



International Atomic Energy Agency

# General Conference

GC(XIII)/OR.130  
22 January 1970

GENERAL Distr.

ENGLISH

## RECORDS OF THE THIRTEENTH REGULAR SESSION (23-29 SEPTEMBER 1969)

### ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTIETH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Neue Hofburg, Vienna,  
on Thursday, 25 September 1969, at 3.25 p.m.

President: Mr. TORKI (Tunisia)

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\* GC(XIII)/418.

GENERAL DEBATE AND REPORT OF THE  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR 1968-69  
(GC(XIII)/404, 416) (continued)

1. Mr. HULUBEI (Romania) said that because of the substantial progress achieved in all domains of economic and social life, Romania had been able to draw up a development programme for 1971-75, with forecasts up to 1980, which provided for steady improvements in the building of the technical and material infrastructure of a multilaterally developed socialist society. The growth rate of the economy would be 8.5-9.5% for 1971-75, industrial production would increase by 2-2.3 times and electric power production would reach 55-57 million MWh by 1975.
2. The programme also laid special emphasis on the development of science and technology. In the latter domain, the peaceful applications of nuclear energy were given high priority and a national nuclear programme for 1969-80 had been adopted.
3. At the heart of Romanian foreign policy was the strengthening of alliances, friendships and multilateral collaboration with all the socialist countries. At the same time Romania would pursue an active policy of increasing co-operation with all peoples in a spirit of peaceful co-existence.
4. His Government was extending and intensifying its links with the more recently independent States whose efforts were directed towards the defence and consolidation of their national sovereignty and whose role and contribution were becoming increasingly evident in the international community.
5. Its foreign policy was based on the principles of national sovereignty and independence, equality of rights, non-interference in internal affairs, mutual advantage and the right of peoples to decide their own future, in the belief that the strict observance of such principles would create a climate favourable to the cause of peace and security.
6. The problem of general disarmament and, in particular, of nuclear disarmament was accorded high priority in Romanian foreign policy. There was a need to step up action leading to disarmament and to make definite progress towards a nuclear weapons ban and the liquidation of existing stockpiles of such weapons.
7. Romania was constantly striving to promote security in Europe with a view to transforming the continent into an area where peaceful co-operation — a stable factor for peace and security — flourished.
8. At the same time, the Romanian people expressed grave concern about the armed conflicts and the sources of tension which persisted in different parts of the globe. The war in Viet-Nam and the Middle East situation were a threat to world security and peace. Romanians supported the well-known policy of their Government with regard to the settlement of those conflicts.
9. Romania had striven persistently and steadfastly to secure observance of the principle of universality in international organizations. It was therefore happy to see Ireland admitted to membership of the Agency.
10. On the other hand, it deplored the situation in which the People's Republic of China was deprived of its lawful right to take its seat in the Agency and the fact that the German Democratic Republic, which was a country highly developed in the nuclear sciences, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam were also deprived of the opportunity to participate in the Agency's activities.
11. Estimates showed that Romanian resources of liquid and gaseous hydrocarbons would not be adequate to meet the increased needs for power during the following 15-20 years, and it had therefore been decided to prepare forthwith for the introduction and progressive expansion of the commercial-scale generation of nuclear power, using domestic uranium sources.
12. Nuclear power plants with a combined output of 1800-2400 MW(e) would be built during the next 11 years.
13. The implementation of the nuclear programme would be made possible by a programme of action co-ordinated by the Nuclear Energy Committee and carried out by the mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, mining and nuclear materials industries, together with the specialized education institutes, health services and scientific research establishments in the country.
14. That programme would provide the industrial base which was essential for the domestic manufacture, to an increasing extent, of the necessary machinery, and would ensure supplies of raw materials, the training of specialized personnel and the introduction of protective measures against radiation and nuclear hazards in general.
15. The programme would also pave the way up to 1980 for a better utilization of nuclear fuel, using advanced-type reactors.
16. His delegation noted with satisfaction that the Agency had paid greater attention to nuclear power problems in response to requests made in previous years by Romania and other States.

17. He hoped that the Agency would conduct further studies on the economic viability of certain low- and medium-power reactor types for desalting, and on the establishment of agro-industrial complexes.

18. After technical assistance, the organization of scientific meetings and the provision of scientific and technical documentation services, he considered that the establishment of the International Nuclear Information System (INIS), with a very wide subject scope, was particularly useful. Romania would participate in INIS and hoped to assist in its growth and development.

19. As regards research contracts, the Secretariat had made commendable efforts to tackle practical problems whose solution was of immediate benefit both to the Agency and in the development of research in Member States. Co-operation between Romania and the Agency was evolving satisfactorily in that domain. The carrying out of co-ordinated research programmes had played a substantial part in solving many problems, and it seemed that the research contracts programme would benefit greatly if that practice were extended.

20. The Secretariat was also to be congratulated on the analysis of its activities in the context of the recommendations of the Conference of Non-Nuclear Weapon States (CNNWS). The results of that analysis were reflected in the report to the Secretary-General of the United Nations<sup>1)</sup>.

21. Mention should also be made of the assistance extended by the Agency to the group of experts appointed by the Secretary-General — of which a Romanian specialist was a member — to prepare a report on the contributions of nuclear technology to the economic and scientific advancement of the developing countries<sup>2)</sup>.

22. The work of the Secretariat in collaborating with Member States in the preparation of regulations governing radiological protection was also worthy of note. In that context it was satisfactory to note that the Agency had intensified its co-operation with other international organizations having similar or, closely related aims.

23. The programme of the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Atomic Energy in Food and Agriculture for the use of radiations to obtain varieties of high protein-content plants was a good example of international co-operation. Another was the agreement with UNESCO under which the latter would from 1970 onwards collaborate with the Agency in financing the International Centre for Theoretical Physics<sup>3)</sup>, in whose work Romania was participating.

1) GC(XIII)/INF/110.

2) United Nations document A/7568.

3) INFCIRC/132.

24. Several international scientific events had taken place in Romania in 1969. They had been organized by or under the auspices of the Nuclear Energy Committee, and had included a summer school on relaxation and magnetic resonance phenomena held at Mangalia in co-operation with the Ampère Association, and a summer school on theoretical nuclear physics held at Predeal. Romania was willing to act as host for similar events organized by the Agency.

25. During the past year the Agency's attention had been taken up by an important problem: the review of Article VI of the Statute. The Romanian delegation favoured the amendment of Article VI and hoped that a reasonable solution acceptable to the majority of Member States could be found.

26. The Secretariat was to be commended for the care it had devoted to the fellowship programme. It should find the means which would enable it to make full use of Type II fellowships with a view to training the highly qualified staff which Member States needed. The Agency should also intensify co-operation with UNESCO and ILO in the training of specialists at all levels. For that purpose it should also pay closer attention to the organization of courses, seminars and study tours. For 1970 Romania would contribute \$8250 to the General Fund, of which 90% would be in national currency. It would place 120 fellowship months for Type II fellowships at the disposal of the Agency.

27. Baron van BOETZELAER (Netherlands) said that since the twelfth General Conference it had become abundantly clear that some of the problems facing the Agency were world problems which affected several organizations in the United Nations family. Under its Resolution 2456 A/(XXIII) relating to the work of CNNWS the General Assembly of the United Nations had invited the specialized agencies, the Agency and other international bodies concerned to report to the Secretary-General on the action taken by them in connection with the recommendations contained in the respective resolutions of CNNWS; it had further requested the Secretary-General to place the question of implementation on the provisional agenda of the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

28. That Resolution had, without any doubt, constituted an important signpost for the activities of the Agency and of the Board of Governors over the past twelve months, but the fact remained that the Agency had the primary responsibility for initiating action to spread the benefits of nuclear energy among all countries. That primary responsibility and the autonomy which the Agency had under its Statute did not mean that the Agency could go about its own affairs without taking into account the interests of the other members of the United

Nations family. Under Article III.B.4 of its Statute, the Agency reported on its activities to the General Assembly. That statutory provision enabled the General Assembly to make specific requests and recommendations to the Agency. The action taken by the Board and by the Director General showed that they were fully conscious of their responsibilities and obligations in that respect. That having been said, the fact remained that where its primary responsibility was concerned, the Agency must solve its problems according to its own lights, in its own time and on the basis of its own Statute.

29. In response to Resolution 2456 A/(XXIII), the General Assembly would have before it both the Agency's report to the Secretary-General relating to recommendations made by CNNWS and the report of the group of experts on the contributions of nuclear technology to the economic and scientific advancement of the developing countries transmitted to members of the General Assembly by the Secretary-General. Those two important documents were closely interrelated and complemented each other. In that connection, he drew attention to paragraph 4 of the Board's annual report in document GC(XIII)/404 which underlined the assistance extended by the Agency to the United Nations Secretariat and to the group of experts appointed by the Secretary-General.

30. His delegation suggested that, in addition to the Board's report on the Agency's responsibility to provide services in connection with nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes<sup>4)</sup>, its memorandum on a fund of special fissionable materials<sup>5)</sup> should also be brought to the attention of the General Assembly. Those documents constituted, for all practical purposes, addenda to the Board's report to the General Conference, which dealt with the same topics in a more concise manner.

31. His delegation noted with satisfaction that steps had been taken to strengthen the co-operation and co-ordination between the Secretariat of the Agency and that of the United Nations in matters of common concern.

32. To conclude his general remarks, he said he hoped that the deliberations of the General Conference and the resolutions it adopted would contribute to the clarification of the major issues in the field of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, which would shortly be discussed by the General Assembly in the context of Resolution 2456 A/(XXIII).

33. CNNWS had recommended in one of its resolutions that a review of Article VI of the Agency's

Statute should be carried out<sup>6)</sup>. It could not be denied that the Board and the many Members who had participated in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole set up by it, had given very serious attention and had devoted a great deal of work to finding a solution to the problems posed by the composition of the Board; that was conclusively proved by the number of proposals presented. Nowhere were delicate political difficulties better known than in the Agency; a lasting solution must and could therefore be found by the Agency itself. His delegation would continue in the coming year to contribute constructively whenever a solution which might command general support was in sight. Without general acceptance no solution could be lasting.

34. His delegation had noted that in further developing and increasing the efficiency of its safeguards system, the Agency was taking into consideration the relevant provisions of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the recommendations embodied in CNNWS Resolution F. As stated in the report to the Secretary-General relating to CNNWS recommendations, the Agency pursued the threefold objective of making the application of safeguards as effective as possible, limiting to the minimum the need for the presence of inspectors and reducing the cost of safeguards<sup>7)</sup>. Those aims were not new, but were in fact the basic premises of the safeguard system, which had an evolutionary character and was designed to take into account new developments and technological progress. His delegation strongly supported the view of the Director General that it was desirable for the Board to set up a committee, open to all Members of the Agency, which could examine proposals relating to safeguards by the Director General or Member States<sup>8)</sup>.

35. With regard to INIS, his delegation noted with satisfaction that a form of co-operation had been established between the Agency and the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM), especially with regard to the keyword-system (thesaurus) developed by the latter organization.

36. As was clear from the report to the Secretary-General relating to CNNWS recommendations, the Agency's activities in the compilation and dissemination of information concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy were considerable, but so were the costs involved. It was stated in that report that the objective of INIS was "to ensure that any nuclear scientist or engineer will be made aware as quickly

4) GC(XIII)/410.

5) GC(XIII)/409.

6) See United Nations document A/7277, Resolution K.

7) GC(XIII)/INF/110, para.26.

8) GC(XIII)/OR.127, para. 39.

as possible of items of literature that might help him in his work"<sup>9)</sup>.

37. At the last session of the General Conference the delegate of Indonesia had expressed some doubt as to the benefit INIS would bring to developing countries and had urged the Agency to adapt INIS in such a way that every Member State could benefit equally from it<sup>10)</sup>. His delegation had given serious consideration to those observations and wondered whether providing the complete relevant literature was indeed sufficient to foster research and development in all Member States in the most efficient manner. An inquiry into the needs of the user might well reveal that he was more interested in receiving condensed information, again as quickly as possible.

38. Selection at the sources of the information was important, but could not be undertaken by the Agency itself. It was worth investigating whether the output of INIS could be presented in a variety of ways. The possibility of being able to obtain all relevant literature must, of course, be maintained. In addition, INIS might provide periodically and at frequent intervals concise review reports on selected topics. In such reports reference should be made to the original literature which could be obtained on request. Although his delegation realized that the preparation of those reports would put a sizable additional burden on the Agency's staff, it considered that the dissemination of literature would become much more efficient if the information were presented in a channelled, concise and hence directly readable form as well as in the form of a non-selected complete compilation of abstracts.

39. In his opening statement the Director General had put the need for technical assistance to developing countries first on the list of topics he had reviewed<sup>11)</sup>. There was a general awareness of the disturbing imbalance between the increasing number of requests for technical assistance and the inadequate and static financial means available. Consequently, the call of the group of experts appointed by the Secretary-General for a "steady increase in the resources available for multilateral technical assistance in the nuclear field, especially through the Agency<sup>12)</sup>, had a note of particular urgency. A better understanding of the fundamental deficiencies which were inhibiting the expansion of the technical assistance programme might in itself be an incentive to seek ways and means to improve a situation which was becoming steadily less satisfactory as the years went by.

9) GC(XIII)/INF/110, para. 58.

10) GC(XII)/COM.1/OR.80, para. 71.

11) GC(XIII)/OR.127, para. 29.

12) United Nations document A/7568, para. 259.

40. If it was true that there was a re-awakening of interest in the Agency's activities, as the Director General had mentioned, it should prove possible to channel more funds from the relevant international organizations or bodies and also from national Governments through the Agency to better satisfy the needs of the developing countries.

41. His delegation fully realized that several of the suggestions which he had just made would unavoidably increase the heavy burden which the Director General and his dedicated staff were already carrying. It would not have made those suggestions if it had not deemed the aims to be achieved of such enormous importance. Neither would it have made them if experience had not taught it to place unrestricted confidence in the Director General. His delegation fully endorsed the decision of the Board of Governors to appoint him for a third term.

42. Mr. STRAUB (Hungary) said that he had long been looking forward to the thirteenth session of the General Conference, believing as he did that the importance of the Agency was rapidly increasing. The Director General's statement outlining the Agency's responsibilities in relation to NPT<sup>13)</sup> had greatly impressed him. Some months previously the Presidential Council of the Hungarian People's Republic had in fact ratified NPT, in keeping with the policies which the Hungarian Government had been pursuing for a considerable time. NPT assigned to the Agency new and highly significant duties, and it behoved all to assist the Agency in carrying them out.

43. The Hungarian delegation was looking forward with keen interest to the elaboration of a model agreement for the application of safeguards under NPT and hoped that it would be submitted to Member States in the near future. The development of the safeguards system itself, including safeguards technology, was also acquiring fresh importance. It was vital that the methods evolved in national laboratories should be utilized to the fullest possible extent, for otherwise the immense technological and organizational tasks inherent in the control functions provided for in NPT could scarcely be discharged efficiently.

44. The performance of supervisory duties in connection with peaceful nuclear explosions - together with related technological, health protection and legal problems - were other aspects of NPT. The Hungarian delegation regarded the Agency as the organization most competent to deal with those problems. Another task which must not be neglected was that of giving adequate information to the public at large. The offer of the delegate of the Soviet Union to provide information on the peaceful appli-

13) GC(XIII)/OR.127, paras 38 and 39 and 47 and 48.

cations of nuclear explosions in his country was most timely and welcome.

45. Information services, by which the achievements of one country could be communicated to others, constituted an extremely important area of the Agency's work. The International Nuclear Information Service (INIS) was a significant step forward in that sphere and the results so far achieved were gratifying. The Hungarian delegation hoped in fact that INIS would develop at a rather quicker pace than heretofore.

46. By and large the Agency's activities in the field of information, including the publication of books and journals, the organization of symposia, conferences and expert meetings and so on, deserved commendation. Nevertheless, it was important to be critical in selecting materials to be published.

47. The Agency's assistance to the developing countries should of course continue and should be so conceived as to bring the greatest possible benefits. In that connection, it was worth mentioning that the Hungarian Government had again increased its voluntary contribution, which in 1970 would amount to three times the figure for 1968.

48. The Agency's work in relation to the applications of isotopes was likewise of great importance. Greater attention should be given to the economic efficiency of those applications, however, and to the elaboration of methods by which their efficiency could be properly assessed.

49. The wide range of its activities made it necessary for the Agency to maintain good relations with intergovernmental organizations and the various agencies of the United Nations family. At present, the situation was not altogether reassuring. Greater attention should be given, in the first place, to cooperation between the Agency and the World Health Organization (WHO). On the other hand, the Agency's collaboration with certain intergovernmental organizations, for example with the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (COMECON) and international institutes such as the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research at Dubna, was developing well and had been noted with satisfaction by the Hungarian Government.

50. The expansion of the Agency's activities naturally warranted a certain increase in the budget but, in the opinion of the Hungarian delegation, there was room for improvement in the budget's structure.

51. The Agency's increased activity in recent years, and the new prestige it had acquired, were a natural concomitant to the progress that had been made in international affairs generally - progress marked by such milestones as the conclusion of the Partial

Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, the agreement on the peaceful use of outer space and NPT. Unfortunately, the world had also witnessed events of a different nature. The extension of the war in Viet-Nam was continuing to poison the international atmosphere and to maintain a situation fraught with dangerous consequences for the whole of mankind.

52. The Hungarian delegation congratulated Ireland on its election to membership of the Agency and wished it every success in participating in the Agency's work.

53. The number of Members had now reached 103, a fact which one could not but note with pleasure. Nevertheless, given the fact that the Agency was a universal international organization, the Hungarian delegation could not willingly accept the fact that several important States were still being denied membership. It was unjust, for example, that the German Democratic Republic should not be admitted to the Agency, the more so as that country could claim substantial achievements in the peaceful uses of atomic energy and had ratified NPT.

54. In conclusion he reaffirmed the intention of the Hungarian Government to contribute, within the limits of its means, to the success of the Agency's work.

55. Mr. SARABHAI (India) said that his delegation wished first to extend a most cordial welcome to the Agency's newest Member, Ireland. Everyone was aware of the valuable contribution Ireland had made to the cause of disarmament and international peace in the United Nations, and would look forward to an equally fine contribution by it to the work of the Agency.

56. In speaking of India's progress in the peaceful applications of nuclear energy during the past year, he proposed to confine himself to a few areas of special significance to developing countries. At the twelfth session of the General Conference he had given a fairly detailed description of a study initiated two years previously, on the development of nuclear-powered agro-industrial complexes in India. To derive the fullest possible advantage from nuclear power, developing countries had not only to produce low-cost power in large stations but also, at the same time, to establish power-consuming units which would enable them to achieve good load factors. It was disappointing in fact that the importance of simultaneous planning for power generation and consumption, as a means of raising the developing nations from a position of poverty, had not been adequately emphasized in the report of the group of experts appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to examine all possible contributions of nuclear technology to the economic and scientific advancement of developing countries. The relation-

ship between per capita power consumption and gross national product was well established, and modern agriculture needed energy just as much as industry. While advanced technologies required trained personnel, they also offered a surer road to development than mere reliance on obsolete methods.

57. India's study of the proposed energy production and consumption centre in Western Uttar Pradesh had made significant progress during the past year: detailed analysis and planning were now being undertaken, allowance being made for facilities already existing in the region so that an inventory of the new initiatives that would be required in each location could be drawn up. An interesting outcome of the study was the realization that it might be advantageous to use two technologies and two scales of operation. To get agriculture started in a particular area, energy could be provided initially by efficient gas turbines having a low capital cost, which could be transferred from one location to another after a few years of operation with only 15-20% additional investment. Thus, once a large-scale nuclear power project had been completed and a grid established the gas turbines could be moved to new areas to help start the process of development there. The studies seemed to indicate that, even though the electricity produced by gas turbines would be much more expensive than that produced by large nuclear power plants, the initial agricultural operations could nevertheless be profitable. In any event the prospect of increasing food production in Western Uttar Pradesh by five to six million tons, and the per capita income of 22 million people by as much as 25% in five years, was extremely exciting.

58. During the past year India had taken the first steps towards designing a fast breeder test reactor (to be located in a new research centre near Madras) in collaboration with the French Atomic Energy Commission. For reactors of the CANDU design, using natural uranium fuel, India was enlarging its facilities for the production of heavy water; to that end an agreement had recently been concluded with a consortium of industries in France for a plant to be established at Baroda.

59. India was happy to acknowledge the close collaboration that existed with many countries, particularly Canada, France, the United States of America and the Soviet Union, in the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

60. There were many other promising applications of atomic energy apart from power, among them radiation sterilization of medical products and the development of fibre polymer combinations. India was currently interested in such work and believed that it would have an important impact on two aspects of life, namely health and housing. The Government of India was looking forward to

establishing a centre for development and training in that field, in association with the Agency and UNDP.

61. With regard to the peaceful uses of nuclear explosives, the delegation of India believed that the conclusions reached by the Board, reflected in a report now before the Conference, represented a realistic and positive appraisal of the problem. However, as the relevant technology was in its infancy, attention should be focused initially, as the Board had recommended, on the exchange and dissemination of information.

62. The Agency's experience in promoting the peaceful applications of nuclear energy throughout the world, and in safeguarding against any diversion of nuclear materials to military ends, clearly made it the competent organization to provide international services in connection with the peaceful uses of nuclear explosives. His delegation trusted that that subject would be considered in proper perspective, within the framework of the Statute, and that it would not be clouded by extraneous issues.

63. Much had been said about the problem of safeguards and the Agency's responsibility therefor. His delegation, like many others, had stated repeatedly that the safeguards system needed reform. Briefly, it should be simplified. The system should above all be designed flexibly, so that inspections could be either thorough or perfunctory and routine, as circumstances dictated. Without wishing to go into the details of the subject, he felt it had been amply demonstrated that the system could be simplified without losing any of its effectiveness. The acceptability of safeguards would be greatly enhanced if the whole operation were streamlined and placed on a sound scientific footing.

64. Turning to the financial aspects of the Agency's operations, he said that his delegation and many others had stressed the need to ensure that the technical assistance programme, already minimal owing to inadequate funds, should not be further reduced by the growth of other activities, particularly safeguards. At the twelfth session of the General Conference India had mentioned the need for a long-term review of the Agency's resources in the light of its increasing responsibilities<sup>14</sup>. It had referred in particular to the need for a close examination of large-scale activities, especially safeguards. The delegation of India therefore welcomed the Director General's willingness to convene a panel for a systematic study of past and future expenditure in the light of available resources. The findings of that panel should help the Board to evaluate the justification for proposed expenditures — particularly in relation to safeguards — and to examine the problems of financing them.

14) GC(XII)/OR.122, para. 41.

65. India held the view that a satisfactory solution to the problem of finance would be to create a second category of assessed contributions related to the net output of nuclear energy of each contributing State and payable, in the case of the developing countries, in local currency. Without such a system there was bound to be a sharp increase in the regular assessed contributions of Member States; the smaller developing countries would be hit particularly hard and would find that their contribution to the Agency was out of all proportion to their own expenditure on atomic energy activities.

66. With reference to the review of Article VI of the Statute, he wished to repeat the observations he had made at the twelfth session of the Conference<sup>15)</sup>. There was much to be gained by retaining some of the older principles and yet providing for enlarged representation in the composition of the Board. Several delegations had submitted ideas and proposals in an honest effort to find a generally acceptable solution to the problem. In the opinion of the Indian delegation the Italian proposal conformed most closely to the principles which it espoused itself, and therefore offered the best basis for serious consideration.

67. The Indian Government felt that the Agency would be well advised to take action in three other matters. Firstly, it should draw the appropriate conclusions from the review of the operations of its Laboratory at Seibersdorf which had been carried out by a panel of experts in 1968. Secondly, it should take the initiative in matters related to the certification of irradiated foods. Thirdly, it should take early action in considering the problem of safeguards for enrichment facilities.

68. The Conference has already heard a reference to the agreement with UNESCO concerning the sharing of responsibility for the International Centre for Theoretical Physics at Trieste<sup>16)</sup>. The Agency should take care, however, not to accept permanent responsibility for the operation of the Centre, either alone or in conjunction with another organization, and should ensure that its present commitment was subject to an overall financial ceiling.

69. The programme for regional collaboration in South East Asia was something to which the Government of India attached particular importance. During the past five years India had done much to share with its neighbours its own experience in the peaceful applications of atomic energy. With the Agency's help it had co-operated in the establishment of a reactor utilization programme for the region of South East Asia, to which the Government of the

Philippines had graciously offered to act as host. Under that project — generally known as the India-Philippines-Agency project<sup>17)</sup> — five years' work had already been completed. That the venture had been a success could be seen in the fact that the participants, apart from receiving training themselves in neutron diffraction and other related problems, had initiated similar work in their own countries and had begun to make substantial contributions of their own in various branches of solid-state physics. One could only express satisfaction at the Agency's willingness to continue such co-operative efforts.

70. He took pleasure in announcing a voluntary contribution of \$35 000, in rupees, to the Agency.

71. In closing, he congratulated the Director General and his staff on their untiring and dedicated services to the Agency and pledged India's whole-hearted support to the Agency in all its activities.

72. Mr. VASSILEV (Bulgaria) congratulated the representative of Ireland on his country's admission to membership of the Agency. He pointed out that nuclear science and technology were characterized not only by the rapid growth in their development, but also by the prospects which they offered. At the present time, nuclear technology was finding a wider application in the scientific and economic sphere not only in developed countries, but also in a number of developing countries. In that respect the Agency was making a positive contribution, guided by the noble aims set out in the Statute with regard to the widespread application of nuclear energy for the maintenance of peace, health and prosperity throughout the world.

73. The international prestige of the Agency, as the only organization which was competent in matters relating to the peaceful application of atomic energy, was growing constantly. The role and activities of the Agency in the peaceful uses of the atom would increase in importance with the coming into force of NPT, which had been signed by most States Members of the United Nations and the Agency and ratified by a number of countries, including Bulgaria. NPT provided concrete guarantees of security for non-nuclear-weapon States and enabled them to apply atomic energy successfully for the development of their national economies.

74. One of the most important functions which the Agency would assume would be that of applying safeguards under NPT. Its competence and the availability of qualified staff and a safeguards system which enjoyed the confidence of the majority of Member States were a guarantee that the Agency could fulfil that responsible task.

15) Ibid., para. 39.

16) Para. 23 above.

17) See documents INFCIRC/56 and Add.1.

75. His delegation wished to stress once again that Bulgaria accepted the Agency's safeguards system and associated itself with those delegates who had spoken in favour of drawing up a draft model agreement between the Agency and the non-nuclear-weapon States parties to NPT. His delegation wished to repeat that it was against acceptance of the principles of regional safeguards systems, which in practice would lead to countries applying safeguards to themselves.

76. The Bulgarian delegation considered that in addition to safeguards and work in connection with INIS, one of the main activities of the Agency should be to provide technical assistance to developing countries.

77. With regard to enlarging the composition of the Board, the Bulgarian delegation considered the existing structure of the Board to be useful and effective, although it sympathized with the approach of the developing countries in that matter and would have no objection to a small, constructive expansion in the size of the Board. Nevertheless, it should be stated that the socialist countries that were Members of the Agency could not agree to any weakening of their position in the Board. The Bulgarian delegation also wished to call attention to its views on the self-evident requirements which countries becoming Members of an expanded Board should be expected to fulfil. The main criterion in that respect should be acceptance of NPT.

78. With regard to the principle of universality of the Agency, the Bulgarian delegation had more than once stated that it was its Government's firm conviction that it was essential to preserve the universal character of the Agency and to take the necessary steps to admit the German Democratic Republic, which was a highly developed industrial country with great achievements in the peaceful application of atomic energy. The German Democratic Republic was one of the Countries which had not only signed NPT but were wholehearted and active supporters of the principles underlying it. Moreover, as delegates were aware, the Parliament of the German Democratic Republic had ratified NPT the previous day.

79. Another important activity of the Agency was the provision of services in connection with nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes. The Bulgarian delegation wished to express its approval of the Board's report on that subject.

80. With reference to the report to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the action taken by the Agency in connection with recommendations by CNNWS, the Bulgarian delegation agreed with the observation made in the document that the Agency was not in a position to grant financial

assistance to countries for the implementation of major nuclear technology projects<sup>18)</sup>. As far as contributions to the General Fund were concerned, the Bulgarian delegation considered that they should be at the same percentage level as contributions to the Regular Budget.

81. His delegation noted with satisfaction the readiness with which the Agency had considered some of its requests for technical assistance necessary for the implementation of various projects in the Bulgarian national programme. The objectivity with which the Director General and the Secretariat had considered matters relating to technical assistance had been highly appreciated by Bulgaria.

82. As far as the Bulgarian power programme was concerned, Bulgaria had laid particular emphasis on nuclear power stations. First and foremost in that connection it had carried out preparatory work for the construction, with the assistance of the Soviet Union, of a nuclear power station with a capacity of more than 800 MW.

83. The Bulgarian delegation had noted with satisfaction the useful co-operation which had been built up between States Members of COMECON, not only with regard to reactor science and technology and nuclear power engineering, but also nuclear instruments, the production of isotopes and labelled compounds, radiation safety, protection equipment, etc.

84. Referring to the Agency's budget, he said that Bulgaria had noted that the Secretariat and the Board's Administrative and Budgetary Committee had largely succeeded in making the budget for 1970 reflect the activities for that year laid down in the six-year programme. Of course any expansion in the activities of the Agency, in particular where such matters as safeguards and INIS were concerned, would depend on the funds being found. At the same time, however, Bulgaria felt that a more flexible policy with regard to the use of available personnel and resources would enable the Secretariat to discover new reserves for carrying out some of its work at lower cost.

85. In conclusion, the Bulgarian delegation wished to state that it would do everything possible to facilitate the successful completion of the work of the current session of the General Conference and also to ensure that the resolutions adopted would further enhance the authority of the Agency.

86. Mr. TONA (Albania) said he was happy to be able to announce that for 1970 his country would make a voluntary contribution of \$800 to the General Fund for carrying out the operational programme.

18) See document GC(XIII)/INF/110, para. 103.

87. A firm upholder of the principle of universality in international organizations, his Government deplored the absence of a delegation from the Peoples' Republic of China, which alone had the right to represent the Chinese people, and strongly objected to the presence at the General Conference of envoys from the Chiang Kai-shek clique, who claimed to represent China.

*The meeting was suspended at 4.45 p.m. and resumed at 5 p.m.*

88. Mr. N'GUEMA N'DONG (Gabon) said he welcomed the admission of Ireland to the Agency and hoped that the work of the new Member State would constitute fresh support for countries in their efforts to cement peace and reduce the risk of world war.

89. Describing the past year as the "Year of the Non-Nuclear-Weapon States" in his opening statement, the Director General had drawn attention to the extensive work that was to be done in those countries in the production and utilization of atomic energy for peaceful purposes.

90. At the present time, if a nuclear power station was to be economic, it had to be of large size and connected to a large electrical power distribution network. The developed countries, forced by the need to overcome certain problems posed by the environment, would have recourse to such nuclear power stations to meet their increasing electric power requirements, while the developing countries, using more costly sources of power and remaining wholly dependent on conventional types of fuel, would fall further behind. It was to be hoped that the efforts of the Agency would enable that situation to be changed through the introduction of smaller-size and economically viable power stations into industry. Such action would help to narrow the very wide gap between the developed and the developing countries.

91. He was glad to note the fruitful results obtained by the Agency in the application of atomic energy for purposes other than the generation of electricity in certain developing countries, in particular the "green revolution" in Asia and a 90% reduction in the Mediterranean fruit fly population.

92. His country was keeping the Agency informed on the subject of its hydroelectric potential, which was enormous, but the exploitation of which required expenditure beyond the means of a developing country. Gabon was giving prominence to the construction of dams, such as the Kinguélé dam now being built. Concurrently with that work it was conducting hydroelectric studies on the Impératrice Falls, capable of producing 3000 million kW, the Poubara Falls, which could likewise produce 3000 million kW, and the Portes de l'Okanda Falls, capable of producing 8000 million kW. The construction of those dams would require enormous resources and Gabon was therefore not neglecting prospection for uranium, of which it was already one of the major African producers.

93. Ever since his country had gained independence, the Gabon Government had continued its study of mineral resources. In the case of uranium one could already speak of a metal-bearing region. The distribution of the chief indications over a particular area was now beginning to come clear and studies were being continued. It was likely that new deposits would be found, as, incidentally, had been the case during the past year.

94. Uranium mining in Gabon had already been described in several publications. It could be taken for granted that exploitation had not interrupted further prospecting; the future of the mining operations was already assured by the reserves that had been discovered.

95. Agency experts had foreseen increased demands for uranium and the need for new reserves of a million tons of cheap uranium by 1980. The modest efforts made by Gabon should result in discoveries of economic importance. His country would thereby help to meet part of the market requirement in uranium envisaged for 1980.

96. It was to be hoped that the Agency's assistance to developing countries would reach a higher level than the year before so that a number of countries could benefit thereby. That was an important matter which should be tackled without delay.

97. In conclusion, he hoped that the representation of the Africa and the Middle East area in the Board would be enlarged in view of the number of Member States from that area.

*The meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.*