International Atomic Energy Agency

GENERAL CONFERENCE

GC

GC(XVIII)/OR.172
13 March 1975*
GENERAL Distr.
ENGLISH

EIGHTEENTH REGULAR SESSION: 16—20 SEPTEMBER 1974

RECORD OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-SECOND PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Neue Hofburg, Vienna, on Wednesday, 18 September 1974, at 3.20 p.m.

President: Mr. MEDINA (Philippines)
later: Mr. HABASHI (Sudan)

* A provisional version of this document was issued on 2 October 1974.

** GC(XVIII)/534.

The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document GC(XVIII)/INF/151/Rev.2.

THE RECORD

GENERAL DEBATE AND REPORT FOR 1973-74 (GC(XVIII)/525, 532) (continued)

1. Mr. FELICKI (Poland), continuing the general debate, stressed the enhanced role which the Agency was required to play as a result of the widespread development of nuclear power generation programmes brought about by the new situation with regard to conventional fuel resources. The expansion of the network of nuclear power stations throughout the world would therefore proceed at a faster rate than foreseen and exchanges of nuclear materials among countries would be much more frequent. It was therefore essential that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)[1] and the complementary agreement concluded with the Agency should be signed and ratified by the largest possible number of States; it would also be fair if States parties to the Treaty were to be the first to benefit from technical assistance.

2. Poland welcomed the statement of the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States of America that the Governments of the three countries concerned would in future inform the Agency of imports and exports of nuclear materials which were subject to Agency safeguards[2]. The Polish Government for its part had decided to follow the procedures relating to the export of nuclear material and certain categories of equipment and other material which were set out in an information circular of the Agency[3].

3. The Polish Government was pleased to note that the Agency had made the adjustments in its work programme for 1975-80 entailed by world nuclear energy developments; it also approved the Agency's budget for 1975[4]. However, it considered that the anticipated savings should not be made to the detriment of basic activities. A considerable part of such savings for 1975 was to be made at the expense of equipment for the Agency's Laboratory. Since the Agency would be responsible for carrying out more and more verifications of nuclear materials, it would be preferable under the circumstances if economies were made by reducing the number of administrative staff. The Agency should likewise consider the question of the ratio of scientific and technical personnel to auxiliary staff.

4. The Polish Government attached particular importance to the question of safeguards and was fully aware of the difficulties confronting the Department of Safeguards and Inspection. It considered that its expenditure was high in relation to the relatively small volume of work at the present time. If, therefore, the Department were given the responsibility in the next few years of compiling a register of all inventories of nuclear materials throughout the world, it would not be able to meet the expenditure involved unless its present methods of working were radically changed.

5. Nuclear safety was another field in which the Agency played a leading part, particularly in developing countries which had neither the necessary experience nor personnel to ensure the safety of nuclear facilities and work involving nuclear energy. Radiological protection, to which all States attached the highest importance, was also one of the primary functions of the Agency and no organization was better qualified to assume it. To deal with the future development of the nuclear industry and the setting up of various organizations for research on nuclear power, the Agency should pay particular attention to the elaboration of standards and guidelines concerning all aspects of the safety and protection of workers as well as the safety of facilities.

6. The Polish Government supported the proposal that a conference should be held on the development strategy of nuclear energy including the fuel cycle. It would provide an opportunity for all Member States and organizations concerned to discuss the problems of nuclear power with complete objectivity, taking into account the energy resources available in the world.

7. The Polish Government was also very pleased with the development of the Agency's information activities under the International Nuclear Information System (INIS) programme, which was well planned and was being successfully implemented.

8. The Agency should devote all its efforts both at present and in the future to those activities which he had just mentioned as well as to the training of personnel. It was faced with a considerable task and therefore it might be worth considering handing over activities of lesser importance to other international or national organizations or laboratories.

9. Nuclear research institutes and industry in Poland were at present faced with serious difficulties in finding ways of promoting the rapid development of nuclear power.

10. A 60-MW(th) experimental reactor had been commissioned on the 30th anniversary of the People's Republic of Poland. It should become critical between 1974 and 1975. The reactor would be used in studying power reactor materials and techniques. At the same time nuclear techniques would continue to be used for studying various industrial processes and also in the fields of medicine, agriculture and environmental protection.

11. In all those fields Poland had been collaborating with the Agency for a long time and intended to intensify that co-operation. Poland's voluntary contributions to the Agency's General Fund increased from 300 000 zloty in 1973 to 600 000

---

[1] Reproduced in document INFCIRC/140.

[2] See document INFCIRC/207.

[3] See documents INFCIRC/209 and Addenda 1 and 2.

[4] See documents GC(XVIII)/526 and Mod.1.

zloty in 1975. He assured delegates that his Government would do everything possible to increase its voluntary contribution in the future. He recalled that each year the Polish Government offered through the Agency ten fellowships in Polish research institutes to scientists from developing countries.

12. One of the main factors in scientific progress was international co-operation. Increased collaboration between the Agency and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy could only accelerate the development of such applications for the benefit of mankind.

13. Mr. SITZLACK (German Democratic Republic) said that he welcomed the decision taken by the General Conference to admit the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Mauritius to membership of the Agency. That decision was in line with the efforts to improve the atmosphere of détente in the world.

14. The eighteenth session of the General Conference was being held at a time when the political climate was characterized by important positive changes. Thanks to the implementation of the peace programme of the Soviet Union and its socialist allies, the forces of aggression were losing ground and the trend towards a relaxation of tension had become the determining factor in world developments. The continuance of détente was the very basis of the development of international co-operation in the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy. The agreements concluded between the Soviet Union and the United States on the prevention of nuclear war and on the further limitation of strategic arms and the Treaty on the Limitation of Underground Nuclear Weapons Tests[5] were important factors in international détente which contributed to improving peaceful coexistence between States with different social systems.

15. One of the important international agreements which limited the arms race was NPT, which would remain one of the great events of our time. That Treaty provided a stimulus for the Agency, which was responsible for ensuring the compliance with its provisions. The German Democratic Republic was pleased to note that more than 80 States had become parties to the Treaty and that 44 of them had concluded safeguards agreements with the Agency. Other non-nuclear-weapon States should follow their example. The Government of the German Democratic Republic had, for its part, decided to accede to the agreement on the consistent application of Article III.2 of NPT concluded by the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the United States and other countries. Furthermore, his country sincerely hoped that the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (the Review Conference) to be held in May 1975 would encourage other countries to become parties to NPT and thus contribute to improving its effectiveness.

16. In the preceding year, the commissioning of the first unit of the "Bruno Leuschner" nuclear power plant had been a significant step towards the large-scale industrial use of nuclear energy. Intensive work was being carried out on commissioning the second unit, and preparatory work on another big nuclear power plant was under way. Research on nuclear and reactor physics in the German Democratic Republic was concerned mainly with few-nucleon systems, certain nuclear reactions and nuclear spectroscopy and also with fast breeder physics. Considerable progress had also been made in the production and application of stable and radioactive isotopes, in particular those used in the management of water resources. His country had started participating in INIS early in 1974.

17. Being a socialist State, the German Democratic Republic considered the protection of man against the harmful effects of ionizing radiations to be a matter of priority and was applying the safeguards agreement under its system of materials control. The competent authority in those matters was the Board of Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection, which was also responsible for co-ordinating all national activities with the Agency in order to achieve the most effective co-operation possible.

18. The German Democratic Republic approved the Agency's programme for 1975-80. It attached great importance to the sub-programme on safeguards in connection with NPT and considered that no obstacle should be allowed to stand in the way of the implementation of the Treaty.

19. His country believed that it was necessary to make greater use of nuclear energy to meet the growing energy demands. It approved, in particular, the sub-programme relating to nuclear safety and environmental protection and the formulation of recommendations on the subject. It also wholeheartedly endorsed the proposed expansion of INIS.

20. As regards the financing of the Agency's programme, his delegation considered that the financial difficulties resulting from the capitalist monetary crisis should not be resolved by means of additional contributions from Members; contacts with other United Nations organizations should be intensified with a view to co-ordinating programmes and tapping resources.

21. Stable and long-term co-operation, in his opinion, was the most effective means of assisting the developing countries in overcoming their economic difficulties. So far, more than 500 industrial projects had been started in those countries with the assistance of the German Democratic Republic. At the Sixth Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of his country had expressed his Government's firm intention of expanding its commercial, scientific and technical relations with developing countries. His country was also anxious to support the Agency's technical assistance programme to the fullest extent possible by supplying materials and equipment, providing fellowships and

---

[5] Reproduced in document INFCIRC/208.

experts' services and organizing training courses and study tours. In 1974, the German Democratic Republic had made a voluntary contribution of 120 000 marks to the Agency and would make 160 000 marks available in 1975. As had been emphasized in the Director General's study[6], voluntary financing of technical assistance was of advantage to all concerned and its voluntary nature should be strictly maintained.

22. Mr. IRAOLAGOITIA (Argentina) recalled that his country had been associated with the work of the Agency since its inception. It had participated actively in the meetings which had led to the adoption of its Statute and had taken part continuously in all the Agency's activities thereafter.

23. Referring to the energy situation in Argentina, he said that for many years his country had suffered from a chronic energy shortage which was growing steadily worse now that the demand for electricity was increasing by more than 11% each year. In the course of the next 25 years it would be necessary to build new power stations with a total capacity of around 80 000 MW(e). At present most of Argentina's power stations were oil-fired. The problems associated with the prospection and extraction of oil in Argentina, to which was added the need to allocate a part of that oil to the petrochemical industry, had made Argentina conscious of the fact that it would have to diversify its energy resources and, consequently, have to construct large nuclear and hydroelectric stations as well as intensify prospection for uranium resources. For the moment there were only two promising developments to record: the commissioning of the Atucha nuclear power station and of the Chocon hydroelectric complex which had contributed greatly to improving electricity supply in Argentina. As regards the power situation in the long term, efforts were currently being concentrated on the construction of a nuclear power station at Embalse in Cordoba province and of an Atucha II station.

24. From the economic point of view the nuclear fuel industry was of prime importance as a basis for national independence in energy matters. Argentina had the natural resources and the technological means to enable it to establish a strong industry encompassing the whole fuel cycle and plans had been drawn up with that aim in view. Prospection for uranium was going to be intensified and in 10 to 12 years the extent of Argentina's uranium resources should have been determined. At present the known resources would suffice to cover an installed capacity of only 6000 MW(e). New deposits would be exploited only if they represented at least ten years' reserves. The production of uranium on an industrial scale would be carried out in commercially sized plants like that at Sierra Pintada - currently in the project stage - so that the nuclear industry would have a sound economic and financial base.

25. As far as fuel element fabrication was concerned, Argentina possessed the necessary basic technology and was capable of optimizing and developing fuel elements and their mode of utilization. As with uranium production, the fabrication of fuel elements would be carefully planned. A fuel element plant was to be constructed at the Ezeiza Atomic Centre and should be in operation by 1978.

26. For operating the various installations, the Argentine Atomic Energy Commission, after more than 24 years of effort, now had the specialists needed to manage the development of nuclear energy. Like the majority of national atomic energy commissions, that of Argentina had been obliged to review the structure of its legal apparatus in order to adapt it to the demands of the new situation.

27. As safety considerations represented the most important aspect of any nuclear programme, the Argentine Atomic Energy Commission closely followed the recommendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection and noted with satisfaction that the Agency was basing its own standards on those recommendations.

28. Argentina had long ago commenced using radioisotopes for medical purposes as well as training the necessary medical personnel. To date, the Argentine Atomic Energy Commission had already granted 7500 diplomas in that speciality. In addition, radioisotopes were being used in industry in general and for labelling purposes in particular. The supply of radiopharmaceuticals containing labelled molecules was also another activity with good prospects for the future.

29. Progress in nuclear energy was dependent on international collaboration. It was thanks to such collaboration that Argentina had been able to come to terms with its nuclear problems. It was grateful to the Agency for the technical assistance it had received; however, at the stage now reached by Argentina in the peaceful utilization of atomic energy, a change in the character of that assistance was called for; it should not only be of a high level but should also be supplied rapidly. It might be an idea to set up, on the model of the safeguards inspectorate, a small group of highly qualified experts who could go anywhere immediately to deal with the various technological problems which could arise in countries like Argentina.

30. Mr. GOHAR (Egypt) congratulated Mr. Medina on having been unanimously elected President of the eighteenth regular session of the General Conference. He also expressed his appreciation to the Austrian Government for its continuous support of the Agency and for its generous hospitality.

31. For the past two years world attention had been focused on one of the principal problems facing mankind, namely how to provide adequate energy resources to meet its ever-growing needs. The energy crisis, which had as its main features the sharp increase in oil prices and the threat of domestic and industrial fuel shortages, had had a

---

[6] See documents GC(XVIII)/529 and Corr.1.

particular impact on nuclear energy, which now more than ever was assuming a new and important role as a competitive source of energy.

32. There was no doubt that that trend would be maintained throughout the coming decades not only because of the competitiveness of nuclear power stations but also of the need to save other conventional fuels such as oil or coal and gas as raw materials for industry. However, that situation was bound to present a number of new and diversified problems, for the solution of which it would be necessary to plan appropriate programmes on both the international and national levels.

33. The rapid development of nuclear power programmes would have a considerable effect on the future activities of the Agency in many areas: raw materials and essential services in connection with the nuclear fuel cycle, in particular the prospection and exploitation of nuclear ores, enrichment services, fuel element fabrication and the reprocessing of irradiated fuel, the planning and construction of nuclear power stations for the production of electricity and desalination of water, safety standards, quality assurance, environmental protection, waste disposal and management and the application of safeguards to fissionable materials.

34. Such being the case, many of the Agency's present activities would have to be intensified and reoriented in order to respond to the needs of Members, in particular the developing countries. In the course of the coming decade the Agency would be called upon to provide a large amount of assistance in connection with nuclear power, for example in elaborating long-term nuclear power programmes for developing countries, carrying out feasibility studies for specific projects and providing assistance to the maximum extent possible during the various stages of implementation of those projects.

35. Applications of nuclear energy for purposes other than electricity generation would become increasingly important, in particular the desalination of sea-water and the use of steam for process heating in industry. Such applications would become economically attractive through the construction of dual-purpose nuclear plants, in which the cost of steam would be considerably less than that of steam produced by conventional means.

36. The Egyptian delegation felt strongly that the Agency was the most competent organization for dealing with those urgent problems and that a comprehensive review of the present programmes and the organization of the respective Divisions should be carried out, to take account of the new requirements.

37. To mention but one example: in connection with the nuclear fuel cycle it was necessary to accelerate the exploitation and prospection of uranium ores and other nuclear materials at the national, regional and international levels and to increase the present capacity of uranium enrichment services and of fuel element fabrication and reprocessing plants. It would be particularly useful for the Agency to undertake a market survey of world requirements in those areas in the light of the present and future nuclear power programmes in different countries.

38. As one of the community of developing countries Egypt had always been of the opinion that an effective safeguards system with no loopholes could be established only on the basis of universality, non-discrimination and equality between all countries. His Government's policy was to support all international efforts in that direction, and it had always supported the objectives of NPT and had taken an active part in the work of the Agency's Safeguards Committee. However the ultimate aim should be to establish a foolproof system of safeguards, applied by the Agency and accepted by its Members, not only as parties to NPT but also as signatories of the Agency's Statute, safeguards which would be applied to all nuclear activities and facilities in the Member States. Egypt had always expressed its readiness to co-operate in achieving that very important objective.

39. With all those considerations in mind, Egypt had signed NPT but had not yet ratified it for well-known reasons. Egypt's first nuclear power station, which was to have a capacity of 600 MW(e) and be built on the Mediterranean coast 30 kilometres west of Alexandria under a bilateral co-operation agreement on the civil uses of atomic energy between Egypt and the United States of America, would be the subject of a trilateral safeguards agreement to be negotiated and concluded with the Agency.

40. The Government of Egypt was co-sponsoring with Iran an item on the agenda of the forthcoming meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nations aimed at making the Middle East a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

41. His delegation had repeatedly stressed the importance of consolidating the Agency's technical assistance programme by introducing a stable system of financing. At the last General Conference Egypt had joined other developing countries in submitting a draft resolution providing for the financing of technical assistance from the Agency's Regular Budget. That proposal should be kept under constant study and meanwhile the target for voluntary contributions should be increased, not only to meet new requests from Members but also to offset the losses due to inflation and fluctuations in exchange rates.

42. The Egyptian delegation wished to put forward a proposal aimed at increasing the efficiency of technical assistance and that was to provide assistance in the form of major facilities, equipment, experts and fellowships for relatively large integrated projects. Such projects could be carried out on a biennial or triennial basis similar to the practice followed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

43. His delegation considered that the staff of the Division of Technical Assistance should be increased to cope with the growing needs of the

developing countries and in particular that the post of Director of that Division should be filled.

44. Egypt had decided to maintain its contribution to the General Fund for 1975 at the same level as in 1974; that meant that it would be contributing a fraction of the target greater than its share of the assessed budget; if a large number of Members, particularly the advanced and rich Member States, were to follow that example, it would be possible to expand technical assistance activities.

45. The Egyptian delegation fully supported the unanimous decision of the General Conference to admit the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Mauritius to membership of the Agency and wished to extend a welcome to those new Members. He was confident that that enlargement of the Agency's membership would contribute to promoting the utilization of nuclear energy throughout the world for the peace and prosperity of mankind.

46. In conclusion, he wished to congratulate the Director General on the constructive programmes announced in his statement[7] aimed at developing the use of nuclear power in the developing countries. He was sure that under Mr. Eklund's able leadership the Agency would successfully acquit its role of promoting the use of atoms for peace.

47. Mr. de CARVALHO (Brazil) said he was glad that the Director General, in his statement, had not only clearly defined problems but in most cases also suggested an appropriate solution. He (Mr. de Carvalho) knew how important it was for the developing countries to gain industrial experience in the construction, operation and maintenance of nuclear power plants, hence he found the Director General's remarks on the training of engineers assigned to key projects and on-the-job training in construction, operation and maintenance techniques as well as safety matters highly encouraging; his delegation had no doubt that adequate financial resources and manpower would be allocated to those programmes. The part to be played by nuclear power should be studied from various angles and it was for that reason that a conference on the role of nuclear power and other energy sources in meeting future energy requirements had been proposed for 1977. His delegation had also been gratified to note that the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) was taking a much more positive attitude with regard to the financing of nuclear power plants.

48. Brazil's Second National Five-Year Plan, which had just been issued, envisaged that by 1979 the population of the country would reach 120 million, and that the per capita income would exceed US $1000. The power programme was the most important single element of that Plan: installed capacity, which had been 15 600 MW at the end of 1973, was expected to reach 32 400 MW by 1980. That expansion, entailing a rate of growth greater than 12% per year, was to be based mainly on hydroelectric plants, but some nuclear plants would be required, too. It had been decided to add a second unit of 1200 MW at the Angra dos Reis site, and a third unit of the same size was under study. It was planned that by 1990 the capacity of the nuclear power plants would reach 10 000 MW, although those estimates had not been finally approved by the public authorities.

49. The evolution of world affairs had helped to speed up the exploration and exploitation of Brazil's energy resources, for which purpose $14 000 million were to be appropriated during the coming five years. Brazil would have to spend more than $3000 million in foreign exchange for the import of petroleum products, but its rapidly expanding economy could absorb that burden, and no slackening of the Gross National Product growth rate, which had been 10% for the last six years, was foreseen. One of Brazil's most important nuclear development programmes related to prospecting for uranium, and more than $20 million would be allocated for that purpose in 1975.

50. He wished to record the encouraging results of his country's international co-operation, notably with France, Germany, Italy and the United States under bilateral agreements.

51. For years his delegation had been stressing the importance that it attached to the technical assistance programme, which did not seem to be evolving properly to meet the growing needs of developing countries. Technical assistance was in fact the item showing the lowest percentage increase, and it was hoped that steps would be taken to remedy that imbalance in the next few years through the joint efforts of the industrialized States and the developing countries. In accordance with the Director General's suggestion the Brazilian Government's voluntary contribution to the General Fund in 1975 would be a fraction of the target distinctly greater than its share of the assessed budget.

52. His delegation was also disturbed by the considerable increase in activities relating to the application of safeguards, and believed that it was time to sound a note of warning if a balance between control functions and planned programme activities was to be maintained.

53. The Director General was to be commended on his efforts in the field of environmental protection. The Agency was doing everything necessary to place in proper perspective the very small risks entailed in the proliferation of nuclear facilities throughout the world. Since smaller and smaller power plants were becoming competitive, nuclear power now appeared economically attractive to a much larger number of developing countries; but alongside the question of economic viability one had to consider safety and reliability. Dependability of fuel supplies would be a key requirement of any power programme. The developing countries could not opt for light-water reactors unless they were quite certain of being able to obtain enriched fuel on advantageous terms.

---

[7] GC(XVIII)/OR.168, paras 45-79.

54. In the present economic situation those countries could not really make accurate forecasts of their fuel requirements in ten years' time; the Agency could perform a valuable service by acting as an intermediary and helping to guarantee supplies for Member States. It would be of great benefit if, through the Agency, the suppliers offered the developing countries sufficient quantities of enriched uranium on realistic terms and renounced the policies previously adopted. The task was a very difficult yet very important one, and Brazil called upon all Member States to co-operate to prevent the problem of uranium enrichment from impeding the development of the rest of the world.

55. His delegation was happy to see that the Agency had decided to provide assistance in setting up regional secondary standards laboratories. The Brazilian Institute of Radioprotection and Dosimetry had benefited from the advice of Agency experts in setting up its own secondary standards laboratory, which was mainly engaged in the maintenance and operation of secondary standards dosimeters. The Legal Division was to be commended, among other things, for having organized the first seminar on nuclear law in Latin America.

56. His delegation appreciated the excellent way in which the Director General's reports were presented. He considered that the reports should always cover an entire calendar year so as to avoid the publication of supplements; for purposes of standardization he would prefer them to cover the period 1 January-31 December.

57. Mr. SIRIWARDENE (Sri Lanka), recalling that the first steps towards developing the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in Sri Lanka had been taken as far back as 1956, said he would like to give an account of the present status of nuclear applications in his country. Sri Lanka had appreciable deposits of certain radioactive minerals, the most important of which was monazite, and prospecting for such minerals was being carried out with the Agency's assistance. Good deposits of graphite also existed, a mineral useful in the nuclear industry.

58. Agriculture was the basis of his country's economy. With the Agency's assistance, studies were being undertaken, using radioisotopes, on fertilizer uptake and plant improvement. The main studies were on rice, the coconut and tea, but other crops were being investigated as well. His country was carrying out an intensive programme aimed at attaining self-sufficiency in food, particularly with regard to rice. The new varieties evolved required heavy fertilizer applications, the cost of which was high. It was therefore gratifying that the Agency, in its programme for 1975-80, was placing greater emphasis on the more efficient utilization of fertilizers.

59. His country was grateful to the Agency for the assistance given towards developing nuclear medicine, including the use of scanning techniques in diagnosis. The Agency was also giving help in the planning of a programme in isotope hydrology, covering sedimentology, seepage studies, studies on ground water and direct recharge measurements.

60. The current session of the General Conference was of special significance in that particular attention was being given to the energy crisis. His country was severely affected by the energy situation and, even before the crisis had developed, it had been faced with a critical balance of payments. Its energy production at the present time was based on hydropower, but that would require to be backed up by thermal sources in 10 to 15 years' time, and alternative sources of energy were also under study. It would be necessary to call on the Agency's assistance to determine the feasibility of using nuclear power. Since generating costs for nuclear power were now at least 50% lower than the cost of generating electricity with imported oil, the time seemed opportune to envisage the possibility of using nuclear power and to begin training national personnel and forming plans. There were some parts of the country where water supplies were inadequate, and the production of fresh water by desalting would not only provide domestic water but would also allow the development of agro-industrial complexes in those areas.

61. As the Director General had pointed out in his statement, the main problem in many developing countries, such as Sri Lanka, was the lack of industrial experience and of the infrastructure needed to build, operate and maintain nuclear plants; the Director General had given an assurance that the Agency would help to remedy that situation by expanding its nuclear power training programme. In that regard, he would stress that it was the programmes of the Department of Research and Isotopes in areas such as agriculture, medicine and industry which were of immediate importance to Sri Lanka and other developing countries. The technical assistance programme on the applications of radiations and radioisotopes was also of immediate practical value and the Agency's efforts to increase its technical assistance budget were to be welcomed.

62. Regional co-operation was of great value and its advantages could not be over-estimated; for example, it enabled common problems to be resolved, projects suited to local conditions to be put in hand, and quicker results to be obtained. That was especially true in regard to agriculture and food preservation. Regional training programmes were a corollary to that type of co-operation. Some years back a course of that kind had taken place at the Radioisotope Centre in Sri Lanka and the Centre was at the Agency's disposal for any similar courses it might wish to organize. Scientists from Sri Lanka were continuing, moreover, to use the facilities of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste.

63. Mr. VASSILEV (Bulgaria) said that the eighteenth session of the General Conference was characterized by fresh efforts to strengthen peace in the world. The agreements concluded over the past few years had had a favourable effect on international relations. The Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe had fostered an atmosphere of confidence and co-operation among States of different economic and social structure. The agreements signed by the Soviet Union and the

United States had greatly contributed to the strengthening of peace, to removing the risk of a nuclear conflict and to limiting the arms race.

64. As a result of that slackening of international tension, it had become possible to expand and intensify co-operation among peoples in the utilization of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. As a member of the United Nations family, the Agency was called upon to play a front-rank part in that evolution. Its mission derived from the obligations it had assumed under Article III of NPT. At the forthcoming Review Conference it would undoubtedly be able to report positive results and to show that NPT really did contribute towards the greater use of nuclear energy applications, particularly power generation. Since the rise in oil prices a number of countries had already decided to resort to nuclear reactors in order to meet the energy crisis.

65. Rapid growth in the number of nuclear power stations had an inevitable effect on the Agency's activities, as could be seen from its programme for 1975-80, where nuclear power was accorded a significantly larger place than in the past. The use of nuclear power presented a number of problems relating not only to the construction and operation of power stations but also to environmental safety and protection. But it was gratifying to realize that, according to the specialists, nuclear power stations contributed less to environmental pollution than other forms of power production.

66. The Agency was also preparing to draw up health and safety standards, as required by the steady increase in the capacity of nuclear power stations. His country attached great importance to that work, which was also included in the programme of the Permanent Commission of CMEA.

67. The general trend towards the use of nuclear power inevitably had some effect on the type of technical assistance provided by the Agency. Henceforward, a greater share of its resources would have to be allocated to problems in that area. The Agency was already giving priority attention to requests for assistance relating to the training of specialists for the design and operation of nuclear reactors. Its assistance should go in the first instance to countries that had already concluded safeguards agreements in conformity with Article III of NPT.

68. He wished to stress again that technical assistance was an area to which his country attached very great importance. It was participating in that work by contributing to the General Fund, in conformity with the Agency's recommendations, and the detailed and objective document drawn up by the Director General on the financing of technical assistance was to be welcomed.

69. Developments in the area of nuclear power would also have repercussions on safeguards. His delegation endorsed the efforts to expand the scope of application of NPT and thereby to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In that regard, it was worthy of note that the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States had reached agreement not to supply nuclear fuel to countries that had not adhered to NPT unless the fuel in question was placed under the Agency's safeguards.

70. As his delegation had already had occasion to state, Bulgaria had decided to turn to nuclear power to meet its energy needs. Work on the first nuclear power station, at Kozlodui, had been started on 6 April 1970. Four years and three months later, its first 440-MW unit had been put into service. The second unit, which would have the same capacity, was due to start up in 1975. That would be the end of the first stage in the construction of the power station. The two following stages, to be undertaken in the next five to six years, would bring its aggregate output up to 2440 MW. The entry into service of the first nuclear power station in Bulgaria and the Balkans as a whole was not only an important milestone in relation to electricity production; it took on added symbolic significance as a mark of the disinterested friendship existing between the people of Bulgaria and the Soviet Union. The first stage, as a whole, had been executed by Soviet design offices in collaboration with Bulgarian institutions and specialists.

71. One of the main problems arising out of the development of nuclear power in Bulgaria was the supply of material and equipment. The Bulgarian Government had accordingly decided to set up a number of installations that would operate in close co-operation with enterprises and institutions of CMEA Member States.

72. Specialized training also presented a problem. For that purpose, advanced courses of six months' duration had been organized and new specialized higher education establishments and technical institutes set up. In addition, a large number of trainees were taking part in the construction and installation of the Kozlodui I power station and in the drawing up of practical instructions for its operation.

73. Lastly, nuclear power also presented problems of radiological safety and environmental protection. Bulgaria was taking measures to provide effective health and safety services and to determine natural radiation on the site of the first power station and in the Danube. Essential standards and regulations were drawn up on the basis of experience in the Soviet Union and of Agency and CMEA Permanent Commission documents.

74. In 1972, the Institute of Nuclear Studies and Power Technology had been established under the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, with a view to resolving certain scientific problems presented by the development of nuclear power. A scientific service had also been instituted at the Kozlodui power station. To meet the country's needs in nuclear technology, the Government had set up a unified company called "Nuclear Technique" whose programme encompassed research and planning, production, project design, assembly work and the installation and maintenance of radioisotope equip-

ment in most industrial enterprises. Two factories, two institutes, and a specialized assembly service with a design office participated in those activities. The new company was engaged in the production of radiometric and dosimetric appliances, instruments for the control and automation of various operations, fire alarm devices, nuclear medicine equipment, safety devices and nuclear defectoscopy apparatus.

75. It was worth emphasizing that the equipment in question was being built in close collaboration with institutions and enterprises of CMEA Member States. Indeed, the Permanent Commission of CMEA had greatly expanded its activities over the past few years and had made an exceptional contribution to the application of nuclear energy in science and industry.

76. Lastly, his delegation endorsed the Agency's programme for 1975-80 as a whole, as also the budget for 1975. It understood the difficulties arising out of inflation and monetary fluctuations and welcomed the efforts of the Secretariat to concentrate certain activities. Those efforts would undoubtedly enable savings to be effected; however, expenditure on administration and particularly on staff still accounted for too large a share of the budget. Admittedly, expansion of the Agency's activities in safeguards would inevitably entail expenditure and his delegation unreservedly supported the estimates for that purpose.

77. In conclusion, he stated that Bulgaria would continue to support the Agency in its efforts to promote the utilization of atomic energy for peaceful purposes.

78. Mr. GRAEF FERNANDEZ (Mexico) said that his country had carried out a review of its power programmes in order to meet the present energy crisis. In the present situation it was important to use national resources to the full and to intensify scientific and technical research for the development of the economy and industry and the prosperity of all. For that purpose the Government of Mexico had drawn up a long-term programme aimed at ensuring increased utilization of nuclear science and technology, which were major factors in economic and social growth.

79. As the President of Mexico, Mr. Luis Echeverria Alvarez, had pointed out in an address at the Agency's Headquarters, posterity would judge the twentieth century by the way in which it had used nuclear energy, that favourable instrument which was capable either of ennobling our civilization or of destroying it. Nuclear energy marked the frontier of modern history. But before all the anticipated benefits could be reaped it was vital to renounce its use as an instrument of destruction or of political pressure. One of the functions of the Agency was indeed to give a positive direction to the results of nuclear research.

80. Mexico fully supported the Agency's activities. It welcomed the results obtained in both safeguards and technical assistance. The Agency, whose purpose was to promote and to facilitate the peaceful uses of nuclear energy throughout the world, and in particular for generating electricity, was a perfect example of an efficient international organization in all its activities: the exchange of scientific and technical documentation, training, the provision of equipment and experts' services, the application of safeguards - the importance of which for preventing fissionable materials as well as the services, equipment and information provided by the Agency from being used for non-peaceful purposes was well understood - and the formulation of safety standards for the protection of workers and the public against ionizing radiations.

81. Mexico considered nevertheless that the Agency should increase its technical assistance to developing countries considerably. In view of the fuel shortage which affected the whole world, advanced and developing countries should combine their efforts to extract the energy they needed from the atom. The assistance of international organizations such as the Agency would enable small States and developing countries to obtain quickly the necessary knowledge. But nothing could be done until there was lasting peace in the world. The Agency could contribute to such a peace by intensifying its technical assistance to developing countries.

82. In February, Mexico had concluded with the Agency an agreement on technical assistance for the implementation of the Laguna Verde nuclear power plant project[8] and another agreement with the Agency and the United States on uranium enrichment services[9].

83. Knowing that any nuclear engineering plan depended first and foremost on uranium resources, Mexico had laid particular emphasis on geological and geophysical prospecting for nuclear raw materials in its territory, and the results obtained so far were very promising. Several areas that seemed particularly favourable were at present undergoing quantitative exploration.

84. Mexico had embarked upon the construction of a domestic nuclear fuel industry and hoped that the Agency would increase substantially the assistance which it was already providing in that area.

85. Mexico was not limiting its activities to nuclear power: the medical, agricultural and industrial applications of radiations as well as fundamental research were in no way neglected. Its aims in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy were ambitious but consistent. The Agency, by providing the services of experts and training fellowships, could help Mexico to carry out those various undertakings.

86. Mr. PETRI (Sweden) said that in view of the energy supply difficulties experienced the previous year, Sweden, like other importing countries, had

---

[8] INFCIRC/203.

[9] INFCIRC/203/Add.1.

been studying ways and means of utilizing its indigenous energy resources. Since there were no resources of fossil fuel, Sweden was in a vulnerable position in that respect; according to a recent report on Sweden's future energy needs, energy consumption per capita would continue to rise, although at a diminishing rate. A decision was to be taken the following year on the extent to which additional requirements in the 1980s would be met by nuclear power.

87. During 1974 three large nuclear power plants had been commissioned, bringing the total number in operation to four with an aggregate capacity of 2600 MW. With the eleventh nuclear power plant foreseen in the programme, authorization for the construction of which had recently been given, aggregate capacity would reach 8300 MW in 1980.

88. The use of nuclear energy had led the Swedish public to be concerned with two major problems: safety hazards connected with the radioactive waste from nuclear power plants and the dangers of using plutonium in nuclear explosives. Sweden had always been of the opinion that such problems should be dealt with at the international level and therefore his Government noted with satisfaction that the Agency attached high priority to such activities.

89. With regard to NPT, the States which had become party to NPT had done so at the cost of making certain sacrifices, in the conviction that by preventing any further spread of nuclear weapons they were acting in the fundamental interests of the international community. The fact that India had carried out a nuclear explosion was cause for alarm. It was to be feared that such action might interrupt the steady increase hitherto maintained in the number of States acceding to the Treaty, and might even undermine the Treaty's authority - a consequence which could not be tolerated. By placing all its nuclear activities under Agency safeguards, India could help to prevent such a development.

90. For its part, the Agency had, since the entry into force of NPT, been studying ways and means of observing and controlling nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes. It had asked a group of experts to draw up a set of procedures, the adoption of which, on an international level, should curb the desires of any State that wished to develop its own nuclear weapons. However, while such procedures might be consistent with the interests of disarmament, some doubted whether peaceful nuclear explosions could be carried out to any effective purpose without jeopardizing the principles normally accepted in connection with the other peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

91. Some encouraging facts could be seen in connection with NPT in addition to grounds for serious concern. A number of major industrialized countries whose peaceful nuclear capacity was growing rapidly were on the point of acceding to the Treaty and concluding the concomitant safeguards agreements with the Agency. On 4 September Sweden itself had signed an NPT safeguards agreement with the Agency which would supersede the agreement previously concluded.

92. The time taken for NPT to enter into force was due to the complexity of the Treaty itself. It was to be hoped that an increasing number of NPT agreements would be implemented the following year; a considerable proportion of the nuclear activities in the world could thus be placed under a uniform control system.

93. He informed the General Conference that Sweden, in accordance with its obligations under Article III.2 of NPT, would soon introduce regulations concerning the export of certain equipment and special materials under which such exports would be authorized only if the facility of the recipient State for which the equipment or materials were destined, together with any material subsequently produced in the facility, were placed under Agency safeguards.

94. Sweden attached very great importance to the regulatory functions of the Agency, particularly in relation to the long-term storage of highly active waste, a question which was being studied in Sweden and which presented complexities that could be satisfactorily resolved only by close international co-operation. A further question was that of the provisional rules to be applied to the dumping of radioactive waste in the oceans, drawn up pursuant to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (the London Convention)[10], which the Board of Governors was to examine again in 1975.

95. In the same general sphere, the safety codes and guides for nuclear power plants which the Agency proposed to draw up were also a matter of primary importance. Sweden considered that they were essential in order to convince public opinion that the generation of nuclear power was safe; and such work could also be useful to the technical assistance and training programmes of the Agency.

96. The Swedish Government was very much interested in the Director General's proposal for an international conference in 1977 on the prospects and problems of nuclear power[11]. His Government would make its views known at a later date.

97. Sweden saw no criterion in the Agency's Statute that specified how to determine which countries were the most advanced in the technology of atomic energy, but felt that it satisfied the conditions required for appointment to membership of the Board under Article VI.A.1 of the Statute.

98. In conclusion, he was please to confirm that Sweden's voluntary contribution to the General Fund for 1975 would be $60 750, which was considerably higher than the figure for 1974. He noted that if one took into account the payment of

---

[10] Reproduced in document INFCIRC/205.

[11] See document GC(XVIII)/OR.168, para. 58.

the order of $30 000 provided by Sweden under the special agreement concluded between the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA) and the Agency, and its contribution to UNDP, where its share represented 10% of the total budget of the programme, its aggregate contribution to the Agency's technical assistance and training activities was ten times the amount pledged to the General Fund.

99. Furthermore, SIDA had made available to the Agency a sum of approximately $1.3 million to assist the Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture for the period July 1974 to June 1979. In making a substantial contribution to the technical assistance activities of the Agency, Sweden was convinced of the need to provide the Agency with the necessary resources to fulfil its functions effectively in an area of such high priority.

100. Mr. NEMETS (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said it was gratifying to note that the preceding year had been characterized by a relaxation in world tension. The peoples of the world were seeking to establish between themselves relations based on the principles of democracy and justice, eliminate for good the threat of a thermonuclear war and achieve a security which would enable the present and future generations to concentrate their efforts on solving the great problems facing mankind.

101. The international atmosphere had been favourably influenced by the agreements signed by the Soviet Union and the United States of America for the purpose of preventing nuclear war and limiting strategic offensive weapons, underground nuclear-weapon tests and tests of high-power explosives. As Mr. Leonid Brezhnev had observed on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the liberation of Poland, those agreements represented a further step forward towards the complete cessation of nuclear testing, which was all the more necessary because the danger still existed that the achievements of science and technology would be utilized for producing new weapons of mass destruction.

102. All peoples aware of their solidarity in the struggle for peace and of their responsibility for the future of the world realized that peaceful applications of atomic energy represented the only means by which mankind could avoid an energy crisis and satisfy numerous other needs.

103. For that reason, mention must be made of the Agency's special role as an international centre responsible for co-ordinating the peaceful uses of atomic energy. During the preceding year, the Agency had successfully carried on the main activities under its programme, and had discharged its obligations under NPT. The fact that something like 100 countries had signed that important international instrument bore testimony to its relevancy. As the number of safeguards agreements increased, the Agency continued to perfect its safeguards system and improve its efficiency. Attention should be drawn to the fact that an agreement had been reached between the Agency and countries supplying fissionable material under which countries which had not acceded to NPT would be required to place under Agency safeguards nuclear material and facilities which had been supplied to them.

104. The Agency had carried out considerable activity in connection with nuclear safety, environmental protection and supply of information. Several years of work in nuclear documentation had shown that those efforts were contributing to the development of atomic science throughout the world, including the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

105. As in the preceding years, the Agency attached great importance to the provision of technical assistance to developing countries. It was sufficient to recall that nearly 40% of its budget was used for that purpose. His country also made its contribution to that activity. Along with other socialist countries, it had supplied therapeutic equipment to several Asian and African countries. During the current session, it would pledge a voluntary contribution of 80 000 roubles in national currency to the General Fund, which could be used for the supply of equipment and materials to developing countries.

106. He wished to draw attention to another matter of great importance, that of co-operation between the Agency and other regional organizations. For example, CMEA accorded an important place in its general programme to the application of atomic energy in the national economies. Collaboration between CMEA and the Agency could therefore be very fruitful.

107. Since the establishment of Soviet power, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic had become a highly industrialized country. Research efforts and achievements in the peaceful uses of atomic energy had continued to increase. The Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, with which some 70 scientific institutions were affiliated, was the scientific centre of the country. The outstanding achievements of those establishments included the development of new methods of electrical welding, construction of high-speed computers and production of artificial diamonds. Intensive studies were also being made of the atomic nucleus and of phenomena occurring at high interacting particle energies.

108. The research activities referred to involved the use of a nuclear reactor, several accelerators, including the 2-GeV linear accelerator of the Kharkov Physico-Technical Institute, and improved radioelectronic equipment for the processing and analysis of nuclear data. Ukrainian specialists had obtained important results in the study of interactions between particles of various types and nuclei and in formulating theories to explain those phenomena. The main results of their activities had been described in papers presented at the four conferences on the peaceful uses of atomic energy held at Geneva. The Nuclear Research Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic at Kiev would shortly complete the construction of the U-240 isochronous cyclotron

which would give high-intensity neutron and charged-particle beams in an energy range of up to 100 MeV. That facility would open up fresh possibilities for studying nuclear phenomena and applying the results obtained.

109. The studies on high-temperature plasmas at the Kharkov Physico-Technical Institute had led to the construction of the "Uragan" stellerator, the biggest in the world, which had produced a plasma of very high parameters.

110. Radioactive sources were finding a wide variety of applications in the study of materials. They were being used to obtain metals and alloys of high purity, new materials and coatings of high strength and corrosion resistance. Several radiation-resistant compounds had been developed for use in nuclear power plants.

111. In radiation biology, the studies related to radiological protection of animals and plants.

112. Important activities were in progress in the field of radioecology. For example, several studies on the radioactivity of water in reservoirs had demonstrated that the optimistic forecasts coming from certain countries on the rapid self-purification of the marine environment contaminated with long-lived radioactive pollutants were erroneous. Contrary to all expectations, it had been found that the strontium-90 content of the Mediterranean had not diminished since 1968, a fact which confirmed once more the need for a complete prohibition of the disposal of radioactive waste into seas and oceans.

113. Of the numerous applications of the results of theoretical studies in the country, mention could be made, for example, of the use of tritium to neutralize static electrical charges, a technique which helped improve working conditions and contributed to savings. Tritium ionizers had been found effective in incubators and hot-houses, where they accelerated the ripening of vegetables, fruits, and so forth.

114. Radiation had been used to obtain valuable mutants of wheat, maize and lupin and also a good early variety of potato resistant to fungus diseases.

115. As regards the use of radioisotopes in medicine, studies were being carried out in 12 scientific institutions and ten medical establishments on all problems of radiodiagnostics and radiation therapy. Most scientific research establishments specializing in clinical work, medical institutions and large hospitals possessed radiodiagnostic laboratories. The Ukraine produced several types of radiodiagnostic equipment ranking among the best in the world.

116. The rapid growth of Ukrainian industry would not have been possible except for a still more rapid expansion of infrastructure for power production. The average annual increase in electric power generation in the Ukraine was of the order of 8-9%. The country was rich in organic fuel and had until recently focused its efforts on the construction of thermal power plants. Calculations showed, however, that even under those conditions it was economically advantageous to make use of nuclear power plants, and construction of the first unit of a 2000-MW plant near the town of Chernobyl was already under way. It was planned to build additional units subsequently. By 1980, the Ukraine expected to raise its total nuclear power generating capacity to 8000 MW, which corresponded to 37 000-38 000 million kW/h per annum.

117. The institutions affiliated with the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic maintained close relations with various scientific centres abroad and with several international organizations working on the peaceful uses of atomic energy. Its experts took an active part in international meetings and conferences. Measurements made in the Ukraine of numerous nuclear constants were regularly communicated to, and published by, the Agency. The Academy of Sciences also participated actively in INIS.

118. Numerous visits to the scientific institutions of Kiev had been made by experts from various countries and Agency officials, and courses had been held for trainees from developing countries. In 1971-73 the Nuclear Research Institute had hosted conferences on neutron physics which had been attended by foreign scientists and Agency representatives. In 1975, the third conference on that subject would be held, and could be expected to promote international collaboration in that work even further.

119. It was heartening to note that the Agency's membership was increasing every year. That was a definite proof of the authority which it enjoyed in all countries. The Ukrainian delegation wished to welcome the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Mauritius, whose admission would certainly foster the development of the peaceful uses of atomic energy in the world.

120. Mr. MUTUKU (Kenya) paid tribute to the achievements of the Agency in relation to matters of safety and the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes. From the time it had become a Member, Kenya had always supported the Agency morally and financially; it intended to be even more closely associated with the Agency in the years to come and hoped that it could be elected to the Board of Governors in the near future.

121. The oil crisis, inflation and the drought that had hit large parts of Africa and other regions of the world made it necessary for the Conference to think seriously about the energy and food situation in the world - particularly in the developing countries - and to direct the Agency to embark on vigorous technical assistance programmes which would help solve those problems through the judicious use of nuclear energy resources for the generation of electricity and through the application of modern nuclear techniques in the improvement of agricultural production. Kenya, like many other countries, had been severely hit by the steep rise in the price of oil and other products on the world market; his delegation was therefore

pleased to note that, in his statement concerning the Agency's expanded programme for 1975-80, the Director General had said that the Agency had already recognized some of those problems and planned to tackle them with more vigour than in the past. Gratifying, too, was the plan to arrange in 1977 an international meeting on the long-term problems created by the energy situation.

122. The Kenyan delegation would like the Agency to explore the possibility of drawing up joint or regional projects for the construction of small nuclear power plants of 100 MW(e) upwards, which were still too costly for many developing countries, particularly when they were experiencing serious balance of payments problems.

123. With regard to food production, Kenya's main interest so far had been in the utilization of radiation and radioisotopes in research work. The use of more effective methods would enable agricultural production to be increased. It was the role of agricultural research to evaluate those methods, and it was for that reason that Kenya's 1974-78 development plan envisaged an intensification of such research. What was planned was an improvement of the quality of seeds, livestock and the soil, and irradiation had been widely used to bring about mutations. Radioisotopes were being applied in studies aimed at obtaining better utilization of fertilizers and water by plants, and were also being used in the study of parasites of economic importance in agriculture and animal husbandry.

124. So far, Kenya had drawn on Agency resources very little for its studies in applied entomology and parasitology, in soil physics and so on. It had recently obtained the services of an expert to establish a radioisotope laboratory which was expected to help in solving some of the problems of nutrition and soil science for which traditional field agronomic trials were not very suitable. If Kenya had not always been able to draw fully on the Agency's resources, that was because it did not possess the trained manpower which would enable it to make use of its services. But it should be recognized that the Agency's resources were not unlimited. For that reason he thought that the Agency should solicit funds and training facilities from the more advanced Member States to enable it to assist those Member States in need of trained manpower and other facilities.

125. Mr. OVONO MEZU (Gabon) said that Gabon was determined to collaborate with the Agency in the peaceful uses of the atom and in the search for peace in the world. That determination was due to the fact that the Gabon Republic was actively participating in the establishment of the nuclear era, being one of the world's leading uranium producers. But his country prided itself on making a contribution to basic research as well: it was in fact in a Gabon deposit at Oklo that the existence of a natural nuclear reactor, an extraordinary phenomenon that had not been found anywhere else, had been recognized.

126. He then gave details of that discovery, which had been announced to the scientific world in September 1972. The existence of such natural reactors was, of course, still fraught with a multitude of problems that would doubtless intrigue scientists for a long time. In any case, study of them was likely to provide much interesting information, particularly for the earth sciences.

127. That was why the Gabon Government was planning to arrange, jointly with the French Atomic Energy Commission, an international conference on the Oklo phenomenon, which would take place, probably at Franceville, in June 1975. The President of the Gabon Republic hoped that the conference would be placed under the Agency's auspices. Gabon would be extremely honoured if that wish was fulfilled, and he thanked the Agency in anticipation of any help it might be able to give his country in preparing and organizing that conference, which was rather a "first" on African territory. It would like a large number of participants to attend the conference and a large number of publications to result from it. Samples of the Oklo ore and information which might be useful to research workers were at their disposal. He urged the international scientific community to make the conference a great success.

● The meeting rose at 6 p.m.