



International Atomic Energy Agency

GENERAL CONFERENCE

GC(XVIII)/OR.174

10 March 1975*

GENERAL Distr.

ENGLISH

EIGHTEENTH REGULAR SESSION: 16–20 SEPTEMBER 1974

RECORD OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-FOURTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Neue Hofburg, Vienna, on Friday, 20 September 1974, at 10.50 a. m.

President: Mr. MEDINA (Philippines)

Item of the agenda**	Subject	Paragraphs
9	General debate and report for 1973-74 (continued)	1 - 60
	Statements by the delegates of:	
	Mongolia	1 - 10
	Sudan	11 - 21
	Finland	22 - 31
	Costa Rica	32 - 40
	Malaysia	41 - 50
	Austria	51 - 60
3	Credentials of delegates to the eighteenth (1974) regular session	61 - 77
	(b) Report of the Credentials Committee	61 - 77
17	Election of Members to the Board of Governors	78 - 83

* A provisional version of this document was issued on 25 September 1974.

** GC(XVIII)/534.

THE RECORD

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

1. Mr. SODNOM (Mongolia), continuing the general debate, said that the further reduction in international tension and the practical application of the principle of peaceful coexistence would undoubtedly contribute to increased international co-operation in many fields, including the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy.

2. The use of nuclear energy as a serious alternative in meeting the world's growing energy demands raised the question of the safeguarding of nuclear facilities. The Agency's activities in that connection were important, for they were directly related to the strengthening of world peace and security. The safeguards question was attracting more and more attention, particularly in view of the forthcoming Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (the Review Conference), which would afford an opportunity for reconfirming the fundamental aims of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)[1]. His delegation attached great importance to the adherence to NPT by all countries, especially the militarily more powerful ones.

3. His country had been among the first to sign and ratify NPT, and had concluded a safeguards agreement with the Agency in connection with NPT[2] even before becoming a Member of the Agency. It called upon all non-nuclear-weapon States to conclude such agreements with the Agency before the start of the Review Conference and noted with satisfaction the interesting and detailed reports which the Agency had prepared for the Preparatory Committee.

4. With regard to the implementation of the provisions of NPT, he emphasized that the Treaty on the Limitation of Underground Nuclear Weapons Tests[3] and other important agreements concluded between the Soviet Union and the United States of America represented a major contribution towards limitation of the arms race and the prevention of a nuclear catastrophe. In that connection, his delegation welcomed the initiative of the Soviet Union, taken in agreement with the United States of America and the United Kingdom, concerning the provision of technical assistance mainly to countries which had ratified NPT and concluded a corresponding safeguards agreement with the Agency. It also considered that the provision to the Agency by exporting countries of information about the supply of nuclear materials and equipment to other States[4] would considerably help the Agency in carrying out its safeguards functions.

[1] Reproduced in document INFCIRC/140.

[2] Reproduced in document INFCIRC/188.

[3] Reproduced in document INFCIRC/208.

[4] See document INFCIRC/207.

5. His delegation welcomed the Agency's nuclear safety and environmental protection programmes and was conscious of the need for collaboration with organizations such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in environmental protection matters.

6. Like many other delegations, his had noted the increase in several areas of technical assistance, the provision of which was one of the Agency's principal tasks. It was gratifying that many developing countries were already receiving Agency assistance in connection with the construction of nuclear power plants, and his delegation wished to commend the Agency's efforts in that area.

7. It should be borne in mind, however, that for many Members the rendering of assistance in connection with the application of nuclear techniques in industry, agriculture, medicine and scientific research was the Agency's primary task. In the opinion of his delegation, technical training was also an important part of the Agency's technical assistance activities.

8. Turning to the question of voluntary contributions, he welcomed the raising of the target to \$4.5 million and said that Mongolia would make its modest contribution to the General Fund. It had been interesting to note declarations by the delegates of a number of advanced countries to the effect that a significant part of their countries' voluntary contributions would be in the form of materials and equipment.

9. His delegation hoped that the incipient collaboration between Mongolia and the Agency would contribute to the implementation of his country's atomic energy programme. Mongolia was a founder-member of the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research at Dubna, Soviet Union, and Mongolian scientists had for 18 years been taking part in a variety of work at the Institute, ranging from fundamental research to the practical application of research results.

10. In conclusion, he wished to welcome the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Mauritius to membership of the Agency. He was sure that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which had achieved considerable successes in nuclear science and its practical applications, would make a valuable contribution to the Agency's activities.

11. Mr. HABASHI (Sudan) said he would first like to congratulate the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Mauritius on their admission to membership of the Agency; their joining would enrich the Agency's experience and deliberations and would bring added support in the discharge of its great mission. His delegation also looked forward to welcoming ere long other independent sister States not as yet in the Agency, as well as African States emerging or still struggling to emerge in the face of iniquitous racial discrimination. In that regard, the recently changed attitude of Portugal was to be welcomed and it was to be

hoped that other countries would follow its example. For, until all nations had joined forces to present a united front in working for the good of mankind, the countries of the world could not truly claim to be a United Nations community. And, in atomic energy perhaps more than in any other field, where the concern was about the appropriate use or misuse of that powerful force and universal acceptance of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and other safety measures, there was need to work towards becoming a truly united community of nations.

12. The Director General's indications regarding the enhanced economic prospects for nuclear energy in the developing world were greatly encouraging. His delegation had noted with interest the Director General's idea that, in the current critical energy situation, nuclear power offered the only alternative whereby the world's growing energy demand might be met. While nuclear power was a possible alternative to oil and other fossil fuel sources in the context of power only, the by-product benefits of fossil fuels in the manufacture of, e.g. fertilizers, insecticides, plastics and other petrochemical products should be borne in mind. His delegation was not so pessimistic as to believe that all the fossil fuel resources of the world had been explored and found to fall short of long-term demands; tremendous unexplored deposits of such fuels were, he believed, yet to be brought to light and exploited and, for the developing countries, the by-products he had mentioned were just as important to their economies as mere power generation, if not more so.

13. It was well known that the new high-yield varieties of a number of grain and oil crops, which constituted the basis for the Green Revolution, [5] gave their best yield through larger intakes of fertilizers and through adequate disease, pest and weed control obtained through a variety of preparations derived from fossil fuels. In a world already suffering from hunger and the threat of famine in the face of the population explosion, no one could afford to ignore those facts. The Agency should therefore intensify its efforts towards promoting the use of nuclear energy, not only to meet the direct needs in power, but also towards exploration for fuel deposits in hitherto uninvestigated areas, better use of fertilizers and insecticides and assessment of residue effects on human and animal health, and prevention of waste in the use of food and other agricultural produce.

14. Spectacular results had been achieved by some Member States in applying radiation biology to produce high-yielding superior-quality varieties of a number of crops through gene mutation. The results of research in those areas had been found in many cases to apply only in the particular ecological setting of the work. That would suggest the need for co-ordination of research on an ecological zone basis, since it was the accepted concept that the answer to a problem faced by a country in any ecological zone usually applied through-

out the zone. The Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Atomic Energy in Food and Agriculture might bear that idea in mind.

15. In his statement, the Director General had said that, even if there was some decline in oil prices, electricity from nuclear power would still be cheaper in nearly all cases than that derived from coal, oil or other thermal sources and that the threshold point at which electricity from nuclear power became cheaper than that from oil-fired plants now lay between 100 and 200 MW. [6] Considering the high cost of reactors of even that limited size and the fact that most developing countries could not for some time ahead aspire to have more than one such reactor, and also the high cost of transmission of power from one focal point to other parts of large countries (his own country was 1000 miles long by 1000 miles wide), research should be intensified towards the production of even smaller, less costly and more economical reactor units. In the meantime, however, the possibilities of regional co-operation in the utilization of smaller reactor units, as suggested by the delegate of Kenya, [7] should not be excluded; that idea might appropriately be investigated further.

16. In view of his country's desire to acquire a nuclear reactor either of its own or on a regional basis, and in line with its obligation towards Member States that had already installed such units, his delegation associated itself with those that had expressed concern about the assurance of adequate fuel supplies, and with the suggestion that the Agency might appropriately serve as a channel for ensuring uninterrupted fuel supplies for reactors and other nuclear energy services in Member States.

17. It would be some time before many developing countries could hope to attain the standards reached by the advanced countries in research on and application of nuclear energy. Until such time was reached, the least those countries could expect was to be able to benefit from the fruits of the research done and to utilize the results obtained in such areas as plant and animal production, mineral and hydrological surveys and diagnostic and therapeutic medical work. That would demand the intensification of information and training services to acquaint technicians and professionals in the various fields with the advances made in research and development of the application of nuclear energy to different uses and in the safety measures to be adopted in each case. His delegation associated itself with the suggestion made by the delegate of Indonesia that countries should be assisted to develop national training programmes in atomic energy research and technology for the application of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. [8]

18. As had been rightly observed during the general debate, the wide application of nuclear

[6] GC(XVIII)/OR.168, para. 48.

[7] GC(XVIII)/OR.172, para. 122.

[8] GC(XVIII)/OR.169, para. 51.

[5] See document INFCIRC/146/Add.1.

energy called for intensified safety measures to guard against heightened radiation hazards, both within and outside national boundaries. Admittedly, safety measures were a matter for the country concerned and most countries respected the interests of the international community; nevertheless, his delegation felt that national action might appropriately be reinforced by the establishment of some regional or international supervisory control machinery.

19. His country fully supported NPT, to which it was a party, and earnestly urged universal adherence and commitment to its terms.

20. In conclusion, he wished to express his country's admiration of the excellent work done by the Agency over the past year, as well as appreciation of the services given by the Director General and his colleagues in carrying out their tasks. It was in recognition of that greatly appreciated work that his country had decided to increase its voluntary contribution to the Agency by over 100% of its assessed contribution. His delegation fully endorsed the Agency's programme for 1975-80 and the budget for 1975, [9] although sharing the view of Pakistan that the meagre share allocated to the Joint FAO/IAEA Division was not consonant with the great responsibilities it was called upon to bear in the present situation of world-wide food shortage and rapidly growing world population[10].

21. Lastly, he would thank the Government of Austria for its hospitality and for the excellent facilities placed at the disposal of the General Conference.

22. Mr. MÄKINEN (Finland) said that in the general debate there had been discussion of the more important aspects of the Agency's work. One such question was the scope of the Agency's activities with regard to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy for the benefit of the developing countries. Generally speaking, such technical assistance, whether intended to provide those countries with additional resources for industrial power, or for other purposes, should be approached, not as an independent or limited activity, but rather in terms of their overall needs and the long-term planning of their entire development process.

23. The events of the past two years had - perhaps with a force and an urgency hitherto unequalled - created a multiplicity of global problems, the consequences of which could not be accurately defined at the present time. They ranged from the impact of the incipient international energy crisis and the interdependence of problems connected with the world raw material resources, to the laws governing the use of the seas and the ocean floor and the world population and associated food problems.

[9] See document GC(XVIII)/526 and Mod. 1.

[10] See document GC(XVIII)/OR. 170, para. 86.

24. In the introduction to his annual report, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kurt Waldheim, had stated that although the United Nations family of organizations had begun to play an increasingly central role in concentrating available information and expertise on those global problems, which were the result of the accelerating technological change, the question remained whether sufficient progress could be made in time in the practical pursuit of both short-term and long-term goals before such problems became completely unmanageable.

25. Within that broader context, the Agency would do well to examine its policies, programmes and activities - not as an international organization with a predefined, limited goal of its own, but as an essential part of a broader United Nations system, which was constantly seeking to review the ways in which its performance and capabilities could be improved in the quest to find a solution to the global problems of today. The question should be raised, moreover, whether the time had not come for the Agency to review the need to shoulder a bigger responsibility than hitherto, both with regard to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and the further development and utilization of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

26. The Director General had drawn attention to the numerous problems connected with the growing interest in nuclear power production in all parts of the world. The problems involved in the use of nuclear power for the generation of energy had, no doubt, been ever-present. The impact of the international energy crisis had, however, brought out the urgency of identifying and studying those questions, as well as finding effective and acceptable solutions to them. The existence of widespread nuclear technological capability, and the increasing number of nuclear reactors in which plutonium was a by-product, presented serious risks for the international community.

27. NPT provided a framework within which to develop and utilize nuclear technology in an orderly manner, while safeguarding against the exploitation of that technology for military purposes. Yet there still remained a number of States which had chosen to stay outside NPT; that fact, coupled with the increased demand for the use of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes (PNE), constituted a most precarious balance. Serious and urgent consideration should therefore be given to intensifying the study of the use of PNEs and their broadest possible utilization in the interests of progress in different parts of the world.

28. While much broader consideration than before of the problem was definitely called for in view of recent events, the importance of NPT itself, which was to come up at the Review Conference of the Parties to NPT in Geneva in May 1975, should be borne constantly in mind. As had been stated by the delegation of the Holy See the whole system of nuclear non-proliferation would remain unworkable as long as any great atomic Power remained

outside it. [11] It was in the best interest of the world community, that NPT, one of the most important international agreements ever concluded in the field of disarmament, should command universal support. It was important to realize that NPT provided an international instrument for dealing with the serious matter of the exploitation of nuclear power for military purposes, as opposed to its peaceful application for economic and social development. It was to be hoped that the States party to NPT would reaffirm the importance they attached to it, and that it would be ratified by all States that had signed it before the convening of the Review Conference.

29. It was in that spirit that Finland, together with a number of other States, had reached agreement on a uniform interpretation of Article III. 2 of NPT. [12] The purpose of that agreement had been to initiate the safeguards required by NPT on exports of source or special fissionable material and equipment and material especially designed or prepared for the processing, use or production of such material. The Government of Finland hoped that other States party to NPT would embark upon similar commitments with regard to Article III. 2 in the near future.

30. The entire question of safeguards, as dealt with by the Director General in his statement, was a highly relevant one, not least from the point of view of making NPT more effective. Its significance, however, went further, since universally accepted and effectively applied safeguards were the only means by which the international community could envisage the responsible use of nuclear power and technology. It was therefore tempting to assume the time had come to move on towards a unified and single safeguards philosophy. The need for defining more precisely the technical scope and procedures for the non-NPT system of safeguards, as envisaged by the Director General, [13] was an indication of the timeliness for initiating those ideas.

31. The Director General had, furthermore, called for increased attention to the various problems related to safety in the use of nuclear energy for industrial and other purposes. His views on greater international co-operation in such matters, more particularly, a more central role and greater responsibility for the Agency itself, were to be welcomed. Such matters certainly merited the attention of a major international conference, and it would benefit from as thorough and careful a preparation as possible, for which it might be necessary to set up a preparatory body of some sort with the active co-operation of the Board of Governors.

32. Mr. ORTIZ-LOPEZ (Costa Rica) said his delegation was very gratified at the work being done

by the General Conference, which constituted an important occasion for the exchange of opinions between States from all parts of the world in regard to the promotion of peace, energy production, the development of agriculture, medicine, physics, chemistry and other peaceful applications of nuclear energy.

33. Costa Rica, as a pure democracy, was concerned with peaceful coexistence and in that light it valued any assistance it could obtain from the Agency to enable it to further its programmes in all branches of science. A number of important programmes were at present being implemented in agriculture by the Centre for Agronomic Research of the University of Costa Rica with Agency assistance in the form of experts, equipment and fellowships for nationals of his country to train in technically advanced States such as the Netherlands and the Federal Republic of Germany. The Centre for Agronomic Research was being encouraged to establish a regional centre in Costa Rica for the maintenance and repair of special electronic equipment required in laboratories using radioisotopes. An institute was being established to study environmental contamination with special reference to foodstuffs, both for home consumption and for export. A joint project on the use of radiations in food preservation would also be submitted to the Agency.

34. In nuclear physics, an applied physics project would be implemented in his country and staff was being trained in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy; the School of Physics had established a programme of analysis using activation, X-ray fluorescence and neutron radiography with the assistance of an Agency expert. The Agency had approved Costa Rica's request for technical assistance in the form of equipment for that programme and also agreed to providing the services of an expert for one year and granting fellowships for the teachers at the School. The next step in the programme would be to train technicians in the use of isotopes required by Costa Rica. His country's most ambitious programme was on nuclear medicine and it had been under way since 1966 with considerable support from the Agency. The programme embraced such activities as the setting up of a radioisotopes laboratory, a cobalt therapy unit, training, the establishment of a national service for protection against ionizing radiations, and a film-badge dosimetry service.

35. His delegation was pleased to announce that, as part of the 1974 programme, nineteen Costa Rican scientists and technicians were training with Agency technical assistance in highly developed countries.

36. His country felt deep concern over the repeated detonation of nuclear weapons in view of their environmental effects. The number of fish in the ocean was decreasing, climatic conditions were being affected and the stability of the human race was in danger. A scientific report issued in one of the main nuclear countries stated that through such explosions all forms of life might disappear. According to Dr. Harold Johnston of the University

[11] GC(XVIII)/OR. 169, para. 101.

[12] See document INFCIRC/209 and Addenda 1 and 2.

[13] GC(XVIII)/OR. 168, para. 65.

of California the ozone protecting the earth from ultra-violet radiations could be damaged by nuclear explosions: ozone was found mainly in the lower stratosphere where practically all the sun's lethal ultra-violet rays were absorbed. The layer of ozone could be destroyed by chemical substances such as the oxides of nitrogen and Dr. Johnston reported that such oxides were formed by the enormous heat from nuclear explosions and that they could react with the ozone molecules.

37. As on many previous occasions, Costa Rica wanted to urge nuclear Powers to accede to the second Protocol of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (the Tlatelolco Treaty)[14]. Unfortunately, some nuclear Powers had so far been reluctant to sign that important instrument for peace, but his delegation hoped they would before too long identify themselves with the letter and spirit of the Tlatelolco Treaty.

38. His delegation supported the Agency's programme for 1975-80 and budget for 1975 and considered that the Director General and Secretariat were to be complimented on the clear presentation of the document. However, his delegation considered that although the level of voluntary contributions had been increased for the provision of technical assistance to developing countries, it was still not high enough to enable the Agency to implement its fundamental objective of bringing the benefits of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy to developing countries. It was to be hoped, therefore, that the major Powers would accelerate their assistance and contributions.

39. Whilst his delegation welcomed the increase in contributions in kind, it was convinced that additional voluntary contributions were indispensable for the provision of technical assistance to developing countries.

40. Although the Agency's safeguards programme was a vital necessity, his delegation considered that its cost was increasing too rapidly and was completely out of proportion with the voluntary contributions for technical assistance. His delegation considered that the safeguards programme should be restructured so that additional funds could be made available for technical assistance.

41. Miss LIM (Malaysia) said that, following the visit of an Agency mission to Malaysia in October 1972, a National Advisory Committee had been set up, with the basic responsibility of drawing up immediate and long-term nuclear energy programmes in Malaysia, as well as to exercise all necessary controls for the safe handling and disposal of radioactive substances and the related health and safety measures.

42. As a result of the deliberations of the National Advisory Committee, there were now two main projects under way. The first related to the

establishment of an atomic research centre to undertake both training and research in applications of nuclear techniques, for which the relevant research reactor was to be commissioned in 1977. The second project was for the commissioning of the first Malaysian nuclear power reactor in 1986-87, and would be based on a long-term plan to meet power requirements and to fully utilize existing viable hydro power sources within the coming five-year development plans.

43. In addition to those two main projects, Malaysia was also considering proposals to establish an Atomic Energy Commission to ensure, among other things, the safety of nuclear power systems, safe management of radioactive wastes, and the prevention of unauthorized use of fissionable materials. Another plan was to carry out a survey for radioactive minerals under the Third Malaysian Development Plan.

44. Within the context of those developments in Malaysia, and in other developing countries, her delegation fully endorsed the following activities, either begun or planned by the Agency in the coming years: the Agency's expanded role in providing Member States with advisory services in power planning and project implementation; the introduction of a broader nuclear power training programme for key project engineers and on-the-job training in construction and safety techniques; and the added responsibilities of the Agency in its intermediary role of ensuring nuclear fuel supplies on reasonable terms for Member States.

45. There were two points to be made in that connection. The Director General had referred to the fact that the threshold point at which electricity from nuclear power became cheaper than from oil-powered plants now lay between 100 and 200 MW, and that nuclear plants of below 440 MW were not at present available on the market. Since the nuclear power plant requirements of the majority of developing countries would continue for a long time to be for plants below 440 MW, by reason of their small system capacities, the Agency was urged to further intensify its efforts to make such reactor plants available.

46. Secondly, although the Director General's intention to expand the Agency's nuclear power training programme was very welcome, a much larger expansion of the programme directly by the Agency itself, or through appropriate arrangements with outside bodies possessing the necessary expertise was essential, in view of the fact that by the decade 1980-1990 half of the capacity increment of 40 developing countries alone would be accounted for by nuclear power.

47. The Malaysian delegation also welcomed the following measures that would benefit not only the developing countries, but also the more industrialized States: the formulation of comprehensive and internationally acceptable safety and reliability criteria; the proposal to convene a major international conference on the long-term prospects for nuclear energy and its attendant problems; and the expansion of Agency activities both in the field of

[14] Reproduced in the United Nations Treaty Series, Vol. 634, No. 9068.

safeguards and in further research into environmental problems, such as control of non-radioactive pollution of soil, water and air.

48. Grave concern had been expressed by a number of delegates at the dismal prospects facing NPT. Malaysia, which was party to NPT and had signed the relevant safeguards agreement, [15] urged States party to NPT to back up their obligations under the Treaty with action. It was also hoped that more non-nuclear-weapon States would become parties to NPT and carry out their obligations under Article III of the Treaty. For those reasons Malaysia attached great importance to the Review Conference, scheduled for May 1975. Furthermore, as one of the architects of the Kuala Lumpur Declaration expressing the determination of the Five States of the Association of South East Asia to make every effort for the recognition of South East Asia as a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality, Malaysia fully endorsed the view of the Director General that the experience of the Tlatelolco Treaty could be of benefit to other regions.

49. The work of the Agency in encouraging and assisting the application of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes throughout the world was generally recognized and appreciated. Malaysia, for its part, would do everything it could, along with other States, to strengthen the role of the Agency in the fulfilment of its objectives.

50. In conclusion, her delegation wished to announce Malaysia's decision to join the Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training in order to collaborate with Member States of the region in projects that would be of definite benefit to all States taking part in them.

51. Mr. MANZ (Austria) said that the problems of the ever increasing need for energy in its different forms and of producing that energy in sufficient and economically feasible amounts had faced the world for a long time, but had gained a new actuality during the past year. Nuclear energy had become an economic reality, the importance of which should not be underestimated. But in order to define its place correctly in the overall energy supply, additional activities by the Agency were useful and necessary.

52. His delegation, therefore, endorsed the Director General's call for a concentration of responsibilities in overall energy studies, and additional authority for the Agency in the area of economic analyses and environmental studies. It further welcomed the Agency's activities in the matter of the fuel supply for nuclear power plants, and especially the co-operation with the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development in that field.

53. As pointed out by the former Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Kirchschräger,

[15] Reproduced in document INFCIRC/182,

before the special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations in May 1974, the Agency's programme under discussion contained many opportunities for increasing and intensifying its activities in the energy field within the framework of its statutory and regulatory functions, for example, in the area of economic analysis and environmental studies. In that connection the co-operation of the Agency with the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis at Laxenburg was of special importance, and it was hoped that the results of the co-operation would be published for the information of Member States.

54. With regard to NPT, the Austrian delegation shared the feeling of regret that there was lack of progress in that area as shown by the fact that since the General Conference of the previous year no new country had signed NPT, and only two of those which had already signed had ratified it.

55. In the safeguards field, however, certain headway had been made, an example of which was the successful discussions leading to agreement by a number of major exporting countries to apply a minimum standard of conduct in the implementation of Article III.2 of NPT. For Austria's own safeguards system the guide on international standards for safeguards systems published by the Agency had proved particularly useful. It should also be mentioned, in that connection, that the safeguards laboratory for the use of the Agency at Seibersdorf would be completed by 1975.

56. The work done by the Agency in publishing a guide on the physical protection of nuclear material was also commendable, but it would be useful if the standards contained in the guide could be further elaborated to help Member States in developing their own regulations.

57. The Agency's intention to give more attention to questions relating to public acceptance was to be welcomed. The exchange of information and experience on a broader international basis would make it possible to convince the general public of the need for nuclear power development to meet an important part of the overall energy demand in many countries.

58. With regard to the Agency's budget for 1975, it was regrettable that the cost increases for personnel and administration due to inflation and fluctuations in exchange rates only permitted limited expansion of the Agency's activities. Austria had pledged a voluntary contribution to the General Fund of \$26 100 and had offered to make the same number of Type II fellowships available as in previous years.

59. As far as progress in the construction of the Agency's permanent headquarters was concerned, it could be seen that the work on the office towers was progressing according to schedule. The construction of the single floors to be suspended between the towers, and the fitting of the façade were due to be started quite soon. Provided no unexpected incidents occurred and work could con-

tinue at the present rate, the buildings would be ready for occupancy by 1978, as planned.

60. In conclusion, the Austrian delegation took the opportunity of welcoming the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Mauritius to membership of the Agency.

CREDENTIALS OF DELEGATES TO THE
EIGHTEENTH (1974) REGULAR SESSION

(b) REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS
COMMITTEE (GC(XVIII)/538)

61. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the draft resolution contained in the last paragraph of the report of the Credentials Committee (GC(XVIII)/538), the adoption of which was recommended by the Committee.

62. Mr. NEUMANN (Czechoslovakia) said that according to the Agreement on ending the war and restoring the peace in Viet-Nam, concluded in Paris on 27 January 1973, there were two zones and two Governments in South Viet-Nam, the Provisional Revolutionary Government and the Saigon Administration. The latter could not represent South Viet-Nam at the General Conference, as he had already said at the meeting of the Credentials Committee.

63. Mr. ANINOIU (Romania) said that, under the Paris Agreement, the Saigon Administration had not the right to represent all the South Viet-Nameese people, thus violating the legal rights of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Viet-Nam. The delegation of the Saigon Administration had, therefore, neither the right nor the capacity to speak for South Viet-Nam; nor had it the right to assume international responsibility in the name of South Viet-Nam. Consequently, his delegation challenged the credentials provided by the Saigon Administration.

64. Mr. DENES (Yugoslavia) reminded the Conference that the Conference of Heads of State or Government in Algeria had, in paragraph 35 of the political declaration, invited member countries to give their diplomatic support to the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Viet-Nam as the sole authentic representative of the population of South Viet-Nam. The Government of the Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia strongly supported that stand.

65. Mr. PLAKA (Albania) said that recognition in the Credentials Committee's report of the credentials of the representatives of the Saigon régime as representing South Viet-Nam was in contradiction with the real situation. The sole legitimate representative of the people of South Viet-Nam, of its will and aspirations, was the Provisional Revolutionary Government, which alone was properly qualified to represent that people in international relations, including relations with the international organizations.

66. The Provisional Revolutionary Government had obtained wide international recognition, and its authority and prestige in the world was continually increasing, especially since it was considered as the authentic representative of the South Viet-Nameese people.

67. The Saigon régime on the other hand could not speak on behalf of the South Viet-Nameese people because everyone knew that it had been put in power to serve the neocolonialist aims of the United States of America in Viet-Nam and throughout the whole of Indochina.

68. For those reasons the Albanian delegation did not recognize the credentials of the puppet Saigon régime, considering them to be invalid. Accordingly, it did not approve the relevant part of the Credentials Committee's report.

69. With regard to the credentials issued by the minority régime of Pretoria, his delegation reaffirmed its well-known support for the position of the African countries that those credentials could not be recognized as valid. The racist régime conducted a policy of oppression based on racial hatred against the indigenous population, a policy which had been condemned by progressives throughout the world. The régime could not represent South Africa.

70. Mr. DO HUU LONG (Viet-Nam) rejected the tendentious allegations of the preceding speakers. No article of the Paris Agreement mentioned the Viet Cong or qualified it as a Government or administration. On the contrary, the Agreement referred to the Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam as being the sole legitimate Government of the State of South Viet-Nam. Representing the main signatory of that Agreement, his delegation denounced all communist attempts to distort it to give a semblance of any kind of status to the Viet Cong. Under the Agreement the Viet Cong was considered as an opposition group that was to be integrated with the country's electorate for purposes of general elections.

71. It was universally recognized that the Viet Cong was just an organization created and directed by the communist régime of North Viet-Nam to give a South Viet-Nameese façade to the communist armies of Hanoi which had been invading the Republic of Viet-Nam during the past few years.

72. Set up by the North Viet-Nameese communist party in Hanoi in 1970, the so-called National Liberation Front of South Viet-Nam survived only thanks to the presence of more than 500 000 North Viet-Nameese communist troops, equipped with tanks, artillery and war materials, supplied by the communist block. In reality there was no second Government in Viet-Nam, but numerous expeditionary groups fraudulently introduced by the North Viet-Nameese communists.

73. Lastly, he drew attention to the fact that the Conference was called upon to verify the validity of the credentials themselves, namely that the letters were signed by the Head of State or the Minister of

Foreign Affairs of the Member concerned, in accordance with Rule 27 of the Conference's Rules of Procedure. There was no question of deciding on the representativeness of the States themselves. Were that to be done, international life would become impossible.

74. So as to waste no more time, he proposed that the report of the Credentials Committee should be accepted as the Committee had recommended.

75. Mr. SIBOUKAZ (Algeria) said that his delegation considered that neither the Saigon Government in South Viet-Nam nor the Government of South Africa could assume the right to represent the peoples of those countries.

76. The PRESIDENT said that he assumed that the Conference was prepared to adopt the draft resolution recommended by the Credentials Committee at the end of document GC(XVIII)/538.

- 77. It was so decided.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS (GC(XVIII)/524, 533)

78. The PRESIDENT drew attention to his memorandum in document GC(XVIII)/533 on the election

of Members to the Board, in paragraph 3 of which he notified the Conference that 11 Members had to be elected to the Board, specifying the geographical areas in respect of which elections were required and the number of Members to be elected in each case.

79. As he had just been informed that some delegations wished to hold further consultations before the elections were held, he would suspend the meeting for five minutes before proceeding further.

- The meeting was suspended at 12, 30 p. m. and resumed at 12, 35 p. m.

80. The PRESIDENT invited the Conference to proceed with the election of Members to the Board.

- 81. At the invitation of the President, a member of the Danish delegation and a member of the New Zealand delegation acted as tellers.

- 82. A vote was taken by secret ballot to elect 11 Members to the Board.

83. The PRESIDENT announced that in view of the lateness of the hour and the time it would take to count the votes, he would adjourn the meeting.

- The meeting rose at 1 p. m.

