



International Atomic Energy Agency

General Conference

GC(VII)/CR.79
9 January 1964
GENERAL Distr.
ENGLISH

Seventh regular session

OFFICIAL RECORD OF THE SEVENTY-NINTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Neue Hofburg, Vienna,
on Friday, 27 September 1963, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. PERERA (Ceylon)

later: Mr. TOHAMY (United Arab Republic)

CONTENTS

| <u>Item of the agenda*</u> | | <u>Paragraphs</u> |
|--------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| 10 | General debate and report of the Board of Governors for 1962-63 (continued) | 1 - 78 |
| | Statements by the delegates, of: | |
| | Japan | 1 - 4 |
| | Congo (Leopoldville) | 5 - 10 |
| | Greece | 11 - 20 |
| | Thailand | 21 - 23 |
| | Bulgaria | 24 - 31 |
| | Sweden | 32 - 36 |
| | Brazil | 37 - 41 |
| | Turkey | 42 - 49 |
| | Burma | 50 - 53 |
| | Philippines | 54 - 62 |
| | Albania | 63 - 75 |
| | Algeria | 76 - 78 |

* GC(VII)/247.

The composition of delegations attending the session is given in
document GC(VII)/INF/66/Rev.2.

GENERAL DEBATE AND REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR 1962-63
(GC(VII)/228, 243, 250) (continued)

1. Mr. UCHIDA (Japan) recalled that when the draft Statute of the Agency had been approved in 1956 it had been hailed as a rare occasion on which East and West had reached full agreement on an important international problem. Six years had passed since then; the membership of the Agency had increased and its activities had been considerably enlarged. However, the "cold war" atmosphere had subsisted to some extent, and had sometimes influenced the Agency's deliberations. It was important that the emphasis should be on scientific and technical questions and that political considerations should be kept out of the discussions as far as possible. He hoped that the recent test ban treaty would help to restore the atmosphere which had prevailed at the time of the Agency's establishment.
2. In common with other international organizations, the Agency was constantly handicapped by shortage of funds, and the recommendation of the Board of Governors on the financing of the Agency's activities^{1/} deserved careful consideration. It was the outcome of long and difficult discussions in the Board, during which its merits and defects had been exhaustively considered. He appreciated the doubts of some delegations concerning the proposal to depart from the original provisions of the Statute and the relationship with the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, but the discussions in the Board seemed to show that there was in fact no other alternative if the Agency's financial difficulties were to be overcome. His delegation would therefore support the Board's recommendation.
3. Referring to the question of safeguards, he pointed out that Japan was one of the few countries directly involved. The United States and Japan had agreed to transfer to the Agency the administration of the safeguards provided for in the bilateral agreement between them^{2/}. It was undoubtedly the common desire of all the Members of the Agency that atomic energy should eventually be used solely for peaceful purposes, and it would be a significant step forward if a system of verification by an international organ could be developed.

^{1/} GC(VII)/236 and Add.1.

^{2/} The text of the agreement is reproduced in document INFCIRC/47.

Although it might not be very clear at present what the role of the Agency should be, the safeguards system, if widely utilized, would certainly become an important factor in the future development of a universal verification system. He appreciated the Director General's assurance to recipient States that the necessary controls would be exercised fairly and uniformly. He expected that other delegations would share the Director General's view, and that Agency safeguards would be so established and implemented as to serve the further development of the nuclear energy industry. His Government would support the principle of the extension of the Agency's safeguards system.

4. In conclusion, he referred to the proposed intensification of the Agency's regional activities and warmly welcomed the appointment of a regional officer as a first step in that direction.

5. Mr. MALU (Congo (Leopoldville)) pointed out that continents formerly considered backward were becoming aware of their place in the world and wished to participate to an increasing extent in the progress of mankind. The Congo had joined the Agency as a partner willing to contribute, with all the other Members of the Agency, to promoting the peaceful uses of atomic energy. It had, indeed, provided the raw material necessary for the discovery of that formidable source of energy and the first atomic reactor had been fuelled with uranium from the Congo.

6. The Congo was operating the first research reactor on the African continent and using it exclusively for peaceful purposes. For four years, with the co-operation of the Agency, it had also been operating a nuclear centre for the benefit not only of its own nationals, but of the entire African community.

7. The TRICO reactor, installed in 1959, was producing radioisotopes which were being used for medical and agricultural research in the Congo and in some neighbouring countries. Industrial applications were still limited, but thanks to the TRICO reactor it had been possible to carry out a study on activation methods designed to increase production of palm-oil, which was most important for the whole African continent.

8. Apart from radioisotope applications, the Congo had laid particular stress on training. The Government nuclear centre had organized various training courses in 1960 and in 1963, some for university graduates and others for the technicians of whom Africa was in such great need; for, in spite of the generous assistance of friendly nations, it was on African soil that African technicians and research workers should be trained. He expressed his satisfaction at the decision to set up, at Cairo, the first regional isotope centre for the Arab countries; but the Agency should now take steps to provide tropical Africa with a regional training centre specially adapted to conditions in that region. The Congo Government was prepared to place the TRICO reactor at the disposal of any regional centre that was established. It had decided to raise the power of the reactor from 50 to 250 kilowatts in continuous operation, with the possibility of substantially higher power in intermittent operation. The conversion had been made possible by assistance from the Agency and certain Member States, to which the Congo Government expressed its gratitude.

9. The value of the installations which the Congo was prepared to place at the disposal of neighbouring countries would depend on the increased potentialities of the TRICO reactor and on the specialized equipment for the application of radioisotopes provided under co-operation agreements with Lovanium University. Agronomists, doctors and engineers would be able not only to familiarize themselves with the various aspects of radioisotope production, but also to apply radioisotopes in their own special fields of research.

10. The Congo had played a fundamental role at the beginning of the atomic age and investment in the TRICO centre had proved particularly rewarding and effective. The Congo was the African country which had contributed most in that highly specialized field; it was right that it should also receive something in return, and he had no doubt that Members would wish to expand the Agency's programme of assistance to developing countries and include the Congo, in particular, in that programme, remembering the part it had played at the beginning of nuclear development and was continuing to play in central Africa.

11. Mr. SPANIDES (Greece) said that he was glad to note that the Conference had started in an atmosphere of relaxation of international tension as a result of the conclusion of the test ban treaty, which Greece had been one

of the first countries to sign. He hoped that the effect of the treaty would be to divert man's innate feelings of rivalry into a phase of peaceful competition devoted to the fight against hunger, poverty, disease and illiteracy, which were far more important problems than conquest of the moon and of space.

12. In the existing climate of optimism, it was to be hoped that even the one source of discord which had disturbed the friendly atmosphere of the debates would find its solution with the passage of time. The fact that such a controversial subject as the relations between different races had been kept on the fringe of the debate was encouraging, and he congratulated the African and other countries on their understanding and respect for the cardinal principle that the Agency was not the proper place for the solution of political issues.

13. He thought that the time had come to reconsider current views regarding the Agency's usefulness. Judging from the financial resources placed at its disposal, the great Powers did not seem to attach much significance to it. Other international organizations much narrower in scope were much more satisfactorily financed. As an example, he would mention that Greece contributed to the European Organization for Nuclear Research more than ten times the amount it gave to the Agency, from which it received much greater technical assistance. He was convinced that if the Agency was to fulfil its important task, contributions would have to be greatly increased and the Agency's activities expanded in all directions.

14. If that idea met with general approval and were put into practice, as he believed it should be, then the resulting increase in the Agency's work would create additional problems requiring the co-operation of all Member States. That being so, the proposal that the General Conference should meet every two years did not seem to be entirely reasonable.

15. The reorganization proposed in other directions would undoubtedly give the Agency greater flexibility and efficiency and the Director General and his staff were indeed to be congratulated for their work on long-term planning which, together with sound financing, would be a powerful aid to the Agency in carrying out its allotted tasks.

16. As a seafaring nation, Greece had great expectations of the Monaco project and was very glad that the project was to be extended for a further five years. His country had also made use of the Agency's Laboratory, which should always

be ready to meet the changing and increasing needs of the developing countries. He welcomed the Director General's statement that the Centre for Theoretical Physics was to be opened in 1964 and he hoped it would be the first of a series of similar institutions.

17. He then gave some details about the progress in atomic matters made in Greece. The swimming-pool type reactor at the Democritos Centre had, since criticality, been working according to schedule, producing short-lived isotopes for local use and serving for various experiments. Also, work on a programme for eradication of the Dacus fly, a serious olive pest, was proceeding satisfactorily, in co-operation with the United States Department of Agriculture and the Agency, and it was hoped soon to carry out pilot studies prior to putting into effect an eradication plan covering the whole country. He recalled that a very successful Symposium on the Use and Application of Radioisotopes and Radiation in the Control of Plant and Animal Insect Pests had been held in Greece^{3/}, and said that his Government, which laid great store by international co-operation in that form, looked forward to equally valuable results from a symposium on medical radioisotope scanning to be held in Athens in the same month of 1964.

18. In common with some of the previous speakers, he believed that the Agency should do more in the field of power reactors. The need for power was increasing in most areas of the world, including the developing countries, and the Agency must be prepared to guide such countries when they were ready to embark on nuclear power projects. It would also be helpful if the seafaring nations were to pool their resources to promote work on nuclear ship propulsion.

19. Greece, which had completed its term of office in the Board of Governors, welcomed the amendment to the Statute to include representatives of the Middle East and Africa on the Board, and he hoped that a way would be found to give all Member States a chance to serve on the Board.

20. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that the Agency would be successful in carrying out its vital work, and promised that the devotion and co-operation of Greece to that end would always be forthcoming.

^{3/} Held at Athens from 22 to 26 April 1963.

21. Mr. CHOONEHAVAN (Thailand) said that his delegation was pleased to note the recommendation of the Board of Governors that the Agency's technical assistance programmes should be largely concentrated on the developing countries. He hoped that the proposed new financial arrangements would receive the support of all Member States, for they would benefit the work of the Agency as a whole and, in particular, would facilitate long-term planning. It was, however, desirable that the Secretariat should be more flexible in its administrative work.
22. The Thai research reactor at Bangkok had been in operation for almost a year, and it was appropriate that the Agency should have held a study group meeting in that city in 1962^{4/}.
23. In conclusion, he expressed his Government's appreciation of the technical assistance furnished by the Agency.
24. Mr. NADJAKOV (Bulgaria) said that, thanks to the signing of the Moscow treaty banning nuclear tests in the atmosphere, in space and under water, the work of the seventh regular session was taking place in an international atmosphere that was favourable to mutual comprehension. There could be no doubt that the signature of the treaty had been received with relief by people everywhere since it put an end to contamination from radioactive fallout and it would help to strengthen the Agency's role in reaching agreement on universal disarmament.
25. The Agency had already made a contribution in the form of measures taken with a view to giving effect to Resolution GC(VI)/RES/130 concerning the "basic aspects of economic and social consequences of disarmament". There could be no more praiseworthy activity than that which aimed at utilizing atomic energy for peaceful purposes.
26. One of the Agency's most fruitful activities, as reviewed in the Board's annual report to the General Conference (GC(VII)/228), and one which had the support of all Member States, was the provision of fellowships for the training and specialization of scientific personnel. The Agency should concentrate more and more on that work, which would be all the more fruitful if candidates were chosen from amongst the most gifted; then, on their return home, they would themselves be able to undertake the training of others. Some might be

^{4/} Study Group Meeting on the Utilization of Research Reactors, held from 17 to 21 December 1962.

called upon by the Agency as experts; it would accordingly be advisable to allow a longer period of training to young scientists who had proved their ability to do research and encourage them to specialize still further.

27. His delegation deeply regretted the tendency to reduce every year the proportion of the Agency's resources devoted to fellowships. He believed financial resources could be made available by substantially reducing expenditure on the safeguards system.

28. The long-term programme^{5/} was useful, but he was struck by the fact that a rather large place was accorded to activities which his delegation would have preferred to see more restricted; the research contract programme, for example, could be considerably reduced and the amounts so freed transferred to the appropriation for fellowships. His delegation had previously indicated that it would prefer to see research stimulated by means other than research contracts. In the first place, the Agency could obtain the data it needed on certain problems from Member States which possessed them; it could ask certain Member States to investigate the problems which interested it under their national programmes; and finally, certain problems could be more effectively examined if they were made the subject of general competition and, in such cases, the organization of international competitions would facilitate their solution.

29. His delegation would also like to see the work of the Agency's Laboratories develop in consonance with the aims of the Agency. Their principal job was to provide services for Member States and not to act as research centres. His delegation could not approve the work of the Monaco Laboratory since it did not know in what it consisted. No one would deny the importance of the waste management problem, but there could be no justification for devoting so much attention to the disposal of waste into the sea, since that was a procedure that could not be recommended.

30. He recalled the programme of technical assistance to the developing countries submitted to the sixth regular session by the socialist countries, including Bulgaria^{6/}. He noted with regret that the relevant resolution^{7/}

^{5/} GC(VII)/227.

^{6/} GC(VI)/COM.1/67/Rev.1.

^{7/} GC(VI)/RES/131.

had not produced the results that might have been expected because the Western countries had not yet shown themselves ready to co-operate in giving effect to it.

31. The Bulgarian delegation wished again to emphasize the fact that it could not support the proposed amendment to Article XIV of the Statute, which was not only contrary to the principle of free consent in technical assistance matters but could not achieve its purpose, that of increasing the Agency's resources for its technical assistance activities; rather would the amendment have the opposite effect. If it were adopted by the General Conference his delegation would be compelled to refuse any and all obligations which the amendment entailed.

Mr. Tohamy (United Arab Republic), Vice-President, took the Chair.

32. Mr. BRYNIELSSON (Sweden) said that, since atomic energy was on the point of becoming competitive with other sources of power, it was most appropriate that the present state of atomic technology should be surveyed at a third Geneva conference to be held in 1964. The Agency had a very important part to play in its preparation, and the wealth of technical information forthcoming would, no doubt, subsequently be used for the benefit of all Member States.

33. The complicated technical problems involved in the integration of nuclear power into existing power systems had been extensively studied in Sweden. The combination of hydro and nuclear power had great economic advantages, and he anticipated that most of the new demand for power in the 1970's - cheap hydro power in Sweden would be exhausted in the present decade - would be met by the installation of some 4000 MW of nuclear power. The result of the Swedish studies had been made available to the Agency, and Sweden was prepared to extend co-operation in that field to countries with similar problems. A summary of the studies had just been distributed to all delegations.

34. The Ågesta Power Station had gone critical on 17 July 1963 and the offer, made at the sixth regular session of the General Conference, of fellowships to study heavy-water reactor technology at the Station could now be implemented. Technical information on the Station would also be provided for inclusion in the Agency's information documentation on power reactors. The Ågesta reactor

provided electric power and hot water for district heating, but Swedish studies on the use of nuclear power for district heating showed that for that purpose it was not yet competitive with conventional fuels. The extensive development work on smaller reactors now taking place might change the picture, but generation of cheap electricity by very large power reactors might on the other hand make electric domestic heating a more attractive proposition. Sweden's first large power reactor, the Narviken boiling heavy-water reactor with a maximum capacity of 200 MW, was now under construction. Very large reactors with an electrical capacity of about 1000 MW were being developed in Sweden in order to explore the potentialities of the heavy-water type. He felt that that item of information might be of interest in connection with the desalination of sea-water.

35. Since it was one of the Agency's principal functions to promote the use of atomic power all over the world, electric power production had hitherto received the most attention, but some of the other uses he had mentioned might assume great importance. In the long-term planning of the Agency's work, the ever-widening potentialities and the rapid technical advances likely to materialize had to be taken into account.

36. Lastly, he wished to stress the importance for the Agency's future of flexibility in the long-term programme.

37. Mr. DUARTE (Brazil) said that the Conference had opened in the wake of a most important and gratifying event: the signature of the Moscow partial test ban treaty, which was a first step towards measures that would release enormous manpower and resources for utilization in the various activities of the Agency. If the Agency was called upon to undertake bigger tasks, it was inevitable that an efficient and appropriate system of safeguards must be applied. His delegation therefore welcomed the recommendation of the Board of Governors that the existing system should be revised^{8/}.

38. He noted with satisfaction the range and quality of the Agency's activities for the benefit of developing countries and the proposals for a long-term programme. The confidence placed in the Agency by developing countries was shown by the fact that requests for technical assistance called for financial resources three times greater than those available.

^{8/} See document GC(VII)/235.

39. The Agency could not, however, claim to be autonomous in its activities. As the United Nations Conference on the Application of Science and Technology for the Benefit of the Less Developed Areas^{9/} had shown, there was an urgent need for concerted action in scientific training and research, and the general agreement on that point had led to the appointment of a co-ordinating committee by the United Nations. The Agency should inform the United Nations of its interest in co-ordinating its work with such specialized agencies as the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; Brazil would co-sponsor a draft resolution on that subject during the Conference.

40. His delegation was convinced that the Agency should have a twofold character: first, it should act as a world administrative bureau for the uses of atomic energy and, secondly, it should carry on field work. His country attached great importance to the Agency's field work, such as that already being done at the Seibersdorf and Monaco Laboratories and at the Middle Eastern Regional Radioisotope Centre for the Arab Countries, and the work to be undertaken in the near future at the International Centre for Theoretical Physics.

41. Finally, he wished to express Brazil's pleasure at the decision to hold the study group meeting on research reactors at São Paulo in November 1963.

42. Mr. OLCAY (Turkey), after expressing his country's deep satisfaction at the increase in the Agency's membership and welcoming Gabon, the Ivory Coast and Nigeria as new Members, stressed the importance which Turkey attached to the Moscow treaty on the partial banning of nuclear tests. That agreement held promise of greater understanding among nations and closer co-operation in using nuclear energy exclusively for the progress of mankind. It was Turkey's ardent wish that the hopes placed in the treaty would not be disappointed.

43. The Turkish Government appreciated at its true value the important and fruitful role which the Agency had played in co-ordinating the efforts of its Members in the peaceful uses of atomic energy. It felt certain that the Agency would be equal to its task in the future, although that would require an even greater effort than in the past.

^{9/} Held at Geneva from 4 to 20 February 1963.

44. He then expressed his country's gratitude for the valuable assistance the Agency had given it, particularly in organizing training courses on the agricultural applications of radioisotopes. The first regional course on the subject had taken place the previous year at Ankara, and had been attended by six Turkish students and 14 fellows from eight countries in Europe and the Middle East (Spain, Yugoslavia, Austria, Greece, Israel, Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan). The Turkish Government hoped that the second course of the same kind, which was to take place under the Agency's auspices from 1 October to 25 November 1963 at Ankara, would prove as fruitful as the first. In view of the encouraging results obtained, and the interest shown in the courses by the most diverse countries, Turkey intended to continue its efforts in that field, placing the experience gained at the disposal of all the countries in the region.

45. Turning next to the activities of the Nuclear Research Centre at Istanbul, he explained that it had been set up around the TR/1 reactor at Çekmece, which had become critical in 1962. So far, the Centre was only being used for theoretical studies and training but a programme of varied but modest activities had already been drawn up. For example, an agreement had been reached with Brookhaven National Laboratory in the United States, providing for co-operation in studying certain specific problems. A team of American research workers had already done some work with Turkish staff. Contacts had been established with nuclear centres in other countries in the region for the common use of reactors, on a reciprocal basis, in multilateral research projects. The Centre's radiochemistry laboratories already had sufficient equipment and staff to make a start, and the equipment of the health physics laboratories was still further advanced. It was hoped that the Centre would soon be able to begin producing radioisotopes on a modest scale. He thanked the Agency for the help it had given the Centre by sending out experts, providing fellowships and exchanging information.

46. Turkey was following with great interest the research work being done under Agency auspices on the use of radioisotopes to combat crop pests. In view of the vital importance of that research, it would like to see closer co-operation between the specialized agencies and all interested countries.

47. The Turkish delegation much appreciated the Secretariat's work on the long-term programme, which was an especially difficult task because of the complexity of the problems it raised. Turkey supported the programme and hoped that it would be executed with the greatest efficiency, economy and fairness in the allocation of available resources.

48. The setting-up of a new Department of Technical Assistance, proposed by the Director General and approved by the Board of Governors, was a very timely measure which would make it possible to meet the needs of the developing countries as effectively as possible. The Director General's decision to improve the geographical distribution of Agency staff was also a wise step, in keeping with the Agency's objectives and ideals.

49. He warmly congratulated the Director General on having been able to introduce a new vigour into the Agency's activities in such a short time, not least by his personal prestige, and thanked him and his staff for the understanding and close co-operation which they had always shown in their dealings with the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the Agency.

50. U SAIN BWA (Burma), after welcoming the new Members - Nigeria, Ivory Coast and Gabon - said that the General Conference was being held under favourable circumstances as a result of the signing of the partial test ban treaty in Moscow. He hoped that the treaty, which Burma had already signed, would enable fissionable material hitherto used for destructive purposes to be diverted to peaceful ends.

51. Burma had only a very modest programme for the utilization of atomic energy and had not been able to participate actively in the affairs of the Board; nevertheless it had followed the Agency's activities with great interest and appreciated the technical assistance it had received. Like all developing countries, at the present stage of its development in nuclear science Burma attached the greatest importance to the Agency's technical assistance. He welcomed the establishment of a new Department of Technical Assistance and hoped that it would be headed by the experienced staff member from a developing country who was already responsible for technical functions.

52. His delegation hoped that Burma would continue to be represented in the Secretariat. It welcomed the appointment of a regional officer for Asia and the Far East and the principle of rotation for that post.

53. Some delegates had mentioned South Africa; Burma was strongly opposed to apartheid and had taken all the measures proposed in the United Nations against South Africa, but he thought the sentiments expressed by the outgoing President on the opening day of the Conference^{10/} should be supported.

54. Mr. de CASTRO (Philippines) said that the General Conference was taking place at an auspicious time, soon after agreement had been reached on the Moscow test ban treaty which, it was hoped, would result in efforts hitherto devoted to the nuclear arms race being gradually diverted to the promotion of the Agency's aim, the peaceful use of the atom.

55. During the current session four new States had been admitted to membership. The growth in membership showed that the importance of what the Agency was doing and would continue to do in bringing the benefits of atomic energy to peoples throughout the world, was being recognized.

56. He congratulated the Director General and his staff on the substantial progress achieved in many areas during the last year. If they were unable to accomplish more, it was because the Agency was handicapped by lack of funds. Hence, his delegation supported the amendment to the Statute recommended by the Board with a view to providing in a single budget for the activities hitherto financed from voluntary contributions. The existing system of financing the technical assistance programme had not yielded the means necessary to carry it out effectively, and it was after all one of the Agency's most important activities. He therefore hoped that the proposed amendment would be supported by all States sincerely wishing to help the less-developed countries.

57. At the sixth regular session of the General Conference his delegation had supported the proposal to establish posts for regional experts to deal with special matters of common interest to the various regions; that would help solve the problem of recruiting experts and enable the Agency to provide expert services when most needed. He was pleased to note that steps had been taken to implement that proposal by the appointment of a specialist in nuclear technology to serve as a regional officer for Asia and the Far East. The Study Group Meeting on the Utilization of Research Reactors in Bangkok and the Conference of Countries in Asia and the Pacific for the Promotion of Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy^{11/} had served to stress the need for regional co-operation,

^{10/} GC(VII)/OR.73, para. 6.

^{11/} Held at Tokyo from 11 to 13 March 1963.

and the Agency could well play a vital part by co-ordinating the research programmes of the different countries, with a view to avoiding duplication of effort and waste of scarce resources.

58. His own country was engaged in a modest atomic energy research and development programme as part of a general scheme to utilize science and technology for national welfare and progress. An atomic centre had been established where research work was being carried out in such fields as agriculture, biology and medicine, industry and the physical sciences. The facilities and staff of the centre were to be increased. On 26 August 1963, five years after the establishment of the Philippines Atomic Energy Commission, the research reactor had gone critical. Indigenous skills had been utilized to the fullest extent in the design and construction of the reactor building and in the installation of the reactor itself. The experience gained by Philippine engineers and scientists had been invaluable, and would no doubt be useful in the larger projects contemplated for the future. The reactor would be utilized for research, the production of radioisotopes, training and education. He welcomed the study group meetings on reactor utilization being conducted under the Agency's auspices, from which the Philippine and other research centres in the region would benefit, and also thanked the Agency for sending a mission to the Philippines which had provided the occasion for a full discussion of his country's programmes in isotope production, activation analysis, hot-atom chemistry, the preparation of labelled compounds and radiation chemistry.

59. While agreeing with the Director General that nuclear power was bound to play an important part in the industrialization of developing countries, he pointed out that the potentialities of conventional power plants should not be overlooked. The pre-investment study on power to be undertaken in his country, as a United Nations Special Fund project, might well be instructive for the Agency and interested countries in regard to the introduction of nuclear power in developing countries.

60. One of the most serious problems facing the developing countries in their atomic energy programmes was the shortage of trained manpower; nuclear studies were a new branch of science, and educational institutions had not been able to keep abreast of the times. In most developing countries the nucleus of qualified personnel had invariably received their training abroad and reliance

on overseas training for highly specialized and advanced work would probably continue for some time. His delegation recommended that the Agency's fellowship programme should continue to be given high priority and it had repeatedly proposed that fellows should be enabled to pursue their studies to the doctorate level. The revised guiding principles for Agency fellowships now made that possible for deserving fellows. Equally important was the role that the Agency and UNESCO might play in bringing about close co-operation in training and research between the universities and atomic energy research centres. In the Philippines steps had been taken in that direction and a graduate programme in nuclear science and engineering had been agreed upon between the Philippines University and the Atomic Energy Commission, providing for the joint use of staff and facilities of both institutions.

61. His delegation supported the proposed changes in the Secretariat structure under which the Agency's technical assistance services would be consolidated in one department. The change would not only promote efficiency but also facilitate the co-ordination of all technical assistance activities that were by nature interrelated.

62. It also endorsed the Agency's programmes and activities.

63. Mr. NESHO (Albania) welcomed the four African States which had just become Members of the Agency. His delegation fully supported the struggle of the African nations against the racial policy followed in South Africa and urged the Agency to take measures against South Africa, even going so far as to deprive it of membership.

64. He pointed out that humanity was at present experiencing revolutionary scientific and technical developments which offered great prospects for increasing production and utilizing natural forces on a wide scale. Man was systematically penetrating and mastering the secrets of the microcosm. The practical use of nuclear energy was becoming a reality. However, the greater the progress made in the use of nuclear energy, the greater the need for international co-operation in that sphere. He noted that the Agency had already achieved good results, especially in connection with the award of fellowships, the exchange of technical and scientific information and the organization of scientific meetings. Good regulatory work had also been done, especially in establishing international regulations for the transport of radioactive materials and with regard to liability for nuclear damage, etc.

65. However, there were also a number of shortcomings in the Agency's work which seriously impeded effective international co-operation. The Agency's main aim should be to provide technical assistance to the developing countries in the field of atomic energy.

66. But the United States and its Western allies were trying to convince everybody that the Agency's main function was one of control, so that the Agency should be turned into an instrument for control on an international scale. The United States was thus compelling the Agency to enforce, prematurely, a system of control and safeguards. Such was the purpose underlying the agenda item entitled "Extension of the Agency's safeguards system". The Government of Albania demanded that Agency assistance should be used solely for peaceful, and not military, purposes. However, he was disturbed by the fact that the United States and some other Western countries were using that as a pretext to force on the Agency a system of control and safeguards which would adversely affect the prestige and sovereignty of the less-developed countries. He was also perturbed by the fact that the organizational apparatus was steadily and to an increasing extent being converted into an instrument required by the United States in order to establish control over sources of nuclear raw materials in other countries, purloin their scientific discoveries and secure a monopoly of atomic secrets, thereby making it more difficult for other countries to benefit from the results of important scientific discoveries.

67. In his opinion, the Agency's most urgent task was the provision of technical assistance, in the widest possible sense of the term, namely assistance which included the dissemination of information regarding technical achievements, the supply of equipment and instruments and the training of specialists. The possibilities for economic and social development offered by atomic energy must not become the monopoly or prerogative of the more advanced countries. If the Agency concerned itself first and foremost with questions of control and safeguards, it would be complying with the wishes of the State Department of the United States.

68. The technical assistance provided by the Agency in 1962 did not fully meet the current needs and wishes of Member States. Although there was an increase in expenditure on fellowships compared with 1961, the number of fellowships

awarded was almost exactly the same as in 1960. Furthermore, a large proportion of the funds for technical assistance was going to States belonging to aggressive military blocs, to the detriment of the less-developed countries.

69. The Agency had still not become a truly international body owing to the reluctance of the United States and its allies to accept certain socialist countries as Members.

70. The People's Republic of China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the German Democratic Republic and various other countries had not yet been accepted as Members of the Agency. The fact that the People's Republic of China still did not occupy its rightful place in the Agency, which continued to be held by the representative of the usurper Chiang Kai-shek, showed that the United States was concerned not so much with putting the Agency's ideals into practice as with achieving its own selfish, political ends.

71. His delegation thought an end should be put to that situation and that the People's Republic of China should be given its rightful place in the Agency.

72. The present session of the General Conference was opening under extremely complicated international conditions. The unbridled armaments race continued with greater intensity. Despite the constant protests by the whole of humanity, the carrying out of nuclear explosions had not been discontinued. The greatest danger, however, consisted in the stockpiling and perfecting of nuclear weapons. The Western States, under the leadership of the United States, blinded by hatred of Communism, were making every effort to prevent the acceptance of proposals for disarmament. Their military budgets were reaching astronomical proportions and the United States was creating new hot-beds of tension in various countries of the world. A striking example of that was the aggressive action of the United States against the peace-loving nations of Cuba, South Viet-Nam, Laos, etc.

73. He then referred to the signing of the Moscow treaty banning nuclear tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water. The Albanian delegation considered that the banning of tests went only a short way towards meeting the hopes of the nations of the world, since it contributed little to the preservation of life and health. In reality that treaty was a fraud since it did not prohibit the stockpiling of arms of immense destructive power. Underground nuclear arms tests would continue as before.

74. The delegation of the People's Republic of Albania thought that the most effective way of ensuring lasting peace was complete and general disarmament. The Agency had an important part to play in that connection.

75. In conclusion, he expressed confidence that the Agency's problems could and would be solved and that the Agency would follow the path of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

76. Mr. RAHMOUNI (Algeria) expressed Algeria's desire to co-operate in the Agency's future work. The Government of the Republic of Algeria regretted that the many tasks of the new administration had prevented it from making a close study of its obligations towards the Agency with a view to applying for membership. However, in accordance with the wishes of the President of the Republic, Algeria was prepared to undertake its international responsibilities. The Agency was one of the organizations which best reflected the scientific values of the modern age, and Algeria would give it full support and encouragement, as it seriously wished to embark on the process of development.

77. It had already made a good start. The University of Algiers provided training in nuclear physics, and courses in nuclear chemistry would start shortly. Independently of the University, the Scientific Research Authority was particularly concerned with the growth of the Nuclear Research Institute. That Institute, which possessed three accelerators of 700 keV, 2 MeV and 3 MeV respectively, had already acquired some experience in the study of elementary particles. The new 8-MeV tandem installation would permit advances in the study of reaction energies. Courses in theoretical and nuclear physics were being conducted by professors and by research workers engaged on their doctorate studies. Equipment of the "Nuclear Research Applications" section, which would deal with medicine, agriculture and hydrology, had started in 1963.

78. Algeria congratulated the Agency on its considerable efforts to help the developing countries and hoped that numerous regional centres would be set up under Agency auspices for the benefit of the countries in question.

The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.

