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## OFFICIAL RECORD OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Tokyo Prince Hotel, Tokyo,  
on Monday, 27 September 1965, at 10.15 a.m.

President: Mr. ASAKAI (Japan)

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\* GC(IX)/313.

The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document GC(IX)/INF/82/Rev.2.

APPOINTMENT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL (GC(IX)/304)

1. The PRESIDENT recalled that on 17 June 1965 the Board of Governors had appointed Mr. Sigvard Eklund to the post of Director General for a period of four years to run from 1 December 1965. There was a request by the Board for approval of the appointment in document GC(IX)/304, which contained a draft resolution that the Board was recommending the Conference to adopt.
2. The draft resolution in document GC(IX)/304 was adopted by acclamation.  
At the invitation of the President, Mr. Eklund entered the meeting.
3. The PRESIDENT informed Mr. Eklund that the General Conference had approved his appointment. He was pleased to be the first to congratulate him and invited him to take the oath of office prescribed by Provisional Staff Regulation 1.11.
4. Mr. EKLUND took the following oath:  
"I solemnly swear to exercise in all loyalty, discretion and conscience the functions entrusted to me as Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, to discharge these functions and to regulate my conduct with the interests of the Agency only in view, and not to seek or accept instructions in regard to the performance of my duties from any Government or other authority external to the Agency."
5. He thanked the Board and the General Conference for the honour they had shown him in renewing his appointment for a period of four years. In accepting, he had weighed the pros and cons. On the one hand, his personal feeling was that the experience gained during his first term of office should render it possible for him to make a useful contribution to the Agency in the years to come. On the other hand, he believed that a rotation of holders of senior posts in international organizations was highly desirable, and he had also experienced a certain frustration which seemed necessarily to accompany the position of Director General of the Agency.
6. The results obtained by the Agency in the past four years had been possible only because the help and understanding he had requested on his initial appointment had been freely given. One could not over-emphasize the importance of a favourable political climate in carrying out the work of an international organization. Both in the Board and in the Conference, the prevailing spirit in the past few years had been one of co-operation and understanding between Member States, and he hoped that that spirit would continue to prevail in the future.

7. Substantial progress had been made with nuclear power, particularly as regards putting it on a commercial basis. In several countries the industry was now able to offer fixed-price contracts for proven types of reactor and was even carrying on a considerable amount of development work. That situation would no doubt affect national organizations as well as the Agency. For the developing countries, the commercial availability of power reactors would increase the interest in acquiring them, if those countries could at the same time obtain technical assistance and financial help. They would therefore probably appeal to the Agency, and he would endeavour to see that its assistance was adequate to meet their needs.

8. In the same context, the Agency had made efforts to encourage activity in the field of emergency assistance in cases of radiation accidents. That problem had already been very closely studied by the Board and it had been hoped that it would have been possible to submit to the Conference at its current session a draft of an international convention by which emergency assistance could be mutually rendered by countries engaged in nuclear activities. He hoped that a text could be submitted at the next session.

9. Desalting was a problem which had been approached with enthusiasm, for it offered the possibility of meeting the growing demand for fresh water. The immediate needs were confined mainly to water for domestic purposes, but the stage was approaching when desalting would also allow the production of water for industrial uses. However, by far the most important use would be for irrigation; to desalt the very large volume of water that would be needed for that purpose nuclear power offered the best prospects. It was also very suitable for dual-purpose plants to produce electricity and heat in the proportions appropriate to any given case. The Agency would continue to interest itself in that important new development, and would be ready to co-operate with other organizations and countries engaged in research on desalting and its application, with the aim of reaching a realistic evaluation of the situation. Large pilot plants would have to be constructed and brought into operation to achieve that aim. He hoped that Member States would co-operate with the Agency so that countries in need of assistance could be given something more than reports on future prospects.

10. He continued to attach great importance to regional projects. At the inauguration of its plutonium plant in January 1965 India had offered to arrange for the plant to reprocess irradiated fuel elements for countries in the region and for the Agency, provided that the plutonium so produced was used only for peaceful purposes. That was a very interesting development and was worthy of emulation even by advanced countries.

11. The Middle Eastern Regional Radioisotope Centre for the Arab Countries in Cairo had been operating successfully since 1963. Although such centres should gradually become the full responsibility of their founding members, he was convinced that the Agency, once it had agreed to the establishment of a centre, had the responsibility of helping to overcome difficulties in the initial years.

12. The success of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics showed that it was an activity which should continue although it might ultimately require resources beyond those at present available to the Agency. He would therefore seek to widen the area of support for it. The suggestion that the Centre should act as host to a conference on the entire spectrum of theoretical physics in 1967 had been very well received by leading theoreticians. The proposal would be presented in greater detail in the programme for 1967.

13. The United Nations Special Fund had increasingly recognized the Agency's competence by making it an executing agency. He was sure that the Agency could do even more in the future by way of carrying out the Fund's projects. He intended to foster co-ordination and co-operation with other United Nations bodies, including the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, whose interest in nuclear power would certainly grow with the recent commercialization of the nuclear industry.

14. States were making increasing contributions to the development of the less advanced countries of the world and to the United Nations and its specialized agencies. However, a point would be reached when the level of financial support for international agencies would present new problems. For that reason the proliferation of specialized agencies which encroached to some extent on the work of existing bodies should be viewed with concern. Such encroachment was not serious unless the establishment of new organizations affected the financial resources of existing ones.

15. The Agency's membership of the United Nations family posed in that respect a co-ordination and collaboration problem of some magnitude. He was desirous of obtaining help from Member States in the form of harmonized instructions to their representatives at different United Nations organizations, so as to ensure a consistency which did not always exist at present. He expressed his belief in and admiration for the work done by regional organizations, but was somewhat concerned at their taking on tasks of a world-wide character which were the proper function of international organizations created for that purpose.

16. The authors of the Statute had sought to anticipate intelligently the functioning of an organization then in process of creation. Eight years' experience of the Agency's operations might justify amendment of certain articles of the Statute so as to increase the Agency's effectiveness. Such matters as the frequency of the Conference's sessions, the composition of the Board of Governors and how often it should be changed, biennial budgeting and the unification of the budget were examples of problems calling for careful study. The Statute itself provided for revision.

17. He wished to take the opportunity of stressing how wise it had been to choose Vienna as the Headquarters of the Agency and of expressing his gratitude for the generosity and understanding unfailingly shown by the Austrian Government and the municipal authorities of Vienna.

18. When the next long-term programme was considered, the relative importance of the Agency's different functions should be defined more precisely. The situation then might not be the same as that originally envisaged by the Preparatory Commission and might require changes in the Secretariat's structure. He was convinced of the need to strengthen the technical assistance programme and regulatory activities, particularly safeguards.

19. Referring to personnel matters, he expressed satisfaction at the co-operation he had received from the staff. He had always emphasized the need for the Director General to be given maximum freedom of action, uninfluenced by national or other considerations, in recruiting staff for the Agency. The aim should be an equitable geographical distribution provided that efficiency did not suffer, and Member States should not insist upon a post vacated by one of their nationals being immediately filled by another, especially as it was sometimes necessary to terminate certain work in order to provide for

other activities. Rotation of nationalities in a post was necessary not only to provide fresh views on the Agency's work but also to give all Members their just share of representation in the Secretariat. He intended to give special attention to personnel policy and the organization of the staff.

20. With regard to finances, the funds received by the Agency from the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance had reached a level at which, excluding gifts in kind, they exceeded those available for technical assistance from the Agency's own resources. While such a trend was in one sense to be welcomed, complacency was perhaps not advisable in a situation where outside support was relied upon to meet the costs of an expansion of technical assistance which was legitimately the responsibility of the Agency itself. The funds contributed by the Agency should increase at least as rapidly as those received from outside sources.

21. No topic was of greater importance to mankind than the perennial question of war or peace. There were continuing hopes of international disarmament, starting with nuclear disarmament under international control. No other organization seemed as suited to exercise that control as the Agency, which should therefore be ready to play its part. The Agency had taken the first steps in international inspection under the safeguards system, and that activity would develop rapidly in the coming years, regardless of progress in nuclear disarmament. Future work on safeguards should include studies of the means to be used to safeguard facilities other than reactors, for example reprocessing plants.

22. The progressive increase in the number of nuclear power stations would be accompanied by an increased quantity of fissionable material which could be used for the manufacture of weapons. By 1970 power reactors would be producing about 8000 kg of plutonium per annum, and by 1980 the figure might have risen to 30 000 kg per annum, some of which would be in countries not at present possessing nuclear weapons.

23. The effectiveness of the Agency's safeguards functions involved willingness on the part of Member States to make a concerted effort to place their nuclear activities under the Agency's system. That willingness was necessary not only when nuclear activities were developed as a result of the supply of material assistance by one State to another; countries advanced in the techniques of atomic energy should also be prepared to submit their facilities unilaterally

to safeguards, as the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland had already done in respect of one power reactor each.

24. The general trend to limit the uses of atomic energy to peaceful purposes was growing. The signing of the partial nuclear test ban treaty in 1963 had been one of the most important manifestations of that trend, and had re-emphasized the Agency's responsibilities for promoting the peaceful uses of atomic energy at the international level. The general feeling of relief which had followed the signing of the treaty was a measure both of deep anxiety and of the universally expressed hope that the situation would take a turn for the better. Given the will, it was within man's reach to realize that hope. If a system of strict international control was developed in the future, the scientific and technical resources of the Agency would be available to assist in that control in so far as it applied to the nuclear field.

25. The time might come for considering the establishment of a link between, on the one hand, the increased resources available for the peaceful uses of atomic energy as the result of a disarmament treaty and, on the other, the Agency which had been set up to promote the use of those resources on an international scale. A measure of that kind would not go unnoticed by international opinion, which would see that cessation of the proliferation of atomic weapons was intended not only to save mankind from utter destruction but also to increase and multiply the peaceful uses of atomic energy, and with them the chances of progress and welfare in peace. The Agency should therefore follow closely the deliberations of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament at Geneva and the negotiations which took place from time to time with the object of creating denuclearized zones.

26. He had wanted to share his ideas with the Conference in order to show how the present possibilities looked from his observation point. In conclusion, he wished to emphasize that he was under no illusions as to the task facing him in his new term of office. He hoped that Member States would give him their support in facing up to the challenges and opportunities. His experience over the past four years led him to believe that that support would be forthcoming, so that at the end of his service the time could be measured not in terms of years but in terms of achievements.

27. Mr. PETROSYANTS (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking in the name of his delegation, congratulated Mr. Eklund on his appointment to the high post of Director General of the Agency and wished him success in his difficult task.

28. With reference to the statement by Mr. Eklund, in which the latter had described his personal views on certain aspects of the Agency's activity, he observed that several of the questions dealt with required very close study. He also wished to comment briefly on certain proposals included in the statement which were not acceptable to his delegation.

29. Firstly, Mr. Eklund had rightly pointed out that the Agency's recruiting practices should be greatly improved. However, the methods which he was proposing would aggravate the situation rather than solve the problem. The principal defect of the present policy was the system of permanent contracts. It was quite wrong for a technical organization to recruit experts on a permanent basis, since within a few years they were transformed into bureaucrats. The system did not permit an adequate measure of control over the activity of the staff employed on such terms, and should therefore be abandoned as soon as possible.

30. Secondly, the Soviet delegation felt that the question of a unified budget rested on a mistaken assumption. It had already been debated two years previously, and the majority had declared themselves opposed to the measure. He therefore regretted that Mr. Eklund should have seen fit to re-open the subject.

31. Thirdly, certain ideas expressed by Mr. Eklund on the subject of using the Agency as a disarmament control organ gave rise to objections. The Soviet Union's attitude on the matter had already been made clear several times and he did not intend to repeat it.

32. Fourthly, the Soviet delegation had comments to make on several other points mentioned by Mr. Eklund and reserved the right to present them in due course.

#### SAFEGUARDS (GC(IX)/312, 319)

33. Mr. BRILLANTES (Philippines), Rapporteur of the Administrative and Legal Committee, presented the Committee's report under item 16 of the agenda: Safeguards (GC(IX)/319). The Committee recommended the Conference to adopt the draft resolution appearing at the end of the report.

34. The draft resolution contained in document GC(IX)/319 was adopted unanimously.

OPENING DATE OF THE TENTH REGULAR SESSION

35. It was decided to fix 21 September 1966 as the opening date for the tenth regular session of the General Conference.

ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE AGENCY'S ACTIVITIES (GC(IX)/302, 303)

36. The PRESIDENT drew the Conference's attention to the recommendation by the Board of Governors (GC(IX)/302) on the Agency's report to the General Assembly of the United Nations for 1964-65. As the draft resolution submitted by the Board was couched in the same terms as similar resolutions adopted by the Conference in the past, he suggested that it be adopted.

37. The draft resolution contained in document GC(IX)/302 was adopted.

38. The PRESIDENT invited the Conference to consider the draft resolution submitted by the Board in its recommendation (GC(IX)/303) on the Agency's report to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations for 1965-66.

39. The draft resolution contained in document GC(IX)/303 was adopted.

ELECTIONS TO THE AGENCY'S STAFF PENSION COMMITTEE

40. The PRESIDENT explained that the Agency's Staff Pension Committee included two members and two alternates elected by the Conference. One of the members would not be able to continue to sit on the Committee after the end of the current session. The Conference was thus called upon to elect a replacement. Mr. Hélio Bittencourt (Brazil) had been nominated.

41. Mr. Bittencourt (Brazil) was elected a member of the Agency's Staff Pension Committee.

THE AGENCY'S ACCOUNTS FOR 1964 (GC(IX)/318)

42. Mr. BRILLANTES (Philippines), Rapporteur of the Administrative and Legal Committee, introduced the Committee's report under item 17 of the agenda: The Agency's accounts for 1964 (GC(IX)/318).

43. The draft resolution contained in document GC(IX)/318 was adopted.

THE AGENCY'S RELATIONS WITH INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (GC(IX)/320)

44. Mr. BRILLANTES (Philippines), Rapporteur of the Administrative and Legal Committee, introduced the Committee's report under item 20 of the agenda: The Agency's relations with intergovernmental organizations (GC(IX)/320).

45. The draft resolution contained in document GC(IX)/320 was adopted.

The meeting rose at 12 noon.