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RECORD OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-NINTH MEETING

Held at the Neue Hofburg, Vienna, on Friday, 24 September 1971, at 3.20 p.m.

President: Mr. OTERO NAVASCUES (Spain)

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** GC(XV)/469.

THE RECORD

GENERAL DEBATE AND REPORT OF THE
BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR 1970-71
(GC(XV)/455, 466)

1. Mr. ZANGGER (Switzerland) noted with satisfaction that the Agency's mission for peace throughout the world was confirmed by the central role it would henceforth be called upon to play in the implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)[1]. His delegation wished to stress once again the importance the Swiss authorities attached to the Agency and its objectives.

2. The results of the work of the Board's safeguards committee were very valuable to the Swiss Government, since it could not have hoped to obtain the necessary parliamentary approval of NPT without first informing the Federal Parliament and the population about the way the Agency's safeguards system would work. His delegation was pleased to have participated in the drawing-up of an effective and simple safeguards system which would not hamper economic development.

3. No system of control could, of course, be perfect, because of limitations of a technical and financial nature. Although the system ensured a very high degree of confidence on the technical plane, it was no less essential to supplement that technical effort by a human effort directed towards improving the climate of trust among all States.

4. The system of safeguards that had been adopted was adequate to its purpose, but it would be necessary to improve its effectiveness on a continuous basis, since the rapid development of nuclear energy production would entail a steady increase in the amount of nuclear materials possessed by States. Thus, with a view to economizing on manpower and to reducing the future cost of safeguards to a minimum, it seemed desirable to strengthen automatic means of surveillance and administration as much as possible and, accordingly, to support the Agency in that sense from now on.

5. The contribution of nuclear energy was assuming particular economic significance in Switzerland. In fact, the era of large-scale hydroelectric power was practically at an end; and since the future would belong to thermal power, the Federal authorities and industry had opted for nuclear energy because of its two clear advantages: environmental protection and reliability of supply. Thus, with its first three power stations - Beznau I and II and Mühleberg - giving an aggregate output of 1000 MW(e), the Swiss nuclear industry would, from the end of 1971, meet about a quarter of the national electricity requirements. An estimate of future needs put requirements in nuclear electric power round the year 2000 at approximately 10 000 MW(e).

6. The Swiss authorities were particularly grateful to the Agency for organizing the Fourth International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy at Geneva. Since the Third Geneva Conference in 1964, a considerable number of nuclear power stations had gone into service in many countries. Moreover, the activities of fuel element fabrication and processing plants had grown and new plants had been established. The construction and operation of those facilities had enabled a considerable amount of experience to be accumulated, in technology and economics as well as in matters of safety. It was proving very useful to assess the implications of that experience for the future of nuclear energy, all the more so as the expediency of developing nuclear power based on fission had been strongly contested during the last few years in many countries, including Switzerland. Such assessments were unquestionably necessary at regular intervals in areas of rapid technical development. Because of the responsibilities assumed by the Federal authorities for the safety of nuclear facilities and for the protection of the environment, they were particularly interested in the exchanges of knowledge and experience the Agency had organized and would organize in regard to those subjects; they would like such exchanges to take place at more frequent intervals.

7. In that connection, he would draw attention to three important aspects of Swiss activities since the last session of the Conference. In the first place, the first year of operation of the first commercial nuclear power station, Beznau I, had demonstrated that releases of radioactivity into the air and rivers had entailed an additional radiation dose to the population of less than 1% of the natural radiation dose, thus fully bearing out hopes in respect of the protection of the environment. With regard to the fire the previous July in one of the two turbines of the second commercial nuclear power station, Mühleberg, which was equipped with a direct-cycle boiling-water reactor, the perfect functioning of the automatic safety measures for stopping the chain reaction, for closing the reactor isolating valves and for bringing the shut-down cooling system into play should be mentioned.

8. It should also be mentioned that the work of dismantling the Lucens reactor, which had been seriously damaged in January 1969, was now complete. It had recently been possible to remove the fuel element responsible for the incident, or more precisely its fragments, and they were being examined. The Investigation Commission would soon be in a position to complete its report, which would then be communicated to the Agency.

9. As far as the overall protection of the environment was concerned, the Swiss delegation supported the efforts of the Agency to establish a central register of data on amounts and concentrations of radioactivity in the atmosphere and the hydrosphere. It was obvious

[1] Reproduced in document INFCIRC/140.

that international solidarity in that area was imperative and required the services of the Agency.

10. Although Switzerland had given up the idea of producing complete reactor units, it manufactured a great variety of reactor components, which it used in its own nuclear power plants and also exported in large quantity. Switzerland was also engaged in the design and equipping of large nuclear electric power plants, some of which were intended for the developing countries. Consequently, it was important that Swiss experts should keep up to date with all problems relating to the development of more efficient reactor systems,

11. Switzerland was very interested in the scientific research being carried out in physics, chemistry, medicine, food science, agriculture and biology, in all of which disciplines atomic energy had numerous applications. Several of its laboratories were actively engaged on work in those sectors in which a contribution of science to the well-being of mankind had become imminent.

12. The volume of knowledge in all those spheres of activity, without mentioning the so-called "advanced" sciences, like thermonuclear fusion, had become so large that it could not be used rationally without an elaborate system of documentation. That extremely important problem had also been tackled by the Agency, which had introduced the International Nuclear Information System.

13. The Swiss delegation approved the budget for 1972 [2] and also the increase to \$3 million in the target for voluntary contributions from Member States [3]. That increase would enable activities for the developing countries to be strengthened and, in particular, would help such countries to prepare for the production of nuclear power to satisfy their needs for electricity. Switzerland hoped that the greatest possible number of developing countries would be able to make use of nuclear power plants, to as great an extent as possible, in the near future. However, it attached importance to having nuclear energy requirements defined in such a way as to make standardization of the means of production possible in the countries concerned, so that use could thus be made of the advantages of mass production. Furthermore, programmes should be closely co-ordinated amongst the different United Nations organizations, in particular with the United Nations Development Programme and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development which, when the time came, might finance projects.

[2] GC(XV)/460.

[3] Ibid., para. I, 11.

CREDENTIALS OF DELEGATES TO THE FIFTEENTH (1971) REGULAR SESSION

(b) REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE (GC(XV)/473)

14. The PRESIDENT drew the attention of the Conference to the draft resolution in paragraph 8 of the report of the Credentials Committee (GC(XV)/473) which the Committee recommended for adoption.

15. Mr. TONA (Albania) strongly protested against the recommendation that the credentials of representatives of the Chiang Kai-shek clique be recognized as valid. That clique had usurped the seat which belonged to the People's Republic of China, whose representatives were the only ones entitled to speak on behalf of the Chinese people. The refusal to accord the People's Republic of China its rightful place in the Agency was a grave injustice to the Chinese people and deprived the Agency of the valuable contribution which the People's Republic of China could make towards solving the major problems of the age.

16. The People's Republic of China was making great progress in all spheres and particularly in science and technology. Moreover, it had become a nuclear Power capable of making a valuable contribution to the Agency in atomic energy matters.

17. Mrs. HOSSAIN (Pakistan) said that her delegation did not recognize as valid the credentials of persons claiming to represent the Chinese people, and considered that the People's Republic of China was the only Government entitled to do so.

18. Mr. ANINOIU (Romania) recalled that the Romanian delegation had consistently objected to the anomalous situation constituted by the refusal to allow the People's Republic of China to occupy its rightful seat in the Agency. That country was in a position to make a valuable contribution to the Agency's work by reason of its immense potential and its impressive technical achievements, particularly in the atomic sphere. Taiwan was an inalienable part of Chinese territory and it would therefore be wrong to contemplate a double representation in international bodies. The presence of the Chiang Kai-shek clique was a flagrant violation of the legitimate rights of the People's Republic of China. He formally challenged the validity of the credentials of the representatives of Taiwan and of South Viet-Nam. In addition, he contested the claim of the South Korean delegation to represent all the Korean people. [*]

* The President wishes to record that he was subsequently informed by the delegate of the Republic of Korea that the delegate had wished to refute this statement, had sought the opportunity to do so, but had been unable to obtain the floor.

19. Mr. ARKADIEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) recalled that in the general debate the Soviet delegate had emphasized that the Agency must respect the principle of universal representation. [4] That principle had gained in importance now that the Agency was required to apply safeguards, the efficacy of which would depend on the way in which the principle was observed.

20. All States which so desired should be allowed to be represented in the Agency but that right was being denied to the German Democratic Republic which, in a statement, [5] had declared its legitimate wish to participate in the Agency's work on an equal footing with all Member States. Since its establishment, the German Democratic Republic had unceasingly worked for peace, and its achievements in the realm of nuclear science were known throughout the world. It attached great importance to NPT, and being anxious to further the implementation of the latter it had declared its willingness to initiate negotiations with the Agency with a view to placing its nuclear materials and installations under the Agency's control.

21. Mr. LIU (China) protested against the ungracious comments made about his country's representation at the General Conference. They did violence to the spirit of courtesy that ought to prevail in all international organizations.

22. The Credentials Committee had discharged its task with impartiality and had recognized his delegation's credentials as valid. However, if the question raised by the previous speakers was not one of credentials but of representation, he considered that it should not be examined by a member of the United Nations family like the Agency, but by the United Nations itself.

23. Nor could his delegation accept the objections raised regarding the validity of the credentials of the Republic of Korea and the Republic of Viet-Nam.

● 24. The draft resolution in document GC(XV)/473 was adopted.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SIXTEENTH (1972) REGULAR SESSION

25. The PRESIDENT informed the Conference that the General Committee had been unanimous in recommending acceptance with appreciation of the Mexican Government's invitation to hold next year's session in Mexico City (GC(XV)/453); the Committee had further recommended that the session open on 26 September 1972. In the Committee's name he accordingly invited the Conference:

[4] See document GC(XV)/OR.145.

[5] Reproduced in document GC(XV)/INF/134.

- (a) To accept the invitation of the Mexican Government to hold its sixteenth (1972) regular session in Mexico City, and to decide that the session shall begin on Tuesday, 26 September 1972; and
- (b) To request the Director General to inform the Mexican authorities accordingly, to conclude with them the necessary agreement on behalf of the Agency and to convey to them the Conference's appreciation of the Mexican Government's offer to act as host to the Conference next year.

● 26. It was so decided.

THE AGENCY'S ANNUAL REPORTS TO UNITED NATIONS ORGANS (GC(XV)/467)

27. The PRESIDENT drew attention to document GC(XV)/467 in which the Board of Governors recommended the Conference to adopt the draft resolution on the Agency's annual reports to United Nations organs presented at the end of the document.

● 28. The draft resolution in document GC(XV)/467 was adopted.

ELECTIONS TO THE AGENCY'S STAFF PENSION COMMITTEE

29. The PRESIDENT recalled that the Agency's Staff Pension Committee included two members and two alternates elected by the General Conference. The two members were Mr. Bittencourt (Brazil) and Mr. Tachibana (Japan) and the alternates were Mr. Lamb (Australia) and Mr. Pahr (Austria). However, he had learned that Mr. Tachibana had left Vienna and could therefore no longer serve on the Committee, so that a new member would have to be elected. He suggested that the new member should be Mr. Fodor (Hungary).

● 30. Mr. Fodor (Hungary) was elected a member of the Agency's Staff Pension Committee.

THE AGENCY'S ACCOUNTS FOR 1970 (GC(XV)/471)

31. Mr. FABIAN (India), Rapporteur of the Administrative and Legal Committee, introduced the Committee's report on the Agency's accounts for 1970 (GC(XV)/471).

● 32. The draft resolution in document GC(XV)/471 was adopted.

THE AGENCY'S RELATIONS WITH INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (GC(XV)/472)

33. Mr. FABIAN (India), Rapporteur of the Administrative and Legal Committee, introduced

the Committee's report on the Agency's relations with intergovernmental organizations (GC(XV)/472).

34. The PRESIDENT invited the Conference to consider the two draft resolutions in document GC(XV)/472. The first dealt with a co-operation agreement between the Agency and the League of Arab States and the second with the representation of intergovernmental organizations at the Conference's regular session in 1972.

35. Mr. FREIER (Israel), referring to the

draft resolution concerning the co-operation agreement between the Agency and the League of Arab States, said that it was to be noted that problems would arise if the Agency's technical assistance were to be given to the League rather than to its individual Member States because of the lack of unity, either political, economic or scientific, in the relations between those States.

● 36. The draft resolutions in document GC(XV)/472 were adopted.

● The meeting rose at 4.20 p.m.

