they were an essential prerequisite to any operational work. Atomic energy was a highly technical subject which many people did not understand and hence feared. As in the case of other technical advances of the twentieth century, atomic energy would be accepted by mankind as a normal part of its economic life only when codes of safety were internationally defined and accepted.

57. An important aspect of regulation was the question of waste disposal. It might well be that the economics of nuclear power would some day turn upon whether radioactive waste could be harnessed to economic purposes. In the meantime the cheapest but safest method of waste disposal must be found. Waste disposal inevitably had international effects, and it must therefore be included among the Agency's regulatory functions.

58. In the course of the debate some criticism had been leveled at the statement that the Agency was studying the evaluation of harbors with regard to the safe handling of nuclear merchant ships.<sup>13/</sup> He failed to understand the

---

<sup>12/</sup> STI/PUB/40 and STI/PUB/32.

<sup>13/</sup> GC(V)/OR.51, paragraph 1 (31) - (39).

reas criticism. Some years must inevitably elapse before a safety code could be developed which would receive international acceptance. The legislative problems involved were complex. Anyone who had had experience of attempting to achieve uniform harbor regulations for ships carrying explosives knew that the process took many years. By 1965 or 1966 one or more nuclear merchant ships would be plying on the trade routes of the world, and who knew how many there would be by 1970? It was not too early to commence the study of a safety code. Safety was indivisible.

59. The Agency was greatly interested in the question of nuclear power. No one now thought that economic nuclear power was just round the corner. But it was always well to remember that a pessimistic phase was often followed by an optimistic one. He welcomed the reports of the Agency missions which had visited Finland and the Philippines, which were very realistic about the costs of electricity production. They had resulted from consultation between the national planning authorities, the Agency experts and experts from other international agencies.

60. His delegation warmly approved the work being done by the Agency to establish a common basis for comparing the cost of electricity production from conventional sources with that from atomic sources.

61. Australia's investment in atomic energy research facilities was over \$20 million. The number of persons employed in its research establishment was about 1000, of whom 200 were professional personnel. He thought it would be agreed that, comparatively speaking, that represented a considerable effort.

62. Australia was still in a developing stage. In large land areas which were remote from coal supplies, it had to face many of the same problems as the other developing countries. Industrial development in such areas in the first instance usually required electrical power in blocks of 30 000 kW or less.

63. Two possibilities had been open to Australia: either to do research on power reactor systems which could be developed within a few years but which would hold out the promise only of marginal cost improvements; or to follow a system which would hold out the promise of major cost reduction in the longer term. Australia had followed the latter alternative. Its research program

sought a reactor with a high operating temperature. That could result in a substantial reduction in capital cost, owing for example to the smaller size of the heat exchangers. Attention was also being given to the less orthodox moderating materials because of the potential scope they offered for reduction in the physical size of reactors.

64. For some years yet, the Agency might not be called upon to give much assistance to Member States in connection with nuclear power generation other than advice in the form of analytical or planning studies such as those provided to Finland and the Philippines. In the meantime, however, it could assist Member States in improving their over-all productivity by the use of radioisotopes. It might well be that the world was only on the threshold of using radioactivity to improve health by better diagnosis and treatment; to improve agricultural production by the elimination of pests and by the evolution of new species; and to increase industrial production.

65. But isotope applications would not, in the opinion of his delegation, provide a permanent objective for the Agency. Isotopes would, within a few years, have become a common scientific tool like the microscope. By that time he hoped that the Agency would be increasingly absorbed with the problems of electricity generation.

66. There had been considerable discussion in the Board about the Agency's objectives for the next four or five years. In the opinion of his delegation, the Agency must make some selection among its activities and define those to which the greatest emphasis should be given in its programs. That was a point of view which had already been put forward in the report of the Preparatory Commission<sup>14/</sup>.

67. A further point stressed in that report was that the Agency should seek to work with existing national and international organizations in preference to engaging in an activity itself. That idea needed continuing emphasis over the next few years.

68. He would conclude by saying that his delegation endorsed the view (expressed in paragraph 1 of the annual report) that while all existing programs should be deepened, a selection should be made of those which should be further developed. Among those his delegation hoped to see developed was the program of regulatory activities.

69. As he had said earlier, it was necessary to distinguish between the spectacular and the solid. He did not feel disappointed that the Agency had nothing spectacular to show. He was glad it had achieved solid results of true worth and of value to all Member States.

70. Sir Roger MAKINS (United Kingdom) congratulated the President on his election and thanked the Austrian Government for its hospitality. He also paid tribute to the memory of Mr. Hammarskjöld.

71. The Agency's mission was essentially scientific and technical. It was concerned in the first instance with standardization, regulation, information and education. An important task was to remove the apprehensions which had hitherto to a large extent surrounded atomic energy development, and to assist its assimilation in the national economic life.

72. The Agency was not concerned with disarmament, nuclear tests, colonialism, the German question or the other causes of political strife in the world. It was not its business to pass resolutions on political questions. It was therefore the policy of the United Kingdom Government to do what it could to insulate the Agency from the political strains and tensions of the day.

73. The Agency was growing rapidly through the adherence of new Member States. The United Kingdom welcomed those new States and their participation in new bodies.

74. The acquisition of new Member States had its bearing on the structure of the Agency. The Board had taken that into account by proposing an amendment to the Statute providing for the addition of two seats for representatives of Africa and the Middle East on the Board<sup>15/</sup>. His delegation supported that change but could not agree that, even after it had been made, there would still remain some lack of balance within the Board.

75. The Conference was called upon to approve the nomination by the Board of Mr. Eklund as the new Director General<sup>16/</sup>. In considering such appointments in international organizations, the United Kingdom did not recognize any presumption for or against any particular region or group. In the present situation the United Kingdom's attitude was the following. First, he wished to express, on behalf of the United Kingdom, his appreciation of all that

---

<sup>15/</sup> GC(V)/151 and Add.1.

<sup>16/</sup> GC(V)/165.

Mr. Cole had done to build up the organization. In existing circumstances his delegation thought it preferable that the next Director General should not be drawn from one of the major atomic Powers, and advantageous that he should have a scientific or administrative background in atomic energy, and preferably both. Mr. Eklund fulfilled those conditions, but he was above all outstandingly qualified by training and experience to direct an international scientific and technical organization.

76. It had been suggested that Mr. Eklund was unknown to many delegations and that he should be in Vienna<sup>17/</sup>. On the first point it seemed strange that a man who had been Secretary-General of the Second United Nations International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, held at Geneva in 1958, should be described as unknown. On the second point he would only say that it would be considered most unusual in the United Kingdom for a person whose appointment was under discussion to come and be present while the discussion was actually going on.

77. He had listened with attention to the Director General's remarks on the work of the Agency in his valedictory address<sup>18/</sup>. He felt sure that what the outgoing Director General had had to say about the organization of the Secretariat would be taken fully into account by the new Director General in consultation with the Board. He would limit his own comment to Mr. Cole's observations on the question of drawing up a five-year plan for the Agency<sup>19/</sup>.

78. He was in principle in favor of that proposal. But the basis for any such plan had to be a firm estimate of the resources which would be available to support it. The Agency's present resources were limited. Moreover, it did not even receive the whole of the sums to which it was entitled, and some of what it had received was not in convertible form. That was mainly because contributions to the General Fund were on a voluntary basis. The first step was surely to gather in the money that was promised.

79. It was evident that at present the lion's share of the contribution to the finances of the Agency should come from the more advanced countries. But in order to avoid drawing invidious distinctions, it was surely better that each Member State should as a matter of principle make some contribution to those

---

<sup>17/</sup> GC(V)/173.

<sup>18/</sup> GC(V)/OR.48, paragraphs 68-94.

<sup>19/</sup> Ibid., paragraph 86.

finances. Therefore the next step, in the United Kingdom's view, should be to plan the contributions to that fund on a percentage basis like the contributions to the regular budget, or perhaps to merge the two budgets. The Agency would then be tolerably sure of receiving a definite amount in a form which it could use freely. The United Kingdom delegation would either support, or, if need be, introduce at a suitable moment, an amendment to the Statute providing for such a change. In the meantime, it welcomed the draft resolution which had been put forward by Brazil and South Africa<sup>20/</sup>.

80. The United Kingdom would pay its share of the enlarged operational budget for the current year. But it was necessary to give warning that, unless Member States were willing to accept the principle that they would contribute in convertible currency that proportion of the target which was equivalent to their proportion of the regular budget, the United Kingdom would with great reluctance have to consider whether it should in the future continue to pay the same share of what had been a steadily increasing total.

81. He would next deal summarily with the two main aspects of the Agency's work, that of concern to all Member States, and that of special concern to the less-developed countries.

82. First, in the work of interest to all Member States, the Agency's arrangements for facilitating the exchange of information and the spread of scientific ideas were now well established. But the United Kingdom delegation was rather concerned about the number of international scientific meetings. There was a real risk that the multiplication of meetings would lead to a reduction in the quality of the results.

83. Secondly, his delegation welcomed the progress made in the development of the Agency's regulatory functions over the past year. Completion of the transport regulations would much facilitate the increasing traffic in radioactive materials. The United Kingdom Government was now preparing new national regulations, based on the Agency's recommendations. It hoped that other Member States would do likewise.

84. The United Kingdom took the problem of waste disposal very seriously. All high-activity wastes were concentrated, only low-activity ones were disposed of. Assertions that waste disposal into rivers and seas under proper control

---

<sup>20/</sup> GC(V)/163 and Corr.1.

had harmful effect on marine life had, he understood, no scientific foundation. It was the pollution of the atmosphere through nuclear bomb test explosions which had serious effects for the people of the world, and for that the Soviet Union had assumed a heavy responsibility. As far as the Agency was concerned, the United Kingdom would be glad to support the joint efforts for further research into the problem of radioactive waste which had been proposed during the debate.

85. With regard to the Agency's work of special interest to the less-developed Member States, the United Kingdom attached great importance to the technical assistance programs, and approved of the way in which they were being developed on the basis of a thorough assessment of needs. The preliminary assistance missions had, he understood, been of great value in that respect.

86. He hoped the Board and the Secretariat would be able in due course to build up a complete picture of the long-term outlook as well as of the results obtained with the technical assistance already given.

87. The United Kingdom's ability to provide practical help to the less-developed countries would be increased, since the next few months would see the commissioning of the reactors of the first nuclear power stations specially designed and built to supply electricity - Bradwell and Berkeley. Much existing United Kingdom experience had already been made available to other States Members of the Agency. The United Kingdom was now ready to make available the experience gained from the planning and operation of the new stations. The electricity generating authority in England had agreed in principle to accept a limited number of Agency-sponsored fellows on long-term attachments of up to two years in its nuclear power stations as soon as Bradwell and Berkeley were fully commissioned. No fees would be charged. The arrangements would be similar to those for the research fellowships placed at the Agency's disposal at the Atomic Energy Authority's isotope and irradiation research laboratory at Wantage.

88. Another point on which a practical approach was important was the provision of experts for technical assistance missions. The United Kingdom was glad that, of the forty experts so far appointed to the Agency's technical assistance missions, ten had come from the United Kingdom. If, however, Member States were to get the benefit of the practical experience and advice

of the highly qualified and busy men staffing those missions, it might be necessary to have rather more short-term missions. He would remind the Conference that the United Kingdom's offer to meet reasonable requests for experts for short-term missions without charging for their services still held good.

89. In conclusion, he repeated his hope that all Member States, in spite of the political differences which divided their Governments and which inevitably intruded from time to time into the Agency's business, would give their support to what was essentially a technical and scientific organization. On behalf of the United Kingdom Government, he pledged continued support to the Agency's constructive work.

90. Mr. PE KIN (Burma), after paying tribute to the memory of Mr. Hammarskjöld, associated himself with those who had congratulated the President on his election.

91. Although Burma's participation in the Agency's activities had been modest so far, his country had great confidence in the Agency and its programs and would willingly co-operate with it whenever possible. Burma was grateful for the Agency's help in connection with agriculture and nuclear raw materials. That assistance had made a considerable impact, particularly in agriculture. The recommendations made by the follow-up mission had been appreciated. Burma had a strong preference for assistance on a multilateral basis through international organizations such as the Agency and was looking to the Agency for further guidance and assistance.

92. Although the Agency's present role in some international aspects of atomic energy did not perhaps quite live up to earlier hopes, there was no cause for pessimism. The development of a dynamic technical assistance program, logically the most important activity for developing countries, was very encouraging and indicated that an increasing number of those countries were turning to multilateral rather than bilateral assistance. He appealed to the major atomic Powers to channel more of their valuable assistance through the Agency. Apart from the basic difficulty of lack of funds, there was the problem of recruiting experts. It would be greatly appreciated if the major atomic Powers could make the services of qualified experts available to the Agency; it would be regrettable if some requests for assistance could not be met because the experts required were not available.

93. While fully aware of the regulations and limitations of the Technical Assistance Board regarding the supply of equipment, he wished to stress the fact that the need of most of the developing countries for specialized equipment was sometimes greater than their need for expert knowledge. Any possible relaxation of those regulations would be greatly appreciated by needy countries such as Burma.

94. One of the basic difficulties faced by countries initiating an atomic energy program was the dearth of up-to-date publications and documentation. Help from the Agency in organizing documentation facilities in nuclear science and in the training of personnel would be most valuable.

95. Since the Agency's Laboratory was now complete, it could be developed into an international reference laboratory for nuclear technology, to which all the ill-equipped laboratories in developing countries could turn for guidance. Efforts should be made to provide certain facilities and services for those countries. Apart from metrology, standardization and environmental sanitation, the possibility of its providing help in connection with carbon dating and the assay of radioactive ores should be considered.

96. Studies connected with the economic feasibility of nuclear power, radiation protection and reactor safety should be continued. The application of safeguards should not be unnecessarily hard on the recipient countries or some would be compelled to seek bilateral assistance instead.

97. The Program and Budget for 1962 appeared to be reasonable. However, as the Director General had pointed out, there was an obvious need to re-organize certain overlapping activities within the Secretariat. If that re-organization was undertaken, he hoped that those making it would ensure a continued equitable geographical distribution, especially at the senior professional levels.

98. Much had been said during the past four years on the question of the competence and propriety of the Agency's discussing matters of political interest. He did not believe that any organization, whatever its character, could afford to detach itself completely from what was happening around about it. By that he did not, of course, mean that the Agency, which had been established with a definite non-political purpose, should dabble in the political controversies of

the day or allow itself to become a pawn in the cold war. Apart from the organizational limitations of the Agency, it would be morally wrong for it to allow itself the luxury of present-day power politics. On the other hand, mankind was passing through a moment in its history when its very survival was at stake. Life on earth had a right to exist, and when it was being threatened with complete annihilation, he failed to see how any institution, least of all the Agency, whose purpose was to "seek to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world", could be indifferent to such threats, irrespective of the quarter from which they came.

99. He believed, therefore, that there was no need either to apologize for or to tire of repeating or giving ear to the universal desire for peace, progress and prosperity. In demanding peace, however, care should be taken not to turn the Agency into a cold war arena. He urged his fellow delegates not to echo the familiar slogans of the one side or the other; that would not bring peace any nearer. He was certain that if all spoke softly and gently, the world would hear.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.