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ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIFTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Neue Hofburg, Vienna,
on Monday, 30 September 1968, at 10.50 a.m.

President: Mr. SANDOVAL VALLARTA (Mexico)

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* GC(XII)/390.

GENERAL DEBATE AND REPORT OF THE
BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR 1967-68
(GC(XII)/380, 389) (continued)

1. Mr. PASECHNIK (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that several important questions concerning the Agency's work had been raised requiring consideration at the twelfth regular session of the General Conference, particularly with regard to the basic trends for the five-year period 1969-74.

2. Generally speaking, the programme submitted¹⁾ correctly reflected the main lines and the ways and means by which international co-operation for the peaceful uses of atomic energy could be achieved within the Agency. The Agency would have three main tasks during the next few years:

- (a) Implementation of the safeguards system, a task of particular importance in view of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons²⁾;
- (b) The organization of international co-operation in the use of the experience gained throughout the world with regard to nuclear power and the application of isotopes and radiation in industry, agriculture and the health services; and
- (c) The granting of technical assistance to the developing countries to enable them to use atomic energy for the advancement of their national economies and improvement of the well-being of their people.

3. Those were the activities on which the Agency should concentrate during the next few years. On the whole, the Ukrainian delegation approved the draft programme and the draft budget³⁾, but it did have some comments to make.

4. The programme and budget document did not adequately reflect the fact that the approval of the NPT by the United Nations marked the beginning of a new stage in the activities of the Agency. The Treaty created even more favourable conditions for a wide international exchange of experience and knowledge in various branches of nuclear science and technology. At the same time, it aimed at preventing the diversion of nuclear material from peaceful, creative uses to the production of means of destruction.

1) GC(XII)/385, paras 11-15 and 32-623, and 385/Corr.1.

2) This Treaty, which is the subject of Resolution 2373 (XXII) adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 12 June 1968, is subsequently referred to in this record as "the Treaty" or "the NPT".

3) GC(XII)/385, paras 16-31 and 645-685, and 385/Corr.1.

5. Under the NPT, the Agency was to conclude with non-nuclear-weapon States which were parties to safeguards agreements arrangements designed to ensure implementation of the Treaty.

6. His delegation shared the opinion held by most delegates that the Agency possessed the knowledge needed to perform its control and safeguards functions. The safeguards system had been tested on 66 reactors and assemblies in 29 countries. However, new efforts on a large scale would have to be made by the Board and the Secretariat, and all countries would have to show good will and increase their exertions.

7. The Board should not wait for the entry into force of the NPT but should immediately start working out agreements with the non-nuclear-weapon States which were parties to the Treaty, in order to find solutions to a number of important problems and thereby ensure that the Agency was in a position to fulfil all its control obligations without delay.

8. Statements by the delegates of the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, the United States and other States that were Members of the Board of Governors and by the Director General showed that the governing bodies of the Agency were anxious to arrange for implementation of Articles III and IV of the NPT.

9. In the years since its formation, the Agency had achieved definite success in arranging international co-operation for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and had established itself as the most highly qualified international organization in nuclear matters.

10. Analysis of the available information concerning the Agency's activity during the past year showed that it was concerned mainly with problems of extending the peaceful uses of atomic energy. Considerable attention had been given to providing the developing countries with technical assistance, studying the technological and economic aspects of nuclear power development, water desalination and the use of isotopes.

11. The Secretariat had done a great deal of work in drawing up and preparing the programme. On the whole, the programme was of a high scientific and technical standard and covered many important problems, in particular nuclear power and reactors, safe management and disposal of radioactive waste, the use of isotopes for various purposes, and so on.

12. New horizons had been opened up for the execution of national nuclear power programmes by the Soviet delegation's announcement that the Soviet Union was prepared to enrich uranium up to 2.5-5% for non-nuclear States⁴⁾.

4) GC(XII)/OR.121, para.27.

13. Special reference should also be made to the International Nuclear Information System (INIS). Member States had taken great interest in the project. The use of computers for INIS would provide Member States with a means of carrying out an active exchange of useful nuclear data.

14. The Ukrainian SSR supported that activity and was prepared to take an active part by making available appropriate data in its possession.

15. With regard to the Agency's work on the exchange of experience in connection with the peaceful uses of atomic energy, mention should be made of one important item — the organization of scientific conferences dealing with such problems. The Ukrainian delegation supported the proposal to hold a fourth international conference on the peaceful uses of atomic energy in 1970-71⁵).

16. His delegation considered that the Agency would achieve better results if it were possible to eliminate certain negative factors which handicapped its work and hindered the achievement of effective international co-operation.

17. For several years, the universal nature of the Agency as foreseen in the Statute had not been respected, so that various sovereign States had not been able to become Members of the Agency. The German Democratic Republic, for example, had never been granted membership, although it was well known that scientists of that country had made substantial contributions to nuclear science and, from the very beginning, the Government of the German Democratic Republic had done everything possible to help secure the conclusion of the NPT and had been one of the first to sign it. Such discriminatory practices merely brought discredit on the Agency.

18. The Secretariat's personnel policy needed considerable revision, as it was still far from ensuring proper geographic distribution. Not one person had been recruited from the Ukrainian SSR.

19. The Ukrainian SSR had participated in the implementation of a joint programme of technical assistance provided by the socialist countries through the Agency, under which a number of developing countries had acquired radiological centres.

20. The Ukrainian delegation suggested that in addition to giving technical assistance in the form of equipment and the setting up of nuclear centres, it was important to train national scientists, engineers and technicians. Without specialized staff, it was impossible to achieve technical progress in any field, including nuclear energy.

5) See General Assembly Resolution 2309 (XXII).

21. Over 4000 persons from the developing countries were at present receiving training in the Ukraine. Over 10 000 nationals of the developing countries had trained or extended their training in Ukrainian institutes of higher or secondary education and scientific research institutes during the preceding seven years.

22. Courses had been held to pass on experience in mastering new technological processes and advanced methods of operation in large plants. Nationals of 22 developing countries had improved their qualifications in such courses.

23. The joint work of two institutes, the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian SSR and the Cairo Nuclear Centre, afforded an example of effective assistance to developing countries in the training of scientific staff. Over a period of several years, up to 12 Ukrainian scientists and engineers had been carrying out research on reactors, nuclear physics and plasma physics with Arab colleagues in the laboratories of the Cairo Centre. The very important work of training specialists and scientists for the developing countries would continue.

24. Mr. ISTINYELI (Turkey) said that various events which had occurred in 1968 — in particular the resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations concerning the NPT, the approval by the Board of Governors of the agreement with Mexico for unilateral submission to the Agency's safeguards⁶), and the decision taken by the Board to extend the Agency's safeguards system to conversion plants and fabrication plants — bore witness to the increasing scope of the Agency's activities and programmes in the field of safeguards.

25. Turkey regarded the conclusion of the NPT as a positive and significant step towards the elimination of the dangers of a nuclear war.

26. At the same time, those new developments would probably alter the existing balance between the various activities which had been assigned to the Agency under its Statute.

27. The Turkish delegation had always asserted that the Agency should devote a considerable proportion of its efforts and resources to those activities which were likely to further the progress of the developing countries, and it had at all times attached particular importance to the part the Agency could play in narrowing the ever-widening technological gap between the advanced countries and the other members of the international community.

28. The question of priorities was likely to assume increasing importance in the future. It should

6) See document INFCIRC/118.

therefore be examined by the Secretariat and Member States with the close attention it merited, in order that a judicious balance between the various activities of the Agency might be preserved. Some delegations had already drawn the attention of the General Conference to the Agency's activities in connection with the application of isotopes in hydrology, which constituted a most important and fruitful field for the developing countries and one in which, he hoped, the Agency would continue to play an active part.

29. As far as technical assistance was concerned, Turkey believed that the Secretariat should undertake studies to assess existing potentialities and resources and to determine how they might be used more effectively. Priority among those studies should be given to an examination of the possibility of the advanced countries and the international financial organizations providing assistance in the form of gifts and long-term credits at low interest rates.

30. Mr. AL-ZAHAWIE (Iraq) welcomed the new Members of the Agency, Liechtenstein, the Niger and Zambia.

31. In addition to making use of atomic energy in agriculture, medicine and industry, Iraq was carrying out research with a view to narrowing the technological gap between the industrially advanced and the developing countries. The establishment of research centres would enable developing countries to benefit from the technological advances made in the use of nuclear energy and help to reduce the "brain drain", which was largely attributable to the lack of proper research facilities.

32. It should be borne in mind that the Agency would be called upon to play a major part in ensuring the survival of mankind and that the necessary steps should be taken to enable it to do so. At the tenth regular session of the General Conference the Director General had drawn attention to the possible need for a revision of the Statute to "bring it more into line with reality"⁷⁾; the Iraqi delegation had urged Member States on that occasion to carry out a general review of the Statute⁸⁾, and that review was now long overdue.

33. The Agency would have to assume increased responsibilities in applying safeguards under the NPT, and he could not accept the argument that it should concentrate more on providing Member States with material benefits than on its safeguards activities. Without proper safeguards, there might well be no material benefits to speak of. Any Government which took it upon itself to recommend

7) GC(X)/OR.101, para. 33.

8) GC(X)/OR.108, para. 58.

that the Agency should concern itself less with safeguards should show its good faith by co-operating closely with the Agency in the matter of safeguards and making all its atomic installations available for inspection. His country attached particular importance to safeguards because it was situated in a part of the world in which large-scale armed conflicts had taken place during the past 20 years, extensive areas were under military occupation and there was an imminent danger of war, in which nuclear weapons might well be used.

34. The Governments of the Arab States welcomed the NPT and had already expressed their readiness to declare the Middle East a nuclear-free zone. That gesture had, however, not yet been reciprocated by other States in the area, in which there were large atomic reactors with a high potential output which were, significantly, not made available for inspection. Having regard to the explosive situation in the Middle East, all Member States should do their utmost to prevent the introduction of nuclear weapons into the area and thus avoid a nuclear armaments race which could have catastrophic results for all mankind.

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE (GC(XII)/398)

35. The PRESIDENT announced that the Credentials Committee had examined the credentials of delegates in accordance with Rule 28 of the Rules of Procedure; its report, containing two draft resolutions, was to be found in document GC(XII)/398.

36. Mr. ARKADIEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, following on the signature of the NPT by a large number of countries, it was more than ever necessary to ensure that the principle of universal representation was applied in the Agency. Since many countries which were not States Members of the Agency had signed, or intended to sign, the NPT, and thereby accepted the Agency's safeguards system and agreed to admit its safeguards inspectors, it would be inequitable if such countries were prevented from participating in the Agency's work.

37. The German Democratic Republic, which had been one of the first signatories of the NPT, had not been allowed to become a Member of the Agency, although it was technologically very advanced and was making a very valuable contribution to the peaceful uses of atomic energy. It had already affirmed its readiness to accept the Agency's safeguards system⁹⁾ and had undertaken to fulfil

9) See document GC(X)/INF/91.

its obligations under the NPT¹⁰). Its Constitution prohibited "any misuse of science directed against peace, international understanding, against the life and the dignity of man" and its Law on the Use of Nuclear Energy laid down that the work of scientists and technicians working in the field of nuclear energy would be "directed at using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and for the benefit of all mankind"¹¹). The refusal to admit it to the Agency was therefore unjustifiable, and all the more regrettable since it could play a very useful role in the provision by the Agency of technical assistance to developing countries.

38. Mr. PELE (Romania) regretted that the problem of representation of China had not been solved, since the Chiang Kai-shek group did not represent that country. It was essential that the People's Republic of China, with its 700 million inhabitants and immense technological resources, should no longer be debarred from membership, particularly since the Agency would be required to play a major role in implementing the NPT and in achieving nuclear disarmament.

39. Mr. TCHEN (Republic of China) recalled that the General Assembly of the United Nations had on a number of occasions reaffirmed his Government's legal right to represent China and that the Credentials Committee had accepted the validity of the credentials issued by it. Accordingly he would merely point out, in reply to the fallacious argument which sought to challenge that right, that his Government had been chosen in free elections, in accordance with the Constitution, to represent the people and bring about, as soon as possible, the liberation of their compatriots on the mainland from a regime which followed a policy of violence and aggression.

40. Mr. MURAD (Pakistan) could not accept the validity of the credentials issued by the Republic of China since he considered that the People's Republic of China was entitled to representation in the United Nations and related international organizations, including the Agency.

41. The PRESIDENT said he understood that the majority of delegates was in favour of draft resolution I and that no delegate wished to speak to draft resolution II. He accordingly assumed that the Conference wished to adopt the two draft resolutions in document GC(XII)/398.

42. *The two draft resolutions were adopted.*

10) GC(XII)/INF/105, part V, fourth paragraph.

11) Ibid, part II, third paragraph.

OPENING DATE OF THE THIRTEENTH REGULAR SESSION

43. The PRESIDENT said that the General Committee had requested him to recommend to the Conference on its behalf that the opening date of the thirteenth regular session should be Tuesday, 23 September 1969.

44. *The recommendation of the General Committee was accepted.*

THE AGENCY'S ACCOUNTS FOR 1967 (GC(XII)/392)

45. Mr. MOREL (Gabon), Rapporteur of the Administrative and Legal Committee, introduced the Committee's report on the Agency's accounts for 1967 (GC(XII)/392).

46. *The draft resolution contained in document GC(XII)/392 was adopted.*

THE AGENCY'S RELATIONS WITH INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (GC(XII)/393)

47. Mr. MOREL (Gabon), Rapporteur of the Administrative and Legal Committee, introduced the Committee's report on the Agency's relations with intergovernmental organizations (GC(XII)/393).

48. *The two draft resolutions contained in document GC(XII)/393¹² were adopted.*

THE AGENCY'S ANNUAL REPORTS TO UNITED NATIONS ORGANS (GC(XII)/382)

49. The PRESIDENT drew attention to draft resolution A submitted by the Board of Governors in document GC(XII)/382 relating to the Agency's report to the General Assembly of the United Nations for 1967-68. As it was couched in the same terms as similar resolutions adopted by the Conference in the past, he suggested that it be adopted.

50. *The draft resolution was adopted.*

12) Relating respectively to the co-operation agreement between the Agency and the Organization of African Unity and to representation of intergovernmental organizations at the thirteenth regular session of the General Conference.

51. The PRESIDENT invited the Conference to consider draft resolution B, also submitted by the Board in document GC(XII)/382, concerning the Agency's report to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations for 1968-69. Since that resolution too was analogous to past resolutions on the Agency's reports to the Council, he thought the Conference would wish to adopt it.

52. *The draft resolution was adopted.*

ELECTIONS TO THE AGENCY'S STAFF PENSION COMMITTEE

53. The PRESIDENT recalled that the Agency's Staff Pension Committee included two members and two alternates elected by the Conference. One of the members, Mr. B. Vachata of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, was unable to continue in office, and Mr. Z. Nejedlý had been nominated as his successor.

54. *Mr. Nejedlý (Czechoslovakia) was elected a member of the Agency's Staff Pension Committee.*

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GENERAL FUND FOR 1969 (GC(XII)/388/Rev.4)

55. The PRESIDENT said that by 5 p.m. on 27 September the Director General had received pledges of voluntary contributions to the General Fund for 1969 from 51 Member States to a total equivalent of \$1 233 951, as stated in document GC(XII)/388/Rev.4. Since then, the Netherlands had increased its pledge by \$1000, and Portugal had pledged an amount of \$3600.

56. He pointed out that the total pledged was far short of the proposed target of \$2 million recommended by the Programme, Technical and Budget Committee in a draft resolution contained in document GC(XII)/395, Annex II.

The meeting rose at 12.5 p.m.