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RECORD OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FIRST PLENARY MEETING

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President: Mr. R.W. BOSWELL (Australia)

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THE RECORD

GENERAL DEBATE AND REPORT FOR 1972-73
(GC(XVII)/500, 500/Corr.1, 510) (continued)

1. Mr. LAURILA (Finland) said he was glad the long-discussed question of the amendment to Article VI of the Statute had been solved. [1] However, he wanted once more to underline the need to interpret that Article, as well as the other articles of the Statute, with some degree of flexibility but without deviating from the spirit of the text; such an approach was often of greater help in adapting to developments than a long amendment procedure.

2. Referring to the Agency's role in international relations, he noted that in an atmosphere of détente, where questions of safety and co-operation had become a vital preoccupation at all levels, it seemed that after a long period of intransigence and distrust an era of trust and co-operation was at hand. However, the very hope of such a development was giving rise to fears and anxiety in some nations (especially the smaller ones), which were wondering what role they would be called upon to play in international affairs.

3. In trying to answer that question, the Secretary-General of the United Nations had pointed out that international co-operation was more necessary than ever and that, quite apart from the realm of politics and security, there were many problems which could be solved only through the action of multilateral bodies. [2] That applied particularly to the case of the Agency.

4. There could be no doubt that the Agency was concerned with problems which had a great bearing on international events - using atomic energy for peaceful purposes, finding ways of meeting the energy shortage, applying nuclear techniques in science and technology, and improving economic and social conditions. To fulfil its mission, the Agency had to perform two essential tasks: first, it had to help in increasing the safety of man and his environment and, second, it had to develop and apply a system of safeguards so that atomic energy could not be used for military purposes.

5. The Agency's Members recognized the importance of safeguards and were willing to bear the burden which they entailed, although most of them had decided not to possess nuclear weapons. For those reasons, the safeguards system should be such as to involve as few difficulties as possible. Unfortunately, that aim did not seem to have been achieved fully yet. At the same time,

[1] See document INFCIRC/159/Rev.3.

[2] See Official Records of the General Assembly of the United Nations Twenty-Eighth Session, Supplement No. 1A (A/9001/Add.1), second paragraph.

it was perhaps unrealistic to assume that a simpler system could be developed quickly.

6. In his opinion, the Agency should pay increasing attention to solving practical problems relating to the utilization of nuclear energy while national administrations solved problems of a more general nature. Only two of the meetings in the programme for 1974, which included 88 panels, seminars and symposia, were directly connected with questions of administration; perhaps it would be appropriate to recommend that more attention be devoted to such questions and that the number of purely scientific meetings be reduced.

7. If the Agency was to meet its responsibilities, every Member State had to play its part in the collective effort. Every Member had to help the Agency overcome its financial difficulties and carry out one of its main functions, namely the provision of technical assistance. In that connection, he expressed the satisfaction his delegation had felt at the constructive decision taken by the Board in June with regard to the financing of technical assistance.

8. He was pleased to announce that Finland had decided to make a contribution to the General Fund in an amount approximately 30% higher than that corresponding to its assessment under the Regular Budget.

9. Mr. HAUNSCHILD (Federal Republic of Germany) congratulated the Director General on his reappointment [3]. To a great extent it was his personal merit that the Agency was considered one of the best managed and most effectively functioning international organizations. The Agency's role had been increasing in importance over the years. The construction of nuclear facilities had become a necessity, and it was accepted that atomic energy would have to meet the increasing demand for energy throughout the world.

10. To enable the Agency to perform the new tasks expected of it, institutional reforms had been proposed and the amendment of the Statute approved by the Conference in 1970 [4] had come into force. Those changes corresponded generally to the wishes of the advanced non-nuclear-weapon States, which had made great progress in the utilization of nuclear energy, and to those of the developing Members, which were thus better represented on the Board. The increase in the number of representatives on the Board partly reflected the increase in the number of States Members of the Agency. In that connection, he stated that, following the conclusion of the treaty on the basis of relations between the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic, his Government had approved the German Democratic Republic's application for membership of the Agency and was

[3] See Resolution GC(XVII)/RES/298.

[4] By Resolution GC(XIV)/RES/272, para. 1.

willing to co-operate with the German Democratic Republic within the framework of the Agency in pursuing the Agency's objectives.

11. Turning to the question of the use of nuclear energy in the Federal Republic of Germany, he said the national nuclear programme was part of a comprehensive programme reflecting both overall energy policy and environmental policy. Nuclear energy activities might be illustrated by the following facts: 10 nuclear power stations were in operation and 20 either under construction or in an advanced planning stage, nearly all of them equipped with light-water reactors - moreover, German industry had already received several export orders. The share of nuclear power in the total installed capacity would amount to more than 20% in 1978. The main emphasis of the nuclear development programme was on the advanced reactor types: high-temperature reactors and fast breeder reactors. One prototype of each system was under construction. It had also been decided - by the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the Federal Republic, acting as partners - to build two demonstration facilities for uranium enrichment on the basis of the centrifuge technique, each with an annual separation capacity of 200 tons; the aim was to demonstrate the competitiveness of that technique, in which the three partner States had the fullest confidence.

12. The cost of the fourth nuclear programme of the Federal Republic, covering the years 1973-76, would be DM 6000 million. Special importance was attached to international co-operation, in which industry would play an increasing role, to ensure the rapid application of new techniques. One part of the new programme was devoted to co-operation with the developing countries and to the development of nuclear techniques especially useful to them.

13. As regards the programme of the Agency, the Government of the Federal Republic had repeatedly stressed the importance it attached to the Agency's promotion of the utilization of nuclear energy in the developing countries. Aid in the construction of nuclear power stations, the training of skilled personnel and the establishment of a legal infrastructure would have to be accorded increasing importance in the Agency's activities, in order to provide for the production of the energy required for a high standard of living and advancing industrialization in those countries.

14. The Agency had carried out an important market survey on prospects for nuclear energy in developing countries. His country was prepared to make available to the Agency computer time and experts to evaluate the material compiled during that survey. It would also be useful for other States to participate, if they so wished, in that study and for the Agency to bring the data collected up to date from time to time.

15. The importance attributed by the Federal Republic to the technical assistance programme could be seen not only from the size of its contribution to the General Fund but also from the

fact that its voluntary contribution had been increasing each year and was to be increased further in 1974. It intended to provide 30 one-year fellowships and to send at least 15 experts, cost free, on Agency missions to developing countries.

16. In collaboration with the Agency and FAO, it was trying to improve the protein content of crops. It was also willing to provide financial support and equipment for other research projects; an anti-tsetse-fly programme in Africa and the preparation of vaccines against tropical diseases were being considered. Under an agreement with the International Centre for Theoretical Physics at Trieste, it was inviting scientists from developing countries to the Max-Planck Institutes at Heidelberg and Stuttgart.

17. His Government intended to make in 1974 a voluntary contribution to the General Fund of \$200 000, or 12% more than the amount corresponding to its base rate of assessment. As to 1975, his delegation was prepared to support a higher target for voluntary contributions to the General Fund. However, it should be borne in mind that assistance to developing countries did not take the form only of financing from the General Fund, voluntary contributions in kind and UNDP projects. A large proportion of the activities financed from the Regular Budget were geared to the requirements of the developing countries and it would be useful if the next draft budget showed the total efforts devoted to technical assistance.

18. He emphasized the need to pay serious attention to the critical attitude of the public as regards nuclear energy and its relation to environmental protection; the Agency should examine how it could, with its world-wide authority, contribute to better understanding. It could also make a useful contribution in that connection by drafting technical rules and safety standards and advising developing countries on reactor safety and licensing and control procedures. The Government of the Federal Republic had drawn up a research programme on reactor safety for which considerable funds had been allocated and was prepared to co-operate in that field with all interested States.

19. In the matter of safeguards, the signing of the agreement between the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM) and the non-nuclear-weapon States Members of EURATOM on the one hand and the Agency [5] on the other had enabled the Government of the Federal Republic to submit that agreement and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) [6] to Parliament for approval.

20. His delegation noted with satisfaction the intention of the United States to open negotiations concerning the submission of their civilian

[5] Reproduced in document INFCIRC/193.

[6] Reproduced in document INFCIRC/140.

nuclear activities to Agency safeguards, an example which would be followed by the United Kingdom and, he hoped, by other nuclear Powers. The beginning of talks between Japan and the Agency about a safeguards agreement was another encouraging sign. The Federal Republic would continue to support the Agency's programme for the development of safeguards techniques, the results of which might also help in solving problems of disarmament and environmental protection.

21. He was pleased to note that the Agency had elaborated recommendations for the physical protection of nuclear material. Although that matter was the responsibility of individual countries, an international exchange of experience could be useful and the Agency might provide an appropriate forum. Too little consideration had so far been given to the dangers that might arise from the sub-national diversion of nuclear material, which could also lead to international conflicts.

22. The Agency was faced with considerable difficulties in connection with the 1973 budget and in drawing up the budget for 1974. The need for supplementary funds was due to price increases and the monetary realignments which had occurred during the year, and both partners - the Governments, many of which had made cuts in their national budgets, and the Agency - must bear their share. He was sure that the Agency and its Director General would understand the reasons for the strict limits set on expansion of the Agency's activities. In view of the Agency's wise and cautious policy in matters of programmes and finances over the years, his Government wished to show its confidence in its work and was willing to approve the proposed revised budgets for 1973 and 1974.

23. Mr. DENEŠ (Yugoslavia) said that he was especially pleased to be able to congratulate Mr. Eklund on his re-election. The Yugoslav delegation supported all the basic ideas expressed in his statement of the previous day and would join him in all efforts designed to ensure that the Agency carried out its work as efficiently as possible, particularly its original tasks of putting the advantages of nuclear energy at the disposal of the whole world, notably the developing countries, and of applying safeguards against the diversion of nuclear material for military purposes. In that connection, his delegation held the view that an equilibrium should continue to be maintained between promotional and regulatory activities.

24. While it supported the report for 1972-73, the Yugoslav delegation wished to see a constant increase in Agency funds for the financing of research and other scientific work. An effort should be made to accelerate economic and technical progress in all countries, particularly the developing ones. In that connection, the financing of work in the field of environmental protection, primarily protection from the effects of nuclear power stations, the number of which was increasing daily, constituted a priority task.

The Agency should therefore continue to devote its attention to problems associated with power station construction and safety.

25. Nuclear science and the use of atomic energy in Yugoslavia had developed on a scale commensurate with the country's capabilities and in the light of the experience and knowledge gained through the Agency. In connection with its collaboration with Yugoslavia, the Agency had expressed very favourable opinions regarding the efforts of Yugoslav research workers and scientific establishments, which was a great credit to Yugoslavia.

26. In conjunction with the Agency, Yugoslavia had organized several useful panels, which had been attended by the representatives of a large number of Member States of the Agency. Yugoslavia wished to continue that practice in view of its geographical situation and the role which it played in international relations, and it was prepared to spend funds for that purpose.

27. The implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States [7] had been entrusted to the Agency, which had in the intervening period made every effort to fulfil its task. As a country that had attended the Conference, Yugoslavia wished to state its appreciation of the Agency's role and its hope that the objectives of the Conference would be fully realized.

28. The Yugoslav delegation was willing to support all programmes which contributed to the development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In that connection he wished to draw the attention of delegates to the very interesting suggestion put forward by the Romanian delegation at the sixteenth session of the General Conference concerning the elaboration and adoption by the Agency of an international legal instrument which would lay down the principles of international co-operation in matters relating to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

29. He emphasized that safeguards should not be accorded greater importance than technical assistance and environmental protection.

30. With respect to the Agency's budget for the period ahead and the difficulties facing the Agency, he held the view that efforts should be redoubled to obtain funds both from within the organization and from external sources. There should also be a reallocation of the Agency's funds in favour of technical assistance. The Yugoslav delegation would continue to speak out in favour of the developing regions of the world and in the interest of scientific and technical progress in the peaceful uses of atomic energy. In the opinion of the Yugoslav delegation, it would be particularly useful to increase expenditure on research projects. However, the choice of avenues of research to be pursued constituted a problem at several nuclear establishments, and assistance from the

[7] See United Nations document A/7277.

Agency, supported by experts of international reputation, would be much appreciated.

31. He was particularly happy to announce that the Yugoslav Government had decided to increase its voluntary contribution having regard to the plans and recommendations of the Agency. Also, it was continuing to meet its obligations towards the Agency on time and hoped that the other Member States would do the same.

32. The Yugoslav delegation took special pleasure in welcoming the German Democratic Republic and the Mongolian People's Republic to the Agency. The approval of their applications was an important step towards universality of the Agency's membership, which Yugoslavia had always supported. At the same time, it shared the fears expressed by the Director General regarding breakdown into groups [8], whether inspired by regional interests, a common ideology or a common stage of development. Universality was and remained the main strength of the Agency, and Member States should unite their efforts to achieve it completely.

33. Yugoslavia was in favour of all measures having the effect of strengthening the democratic nature of the Agency and creating a better climate of mutual understanding and collaboration. It considered that all delegates, regardless of the size, wealth or ideology of the countries they represented, should feel that they had equal rights. A large number of complex problems had been handled by the Agency with considerable tact, and Yugoslavia hoped to see that democratic trend further enhanced in the future.

34. The Yugoslav delegation considered it necessary and of great importance to express its firm conviction that the Agency, with its policy-making organs, the Secretariat and the Director General, would succeed in collaboration with its Member States in resolving all the problems involved in the more rapid development of the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

35. Yugoslavia's policy was one of non-alignment and of international understanding and confidence, designed to develop co-operation between countries and peoples and thereby to avoid inequality and injustice. It was a policy based on multilateral assistance with a view to overcoming the gap between advanced and under-developed countries, a basic problem of the modern world. It was for that reason that Yugoslavia wished to see the Agency play an ever more active role in solving such problems. It would give the Agency its full support in the future.

36. Mr. DUCCI (Italy) expressed satisfaction at the entry into force of the new version of Article VI of the Statute, which would permit better representation of regional groups in the Board and ensure that justice was done to those countries

which had made most progress in the field of nuclear energy.

37. He warmly thanked those countries which had chosen Italy as one of the most advanced Member States in the field of nuclear technology and took the opportunity to stress the importance which his Government attached to the rendering of assistance to developing countries and international co-operation in the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy. In that connection he recalled that such co-operation was the objective of certain provisions of NPT and expressed the hope that the provisions of Articles IV, V and VI would be implemented with a view to achieving general and complete disarmament. An important step forward had been the signing in April, at Brussels, of the agreement between EURATOM, the non-nuclear-weapon States Members of EURATOM and the Agency.

38. As regards the Agency's various activities, the Italian delegation supported without reservation the action initiated in the field of environmental protection, and especially the study of the impact of nuclear energy on the environment. It was to be hoped, in addition, that the Agency would continue to follow closely the development of techniques for controlling nuclear materials, so as to achieve - on one hand - maximum efficiency in the area of radiation protection and - on the other - Agency safeguards entailing a minimum of inconvenience.

39. As regards technical assistance, the contribution which nuclear energy could make to solving many of the problems of the developing countries - especially in agriculture and medicine - was well known. The financing of such activities remained a difficult problem, however and it seemed to his delegation that a study should be made of the different possibilities in that connection, including financing of the provision of technical assistance from the Agency's Regular Budget.

40. He was happy to announce that the amount assigned by Italy's National Committee for Nuclear Energy for the award of fellowships to the nationals of developing countries had been raised by about 10%.

41. In conclusion, he expressed his pleasure at the re-election of Mr. Eklund and the Italian Government's sincere wishes for a successful further period of office.

42. Mr. BANCORA (Argentina) said that the Argentine programme relating to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy had already been outlined on various occasions; he would therefore only mention that the Atucha reactor would have gone critical by the end of the year. It would provide power for the grid system in Argentina, which would thus become the first country in Latin America to utilize electric power of nuclear origin. Furthermore, Argentina's National Atomic Energy Commission had entered into negotiations with Canada and Italy with a view to establishing a

[8] See GC(XVII)/OR.160, para. 67.

second reactor in Argentina, the construction of which was due to begin before the end of the year.

43. His delegation gave its whole-hearted support to the Agency's activities, especially those concerned with safeguards. In his view, it was extremely important that safeguards be applied in an effective manner; moreover, the mode of application should be the same in all cases, and it was regrettable that the safeguards provided for under NPT did not apply fully to the States already possessing nuclear weapons.

44. His delegation had complete confidence in the Agency as regards the ways in which it proposed to discharge its responsibilities, and one could only hope that the requisite funds would be forthcoming. There were three ways in which the Agency's financial embarrassment could be remedied: first, the wealthier Members could make the necessary funds available, although they had not so far responded to the requests addressed to them on that subject; second, all Members could be asked to increase their contributions, although an additional burden would thereby be imposed on the developing countries (Argentina, for its part, would make a contribution of \$24 600, even though inflation there was much greater than in Europe); third, an appropriate selection could be made among the programmes of activities. In that connection he strongly recommended that the Secretariat carry out only the programmes likely to be of immediate social benefit and refrain from embarking on Utopian projects.

45. Mr. MOROKHOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) congratulated the Director General on his appointment for a further period of four years. The Soviet Union was highly satisfied with the efforts that he had made in the course of 12 years to enable the Agency to discharge its important functions, and wished him renewed success in his work.

46. The present session was being held in a favourable international atmosphere, characterized by a transition from the "cold war" to a progressive relaxation of tension and to consolidation of the principles of peaceful coexistence between countries. The consistent implementation by the Soviet Union of the peaceful programme adopted by the twenty-fourth Congress of the Communist Party of the USSR and the greater trust between peoples that had been manifested over the previous few years had left their mark on all aspects of international life.

47. The agreement on the prevention of nuclear war and other agreements which had been concluded between the Soviet Union and the United States on the occasion of Mr. Brezhnev's recent visit to the United States and which represented the outcome of visits made by him to France and the Federal Republic of Germany were of great importance from the point of view of future improvements in the international political climate. Specific measures of far-reaching importance had been taken to curb the armaments race and to reduce the risk of nuclear war. Favourable

prospects were opening up for a reduction in military expenditure and a corresponding increase in the funds available for economic, scientific and cultural development, for improving the living standards of the peoples of the world, and for increasing aid to the developing countries. There was every reason to believe that the present relaxation of tension was not just a passing phenomenon but the beginning of a great change in international relations. There could be no doubt that the favourable developments in the international arena corresponded to the fundamental interests of all peoples, including the non-aligned countries.

48. The improvement in the political climate opened up new possibilities for the more rapid expansion of international co-operation in all fields, including atomic energy. Quite clearly, it would have a similar favourable impact on the activities of the Agency, whose international authority was steadily increasing as it contributed more and more to the promotion of the peaceful applications of atomic energy throughout the world.

49. Once again the Soviet delegation wished to stress that the Agency could fulfil its basic function only if NPT was systematically implemented. That important instrument presented the maximum possibilities for international co-operation in activities relating to the peaceful uses of atomic energy. The Soviet Union was convinced that the increase in the number of States Parties to NPT was helping to strengthen peace and international security and facilitating the development of collaboration in the peaceful uses of atomic energy. That was why he felt that the Agency should continue to make efforts to persuade as many countries as possible to accede to NPT. In recent years the Agency had taken various measures to discharge its functions in connection with NPT. For example, the Board had approved safeguards agreements with 43 non-nuclear-weapon States. In fact, practically all countries with programmes for the peaceful uses of atomic energy had already submitted their peaceful nuclear activities to Agency safeguards or were preparing to do so.

50. However, there were several problems arising in connection with the safeguards provided for under NPT which ought to be settled without delay. In order that the principle of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons might be applied systematically, it was necessary for all States Party to NPT, including those not yet engaged in any peaceful nuclear activities, to fulfil their obligations by concluding the necessary agreements with the Agency.

51. At the beginning of 1973 the Agency had concluded a safeguards agreement with EURATOM and non-nuclear-weapon States Members of EURATOM. There was now nothing to prevent Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands from ratifying NPT and implementing that agreement. It was to be hoped that Japan would not delay either in concluding a safeguards agreement with the Agency and ratifying NPT.

52. The Secretariat had embarked upon an extensive safeguards programme aimed at developing inspection techniques and extending inspections to the whole nuclear fuel cycle. It was very important that the programme, which was of great practical significance for the Agency, should be completed on schedule.

53. In view of the fact that the Agency was playing an increasing role in organizing international co-operation in the peaceful utilization of atomic energy, that it had assumed extensive control functions in connection with NPT and that it had seen the number of its Member States grow as the years went by, it had become essential to broaden the base of the Board by enlarging its membership. Having regard to the wishes expressed by several States Members of the Agency, the Soviet Union had accepted the amendment to Article VI of the Statute, which the Conference had approved at its fourteenth regular session and which provided for a significant increase in the size of the Board. The Soviet delegation was convinced that the Board thus enlarged would continue to direct the activities of the Agency efficiently and to discharge the duties assigned to it.

54. In the future the Agency should be able to carry out its functions even more effectively as the number of its Members grew year by year and it became increasingly universal. The Soviet delegation was particularly gratified at the admission to the Agency of the German Democratic Republic and Mongolia. That decision contributed to the development of international co-operation in the field of the peaceful utilization of atomic energy and broadened the scope of the Agency's relations with the countries of the world. There could be no doubt that those two countries would participate actively in the work of the Agency.

55. While approving the Agency's activities as a whole during the period 1972-73, the Soviet delegation deplored the substantial rise in unproductive Agency expenditure caused by inflation and the devaluation of the dollar. The Conference was being asked to consider a further budget increase of US \$2.5 million, caused exclusively by the gradual devaluation of the currency in which the budget was drawn up. One could not help wondering how much longer the present situation would last and why countries should have to bear the consequences of monetary instability. A continuation of the trend would greatly hamper the Agency's normal work and entail a considerable increase in expenditure to the detriment of its useful activities. The Soviet delegation could not accept such a state of affairs and considered that the Secretariat should, possibly in consultation with other international organizations, take the steps necessary for putting an end to it.

56. As regards international co-operation in the peaceful utilization of atomic energy, the initiative taken by the Soviet Union in making available to all countries the results of its scientific and technical work in the nuclear field, in controlled

thermonuclear fusion and in other disciplines was well known to all delegates and highly appreciated throughout the world.

57. Work in nuclear science and technology was acquiring an increasingly international character. There were problems of universal importance concerning many disciplines whose solution required co-ordination of the efforts of many countries. That was perhaps due in part to the fact that technology was assuming greater importance than research, but even more to the increasingly high cost of such work and of the various modern facilities needed to do it. The cost of such facilities amounted to tens or even hundreds of millions of roubles, and their construction required a great deal of time and effort. Consequently, any mistake made during the preparatory stages proved extremely costly, and it was becoming almost impossible even for the large industrial States to undertake such work alone.

58. The Soviet Union was firmly convinced that scientific and technological co-operation in its present form would have to be replaced by international collaboration, progressively closer co-ordination and the elaboration of joint projects. The example of the socialist States demonstrated how fruitful such close scientific and technological ties could be. Joint research and other ventures occupied an important place in the overall programme for economic integration adopted by the socialist States Members of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA).

59. During the past year, the Members of CMEA had continued to collaborate and to work towards integration in the field of nuclear science and technology. They had begun with the establishment of an international body for solving problems of co-ordination in the development of nuclear power in Member States and the production of equipment for the nuclear industry. The international body in question would be responsible for exploiting the technical and industrial potential of the Members as regards the production of equipment and plant for nuclear power stations, the distribution of orders among industrial enterprises and the rendering of technical and financial assistance to those enterprises. The CMEA Members had already created two similar international bodies: "Interatominstrument" and a scientific collective which was carrying out theoretical and experimental studies relating to large water-moderated and -cooled reactors.

60. The scientific and technical activities under bilateral agreements concluded by the Soviet Union with other socialist States and with various industrial countries such as the United States, France and Italy were also being intensified. In that connection, it was worth noting that the character and objectives of such collaboration had recently changed: whereas the essential purpose had previously been the exchange of scientific and technical information and of the results of research work, it was now long-term collaboration aimed primarily at the elaboration and execution

of joint projects. The agreements in question provided for collaboration in important fields like nuclear science and technology, controlled thermonuclear fusion, fast breeders and the theoretical study of the fundamental properties of matter.

61. The aim of collaboration in those fields was to solve as soon as possible the problems raised by the constantly increasing demand for energy in all countries; it was thus of paramount importance. He wished to dwell on two aspects of agreements concluded recently by the Soviet Union.

62. Firstly, in the fields of collaboration envisaged - especially in the agreements with the United States - the Soviet Union had reached a very high degree of development, being among the most advanced countries in some of them. That could best be illustrated by mentioning the main work done in the Soviet Union since the previous regular session. During the summer of 1973, the BN-350 fast breeder had gone into service at the Shevchenko nuclear power station. It was operating at a power of 300 MW(th), while the station personnel was continuing to work on various systems and preparing them for operation at the rated power. The Kola nuclear power station, with the water-moderated and -cooled reactor WWER-440, had also gone into service, and the main fitting and adjustment operations prior to the entry into service of the 1000-MW(e) first unit of the Leningrad nuclear power station had been completed. Further advances had been made in controlled thermonuclear fusion and plasma physics. The most promising results were those which had been obtained by investigators in the Soviet Union and other countries in studies of plasma behaviour in Tokamak-type devices. The largest device of its kind, "Tokamak-10", which might be the last laboratory device before the construction of a demonstration thermonuclear reactor, was at present being built in the Soviet Union. At the same time, the possibility was being studied of inducing thermonuclear reactions by means of powerful pulsed sources such as lasers, relativistic electron beams and theta-pinch devices. New results of great importance for the theory of elementary particles had been obtained in the course of fundamental research work involving the use of accelerators at the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, Dubna, at the Institute of High-Energy Physics, Serpukhov, and at various other establishments, where Soviet scientists were working together with colleagues from many other countries.

63. Secondly, the results of work done on a bilateral basis and of work carried out at Soviet scientific establishments would, as in the past, be communicated to all countries through conferences and symposia, through scientific and technical publications, and through the International Nuclear Information System (INIS), in which the Soviet Union was playing an active role and which it strongly supported. The information transmitted by INIS constituted a form of indirect technical assistance which should not be underestimated.

64. In the field of technical assistance, the Soviet Union was providing - under bilateral agreements and through international organizations - substantial economic, technical and scientific aid to developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. The Soviet Union had concluded bilateral collaboration agreements with only two countries by the mid-1950s; since then the number of countries had risen to 45. The assistance provided by the Soviet Union had enabled those countries to construct 490 major industrial facilities and other establishments of importance for their economies, and 500 more facilities would be constructed during the current five-year period.

65. The Soviet Union was also helping to train the nationals of developing countries. Some 300 000 specialists had received instruction from Soviet experts at jointly constructed and operated facilities.

66. Ever since the Agency's establishment, the Soviet Union had played an active role in its technical assistance programme, which continued to occupy an important place among the Agency's activities. That role took the form of annual voluntary contributions to the General Fund, the awarding of fellowships to specialists from developing countries and the provision of experts' services.

67. He wished to point out that the Soviet Union's voluntary contributions had increased by a factor of four since 1967. They had enabled the Agency to provide developing countries with various types of equipment, apparatus and supplies. During the previous two years alone, the Soviet Union had in that way been instrumental in constructing several complex and unique facilities in Member States.

68. In the technical assistance programme, an important place was accorded to the training of specialists from developing countries and the improvement of their qualifications. The Soviet Union had provided many opportunities to that end, and over 350 000 persons had received training in the Soviet Union through fellowships, seminars and study tours - some of them arranged in collaboration with the Agency.

69. Consistently following its policy of technical assistance for the developing countries, the Soviet Union had decided to raise its voluntary contribution to the General Fund to 400 000 roubles in national currency, for use in providing developing countries with equipment, apparatus and supplies from the Soviet Union.

70. At the twelfth regular session the Soviet Union had announced its readiness to provide uranium enrichment services for non-nuclear-weapon countries with a view to the promotion of nuclear power generation in those countries. Since then, several agreements had been concluded to that end and talks were in progress with a number of countries and enterprises.

71. The Soviet Union was willing to provide enrichment services for nuclear power generation

to an increasing extent and on a long-term basis, thereby undoubtedly helping to overcome the difficulties caused by the increasingly acute energy crisis, especially in the developing countries. Such services would be provided either on a bilateral basis or through the Agency, which had already received a draft standard contract.

72. Special emphasis should be laid on the importance of the Agency's programme for protecting the environment against the effects of nuclear radiations. In the Soviet Union, environmental protection was an integral part of the programme of building communism. It was in that context that the question had been considered in September 1972, when the Supreme Soviet had decided on steps to be taken for the more thorough protection of nature and the rational utilization of natural resources.

73. Releases of radioactive gases to the atmosphere from the nuclear power stations of the Soviet Union were several hundred times less than the levels recommended by the International Commission on Radiological Protection. Moreover, the methods employed for the burial of radioactive wastes at the various stages of the fuel cycle were such as to preclude completely any diffusion into the environment. However, not all countries were observing the indispensable standards of radiological hygiene, and there was consequently a risk that the development of nuclear power could lead to generalized pollution.

74. In that connection the Soviet Union particularly welcomed the signing in December 1972 of the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (London Convention). Under that convention the disposal of radioactive wastes into the seas and oceans was permitted only if the radioactivity involved was less than the limits established by the Agency. The Soviet Union had played an active part in the relevant activities of the Agency in that sector. It should not be forgotten, however, that the development of nuclear power would result in a rapid increase in the total amount of radioactive waste, and the problem of its disposal could assume the same order of magnitude as the problem of developing nuclear power itself. The Agency could play an important part in solving the problems of radioactive waste disposal by organizing international collaboration between experts.

75. Finally, his delegation wanted to stress again that the Soviet Union would continue to advocate the intensive development of international co-operation in the peaceful utilization of atomic energy, in accordance with the objectives and principles embodied in the United Nations Charter, in the Agency's Statute and in NPT. It was to be hoped that the present session of the General Conference would contribute to the extension and strengthening of that co-operation.

76. Mr. ERRERA (Belgium) realized that, as a result of the international monetary situation, financial difficulties had arisen for the Agency and

that certain increases in the budget estimates were inevitable. Nevertheless, he was not in a position to approve every proposal to increase the budget and hence the contributions of Member States. Governments were faced by the same financial difficulties as international organizations, and he accordingly thought it more necessary than ever to confine the Agency's programme to tasks of the highest priority.

77. That being so, he believed the programme on nuclear safety and environmental protection deserved special attention, since the Agency had a vital role to play. The development of the nuclear industry was causing concern on the part of the public, which feared the dangers of pollution. It was for the Agency to allay those fears, which would have no grounds if the necessary safety measures were taken and if installations were located in such a way as not to detract from the appearance of the sites.

78. With regard to the pollution of water, the Agency had already been given new assignments and there would probably be others still. It had been proposed to entrust the Agency with certain tasks relating to the pollution by radioactive substances of salt water - under the London Convention and the Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft (Oslo Convention) - and fresh water - under a convention which was still in preparation.

79. In addition, if effect was given to the proposals of the Scientific Advisory Committee and the consultations between the Agency, the Monaco Oceanographic Institute, UNESCO and the United Nations Environment Fund, the activities of the International Laboratory of Marine Radioactivity would be extended to include a study of pollution of the marine environment by non-radioactive substances. The new activities were of importance both for developed and for developing countries, and they should be financed essentially from funds placed at the disposal of the institutions responsible for combating pollution.

80. In another important Agency activity, the provision of technical assistance to Member States, financing presented a problem, and he realized that the diminished purchasing power of money was a matter of concern to the beneficiaries of such assistance. When assessing the real value of technical assistance, however, one should consider the technical assistance effort as a whole, including both multilateral and bilateral assistance.

81. In the case of Belgium, for example, the total amount of public and private funds allocated for assistance to developing countries in 1972 had been \$391 million, corresponding to 1.12% of the gross national product; assistance from public funds would amount to \$220 million in 1973.

82. In the nuclear field, the Belgian programme of technical assistance for 1973 included:

- (a) At the multilateral level (in co-operation with the Agency but independent of Belgium's

financial contribution to the General Fund) - six Type II fellowships, one expert mission on biological analysis to Chile, and one expert mission on radiological protection to Zaire (preliminary to a longer mission in 1974); and

- (b) At the bilateral level - the visit of three technicians to the Kinshasa Nuclear Research Centre, and the offer of eight training fellowships to India, eight to Pakistan and two to four to Zaire.

83. Belgium was trying not only to maintain its effort in terms of real value, in the face of rising costs, but also to increase it every year. Thus, in 1974, in addition to the offer of six Type II fellowships under the Agency's programme, it would give financial assistance to an amount of 800 000 Belgian francs for the organization in October 1974 of a course on the physics of nuclear burn-up in reactors; it would also finance a mission of one or two Belgian experts on the Agency's behalf; further, at the bilateral level, it was offering eight fellowships to Indian nationals and eight to Pakistan nationals. In addition to maintaining the three technicians at the Kinshasa Centre, his country's programme for Zaire included a gift of equipment to the value of 2-3 million Belgian francs.

84. As regards safeguards, and especially the safeguards agreement concluded in accordance with Article III.1 and 4 of NPT, he said that, in keeping with the promise he had made at the time of the signing of NPT, on 5 April 1973, both NPT and the safeguards agreement would be placed before the Belgian Parliament for approval in October.

85. Mr. OSZTROVSZKI (Hungary) said he was pleased to note that the international situation had developed favourably since the preceding session. It was clear that mankind had no other choice but to strengthen peace by eliminating armed conflicts and in particular the danger of a thermonuclear war. The socialist countries had long been fighting for those objectives, and the Conference of Non-Aligned Countries held recently in Algiers had taken a similar stand. Those countries needed peace in order to develop and efficiently exploit their natural resources. It was also gratifying that the peoples of Europe were endeavouring to unite their efforts in the interest of security.

86. Hungary was convinced that the peaceful uses of atomic energy and the maintenance of peace in the world at large were inseparably linked with the Agency's activities. It followed that the Agency should make the best use of the favourable changes which had taken place on the international scene. The influence of those changes could already be seen in the reaffirmation of the principle of universality in the Agency. The Hungarian delegation welcomed the admission to membership of the Agency of the German Democratic Republic, which had remarkable achievements to its credit in politics, economics and the peaceful uses of atomic energy. His delegation was also happy to

greet the Mongolian People's Republic as a new Member of the Agency.

87. Hungary regretted that all countries had not yet signed or ratified NPT and that safeguards were not yet being applied everywhere.

88. It was to be hoped that the collaboration between States with different social systems would promote the progress and well-being of their respective peoples. An important factor in that regard was energy production, which would be stepped up appreciably as a result of the construction of nuclear power stations. The imminent acute energy crisis called for closer international collaboration.

89. Parallel with the conclusion of bilateral agreements, an increasingly important role in specialized fields was being played by international organizations. That fact had been demonstrated at the twenty-seventh session of CMEA, which had devoted great attention to energy questions, including the growing use of nuclear energy. He noted with satisfaction that CMEA and the Agency were taking an increasing interest in each other's activities. The first year of collaboration between the States participating in "Interatominstrument" had yielded satisfactory results.

90. As emerged from document GC(XVII)/500, the Agency was endeavouring to expand its general activities. Hungary hoped that the Agency would make every effort to carry out its tasks under the Statute. It was aware of the financial difficulties faced by the Agency and was willing to support any measure which would enable it to make more efficient use of the available resources. It also knew that the devaluation of the dollar and inflation had sharply increased the Agency's staff costs. It would perhaps be useful if the other organizations concerned with the international programmes in which the Agency was actively participating helped to overcome the financial difficulties by making adequate contributions. For example, it might be considered whether a part of the costs of the United Nations Environment Programme could not be borne by FAO.

91. During the past year, Hungary had made considerable progress in the peaceful uses of atomic energy. It was now designing its first nuclear power station, which would raise the country's installed power capacity by 880 MW by about 1980. Hungarian scientific institutions, and in particular the Central Physics Institute of the Academy of Sciences, were contributing substantially to the solution of problems associated with the construction of a nuclear power station based on a 1000-MW water-moderated and -cooled reactor; an international team at the Institute was carrying out studies on a critical assembly of that type. Hungarian scientists were also studying the operating conditions for the primary and secondary cooling-water circuits.

92. Hungarian agricultural, industrial and public health institutions were making increasing use of radioisotopes. The production of isotopes in 1975

would be 350% of that in 1970. A high-intensity radiation source for the sterilization of medical products was to be acquired with the assistance of UNDP and the Agency. Radiation sources were already being used, on an experimental basis, in the preservation of semi-prepared food products and other foodstuffs. Several research contracts had been concluded with the Agency for that purpose.

93. The Agency had organized two research co-ordination meetings in Hungary, one on the radiation preservation of biological tissues and the other on plant protection. A meeting of a panel of experts from European countries to study radiological protection of the environment had produced satisfactory results, especially with regard to international co-operation in preventing excessive pollution of the river Danube. A symposium on radiopharmaceuticals organized by

CMEA had been held after the IAEA/WHO Symposium on New Developments in Radiopharmaceuticals and Labelled Compounds, which had taken place in Copenhagen in March, so that the two symposia could complement each other. Interest in INIS was increasing steadily.

94. Hungary was engaged in a variety of activities similar to those of the Agency, and contacts had been established in almost all of the fields in question. As a contribution to the Agency's activities, Hungary had submitted a list of subjects for the study of which it could accept fellows. It hoped thus to contribute, in the spirit of the Statute and on the basis of voluntary contributions, to the development of the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

- The meeting rose at 1 p. m.

