



International Atomic Energy Agency

GENERAL CONFERENCE

GC(XIX)/OR. 177
30 December 1975*
GENERAL Distr.
ENGLISH

NINETEENTH REGULAR SESSION: 22–26 SEPTEMBER 1975

RECORD OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Neue Hofburg, Vienna, on Tuesday, 23 September 1975, at 10.45 a. m.

President: Mr. FELICKI (Poland)

| Item of the agenda** | Subject | Paragraphs |
|----------------------|---|------------|
| 4 | Adoption of the agenda and allocation of items for initial discussion | 1 - 2 |
| 6 | General debate and report for 1974-75 | 3 - 118 |
| | Statements by the delegates of: | |
| | United States of America | 3 - 28 |
| | South Africa | 29 - 40 |
| | France | 41 - 48 |
| | Germany, Federal Republic of | 49 - 65 |
| | Australia | 66 - 75 |
| | United Kingdom | 76 - 88 |
| | Romania | 89 - 103 |
| | Iran | 104 - 118 |

* A provisional version of this document was issued on 25 September 1975.

** GC(XIX)/559.

THE RECORD

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ALLOCATION OF ITEMS FOR INITIAL DISCUSSION (GC(XIX)/542)

1. The PRESIDENT informed the Conference that the General Committee recommended it to approve an agenda for the session consisting of all the items on the provisional agenda in document GC(XIX)/542, and also to allocate those items for initial discussion as indicated in that document.

● 2. The Committee's recommendations were accepted.

GENERAL DEBATE AND REPORT FOR 1974-75 (GC(XIX)/544, 544/Corr.1, 554)

3. Mr. SEAMANS (United States of America), after congratulating the Director General and the Secretariat on their continued outstanding service to the Agency, read out the following message from the President of the United States of America:

(a) "I welcome this opportunity to greet once again the delegates to the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency. The United States has supported the Agency through all its years of eventful existence. The policy of the United States will continue to be one of strong support for the Agency.

(b) "Many countries, including the United States, are faced with the critical need to maintain and expand their supplies of energy. The work of the Agency is of great importance in reaching goals in three of the most crucial problem areas: meeting worldwide energy requirements, preventing the proliferation of nuclear explosive devices for whatever uses, and guarding against the theft of nuclear material for terrorist purposes. The United States will continue to make a major effort to meet these challenges. We are convinced that the collective response of the Agency's membership will have a most important influence on the outcome.

(c) "I reaffirm the United States' policy of continuing to make available to other countries nuclear materials and uranium enrichment services for peaceful uses of nuclear energy under careful controls and safeguards to ensure they do not contribute to the proliferation of nuclear explosive devices. Proposals I have made recently for the expansion of uranium enrichment capacity have as one of their principal objectives the strengthening of our ability to contribute to the worldwide development of nuclear energy. The United States will continue to join with others in a comprehensive effort to develop further an

effective system of international safeguards against the diversion of nuclear materials to the manufacture of nuclear explosives and against the theft of nuclear materials and the sabotage of nuclear facilities.

(d) "On behalf of the people of the United States, congratulations on the past achievements of this Conference and the Agency and best wishes for success in your deliberations!"

4. President Ford had reaffirmed the important position occupied by the Agency in United States foreign policy and the strong support which his country would continue to give to the Agency's programme and to the policy of non-proliferation.

5. Since the previous General Conference, organizational changes had taken place in the United States in the fields of energy research and development and of nuclear energy regulation. The Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA) had been established to provide unified leadership and direction in United States Government programmes concerned with the development of energy technologies. ERDA's energy research and development mission was to provide the United States with the energy technology options necessary if the country's future energy requirements were to be met. ERDA's research and development efforts would be focused both on the development of alternative technologies for example, fossil, solar, geo-thermal, fission and fusion, for the production of energy and on the conservation of energy through greater efficiency in its utilization (for example, in power generation, in automotive transportation and in the heating and cooling of buildings).

6. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which had assumed the licensing and regulatory functions of the former Atomic Energy Commission, had the mandate for ensuring that civilian nuclear activities were conducted in a manner consistent with the public health and with safety and environmental quality standards. The Commission was also responsible for licensing commercial exports of nuclear facilities and materials.

7. The future energy research and development programme of the United States would continue to give a prominent position to nuclear energy development. In the short term, ERDA's research and development emphasis was being placed on improving the operational reliability and reducing the environmental impact of light-water reactors and on uranium enrichment for civilian reactors. The fast breeder reactor programme would receive continued emphasis, and together with nuclear fusion and other technologies, acquire higher priority in the long term.

8. As technologies developed, they would take full account of health and environmental issues. Furthermore, the environmental and safety programmes were recognized as high-priority components of the country's national energy

policy, and the United States was ready to share its research and development findings with all nations.

9. The application of conservation methods in the various energy use sectors would reduce the amount of energy generation required. In the nuclear field, for example, energy could be saved all along the line, from the mining of the ore to the fabrication of the reactor.

10. ERDA was prepared to make available its energy conservation capabilities and talents and to co-operate with organizations in other countries, since it strongly believed that conservation was essential to the more efficient utilization of nuclear energy.

11. The President's proposals for expanding the United States' enrichment capacity included support for one private effort to establish a gaseous diffusion plant and/or, it was hoped, at least three private projects connected with the construction of centrifuge enrichment plants. The plants in question would be producing 12-18 million separative work units (SWU) per year by the mid-1980s, for sale to domestic and foreign customers.

12. The report on the provision of technical assistance by the Agency during 1974 [1] was impressive and indicated that the technical assistance programme was one which specifically benefited the developing countries and in which those countries had shown particular interest. Agency technical assistance, which had made significant contributions in agriculture, health and education, also contributed significantly to the overall technological development which was a prerequisite for a country's introducing nuclear power.

13. As regards nuclear safety, radiological safety and waste management, the Agency's work in those areas and in training the manpower needed for the economical and safe production of electricity through the use of nuclear reactors had increased greatly in importance.

14. During the past year, the United States had made important contributions to the Agency's intensified programme for the preparation of a comprehensive system of internationally acceptable codes and guides on the siting, safety and reliability of nuclear power plants. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, in particular, had contributed the services of its technically best qualified experts without cost to the Agency.

15. Another facet of the Agency's expanded effort to meet the needs of Member States anticipating the introduction of nuclear power was the training of technical and administrative manpower. During the past year, the United States had provided experts for a series of

Agency regional seminars and training courses, co-sponsored a course on the principles and techniques of regulating nuclear power, and participated in preparations for a 15-week course on nuclear power project planning and implementation to be held at Argonne National Laboratory twice during 1976. The United States was also supporting the development by the Agency of an advanced training course covering plant design, construction and operation.

16. An Agency project of great urgency and highly important for Member States was the study of the concept of regional nuclear fuel cycle centres to provide the means of meeting economically and in compliance with non-proliferation and safeguards requirements, the reprocessing and waste management needs of groups of countries. The United States would strongly support the project with the services of experts and in other ways.

17. The International Nuclear Information System (INIS) had in a short time progressed to the point where many nations depended on it for prompt and effective coverage of the developments in nuclear research, development and regulation. The United States was looking forward to "Atomindex" becoming the basic nuclear abstract journal for its own needs and those of other Member States.

18. Trade in nuclear equipment, materials and technology was growing and contributing to industrial and technical development in the world; but such growth brought with it the danger of misuse or diversion. It was clearly in the interest of the world community to support measures and take steps to minimize that danger. The United States Government believed that supplier and user nations had a common responsibility to ensure that nuclear materials and equipment were used only for their intended peaceful purposes; all would suffer unless that responsibility was fulfilled.

19. A central element of United States policy continued to be strong support for the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). The Review Conference of the Parties to NPT [2] had stressed the need to strengthen nuclear export controls, to promote international arrangements for ensuring the physical protection of nuclear material, to increase nuclear assistance to developing countries party to NPT, and to accelerate examination of the utility of regional nuclear fuel cycle centres.

20. It was in the interest of the world community that the transfer of nuclear equipment, materials and technologies to non-nuclear-weapon States, whether they were parties to NPT or not, should be subject to effective safeguards. The Agency

[1] GC(XIX)/INF/154.

[2] Held at Geneva from 5 to 30 May 1975. The text of NPT is reproduced in document INFCIRC/140.

was the proper international body for ensuring that such equipment, materials and technologies were not used for non-peaceful purposes and for preventing safeguards from becoming an element in commercial competition. Great caution should also be exercised in the export of certain sensitive technologies, even under safeguards.

21. In his message to the Conference at its previous session, President Ford had reaffirmed the offer by the United States to permit the application of Agency safeguards to all its nuclear activities, except those of direct national security significance, when safeguards were being generally applied in accordance with Article III, paragraph 1 of NPT. [3] Discussions with the Secretariat on the text of an agreement pursuant to that offer were in an advanced stage.

22. The Agency's safeguards practices were in a period of intensive development and evolution. Hitherto, Agency safeguards had been associated primarily with research reactors, power reactors burning uranium of low enrichment, fuel fabrication plants and research facilities. However, large processing facilities handling plutonium or highly enriched uranium already existed or were being built in countries where Agency safeguards were being applied or were expected to be applied within a few years. The procedures being developed by the Agency's safeguards staff on the basis of its somewhat limited experience would have to be tested and revised in the light of further experience.

23. The Agency's safeguards efforts would need to receive the support of Member States if there was to be a truly effective and reliable safeguards system. The success of the Agency's programme would depend to a large extent on the manner in which the Agency and its Member States dealt with a number of problems: the development of efficient logistics for carrying out world-wide safeguards operations; the achievement of realistic manpower levels; the development and implementation (with the co-operation of safeguarded States) of an effective computer-based safeguards information system; the ensuring, under the Agency's arrangements with safeguarded States, of adequate Agency rights of access to facilities and information; and the further elaboration, both technical and political, of Agency safeguards as new types of facility, such as enrichment plants, became subject to international safeguards.

24. The United States Congress had, in the previous year, authorized a special grant to the Agency for the strengthening of its safeguards procedures; US \$200 000 had been made available for special studies, consultants on information processing, equipment for safeguards research and development activities, and the special training of Agency safeguards inspectors. His country hoped that other Member States would

find ways of providing additional support, through the contribution of funds or technical expertise, to the safeguards programme.

25. Increased study and co-operation at the international level were necessary in the light of the risk which every nation (not just nuclear suppliers or users) faced owing to the possible theft of nuclear materials or sabotage of nuclear facilities by sub-national groups. The growth of the nuclear industry and of terrorist activity had made the matter more pressing.

26. Physical security needed to be strengthened world-wide so that the world community could deal effectively with the full range of threats. Physical security was a national responsibility, but failure to work together had international implications, for the theft of nuclear materials or the sabotage of nuclear facilities in one country might mean catastrophe in another. The United States strongly favoured the creation of an international mechanism to establish and maintain close co-operation in the area of physical security. The Agency should continue to take the lead in formulating international standards and guidelines.

27. For the seventeenth consecutive time, the United States pledged to donate special nuclear materials to a value of up to US \$50 000 for use in Agency projects involving research or medical therapy. His country continued to favour the financing of the Agency's technical assistance programme through voluntary contributions rather than assessments and, subject to governmental appropriations, his Government intended to contribute generously to the cash target and to make additional in-kind grants - in the form of fellowships, training courses, equipment and experts' services. The cash and in-kind assistance provided by the United States in 1975 would amount to about US \$2.5 million. The United States would continue to give preference in the allocation of in-kind grants, including special nuclear materials, to developing countries which were parties to NPT.

28. As President Ford had indicated in his message, the United States Government had great confidence in the Agency and looked forward to increased support for it by all Member States. Much of benefit to all peoples could be achieved through serious international co-operation under the aegis of the Agency, aimed at progress toward the goals of more abundant energy, an improved environment and further relaxation of world tensions.

29. Mr. ROUX (South Africa) remarked that each year's session of the General Conference provided the opportunity for Member States to review and assess the progress made by the Agency in the preceding 12 months and, if necessary, to adjust its course for the future. One of the main objectives of the Agency's programme was to assist developing States in realizing the potential benefits of peaceful nuclear technology. In the past such assistance

[3] GC(XVIII)/OR. 169, para. 4(c).

had been directed - with admirable results - largely to providing know-how and training in the application of radioisotope and radiation techniques in agriculture, medicine, industry and research generally. As his delegation had frequently stressed, however, if the Agency was to maintain its momentum and efficacy in the field of providing meaningful technical assistance in the peaceful uses of atomic energy, it had to be flexible enough to adapt itself to changing needs, particularly in the developing countries. The Agency had shown that it was fully capable of meeting its formidable challenges in that connection and, looking ahead, it was gratifying to note that in formulating its future programmes the Agency had taken fully into account the rapid developments characterizing the integration of nuclear technology and nuclear power into national economies.

30. Those programmes now placed emphasis on assisting developing countries to apply nuclear technology, to search for, develop and exploit uranium resources, and of course, to introduce nuclear power plants, smaller versions of which had now become more attractive owing to the increase in the price of oil. Closely linked to those activities was the need to establish training and planning programmes which would meet the specialized-manpower needs of the developing countries.

31. As regards the growing international concern over the impact of nuclear power on the environment, the Agency could help to assuage such anxieties, first and foremost by providing guidance on all aspects of safety planning, not least on the management of nuclear wastes. Indeed the Agency had already correctly recognized the need to train project supervisors and regulatory staff and to promote the compilation of standards and guides for plant design, location, construction and operation. He welcomed the fact that the evolution of that important sphere of nuclear development had not remained static, but continued to be reviewed and improved.

32. Another area in which the Agency could play a leading role in the years ahead was that of rationalizing the industrial evolution of the fuel cycle in order to prevent unbalanced development. It might be desirable, for example, to consider concentrating reprocessing and waste disposal facilities in large regional complexes serving the needs of groups of countries. It was therefore appropriate that the Agency was planning to hold in 1977 an International Conference on Nuclear Power and its Fuel Cycle, in order to assess the role which nuclear power would play in relation to alternative energy sources and the need to integrate the fuel cycle. The convening of that conference was an indication of the Agency's awareness that, in the years immediately ahead, one of its main preoccupations would be to provide guidance in solving the many difficult problems which went hand in hand with a rapid growth in nuclear capacity.

33. Turning to the Agency's programme for 1976, his delegation was gratified to note that

the Agency continued to implement the important principle of concentrating on those nuclear techniques, particularly in agriculture, medicine and industry, which had proved to be viable but which still required further development, while transferring to other bodies and organizations those tasks which over the years had become routine. It also welcomed the Agency's activities in co-operation with the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), in projects concerning public acceptance of nuclear power and the quantification and qualified comparison of the environmental impact of various energy options.

34. The Agency's active review of the existing recommendations relating to the physical protection of nuclear materials was a task with which South Africa was in the fullest agreement. In an insecure world in which acts of terrorism and anarchy had become almost a daily occurrence, it was vital that priority should be given to the physical protection of nuclear materials.

35. The tasks to which he had referred were all onerous, but they were all tasks which the Agency was eminently qualified to perform. Naturally they cost money, and his Government recognized fully that the continuing inflationary spiral made budgeting a hazardous undertaking and one which played havoc with even the most diligently compiled financial estimates. Nevertheless, it was alarming to observe that the budget estimates for 1976 showed an increase of almost 30% over those for 1975, nearly 25% of which resulted from higher prices and other inflationary factors. That left a 5% increase in programme activities - which was hardly excessive and indeed seemed barely adequate as a means of sustaining real progress. All the same, his delegation felt it necessary to stress that every effort should be made to cut unnecessary costs and that a continuing effort should be made to streamline the activities of the Agency. The Director General's recent decision to eliminate a number of unfilled posts in the Secretariat was a welcome step in the right direction.

36. He wished to reiterate South Africa's strong support for the Agency's technical assistance programmes and its continued willingness to give consideration to the financing of technologically sound projects which the Agency was itself unable to finance. For example, South Africa possessed experience and know-how in certain specific areas - especially that of low-grade uranium ore treatment - which could be of particular assistance to Member States embarking on such activities.

37. South Africa had, moreover, participated for more than a year past as a full member in the International Project in the Field of Food Irradiation, and was thus promoting international co-operation in that particular application of nuclear energy. The specific food concerned was the mango, a fruit that was probably still regarded as exotic in Europe and outside the tropics and sub-tropics generally, but which might well

become a more familiar commodity in those areas should the present work be crowned with success.

38. He scarcely considered it necessary to refer to the satisfactory progress which South Africa had made in the field of uranium enrichment. The forecasts of inadequate supplies of enriched nuclear fuel, which might well be fulfilled in the course of the next decade, only strengthened the case for the creation of very substantial additional enrichment facilities throughout the world, and it was South Africa's hope - qualified only by economic considerations - that through its development work in that field it would contribute to meeting the world's demand for energy - a demand which made the widespread use of nuclear power virtually essential.

39. Apart from developing its enrichment capability, South Africa was constantly intensifying its prospecting activities, well aware of the time-lag between the discovery of a deposit and the proving of its economic viability. Here indeed was an area in which, so his delegation was convinced, the Agency could do a great deal. His Government lent its full support to any action which the Agency might implement or expand aimed at the discovery and evaluation of additional reserves of uranium.

40. In conclusion he wished to confirm his Government's interest in and support for an effective safeguards system, and for the rationalization and harmonization of safeguards as well as for the development of instrumentation and of techniques for increasing cost effectiveness. It was, however, in the interests of the whole of mankind that those safeguards be refined to the stage where their application was virtually imperceptible and in no way constituted a brake on the industrial development of any country.

41. Mr. GOLDSCHMIDT (France), noting that the changes in the Rules of Procedure designed to expedite the business of the Conference were being applied for the first time, said that the statement of his delegation would adhere to the spirit of those changes: it would be brief and concentrate on a few subjects of special interest.

42. The European Conference convened in Paris in April 1975 to consider what was termed "the maturity of nuclear energy" had reviewed nuclear development throughout the world and confirmed a number of points: the absolute necessity of exploiting nuclear energy, the future importance of steam and high-temperature heat as vectors apart from electricity, the necessity of recourse to breeder reactors (a line of endeavour for which the success of the French prototype Phénix augured well), the enhanced importance of the fuel cycle, the necessity of expanding the uranium and uranium enrichment industry, the risk of a shortage of reprocessing capacity owing to technical problems as yet unsolved, the renewed interest in nuclear propulsion, and finally, the importance of studies of nuclear safety.

43. The preparations for a conference as large, in scope of subject and number of participants, as the one the Agency had decided to hold in Salzburg in 1977 would mean hard work for the international nuclear community. It should cater mainly for those who were responsible for nuclear planning on the national level. A considerable part of its deliberations should concern the introduction of nuclear energy in developing countries, for which small- or medium-sized pressurized-water reactors, from 50 to 500 MW(e), would be particularly suitable. Such plants were now being perfected, and might also produce utilizable steam where required. They were compact and easy to assemble, and thus suitable for installation in remote areas or even on floating barges.

44. If the conference in Paris had looked to the future, the remote past had been the subject of the Agency's Symposium on the Oklo Phenomenon, efficiently organized with the help of the Government of Gabon. It had revealed the astonishing harvest of information already gathered, with the help of the French Atomic Energy Commission, on that phenomenon of nearly 2000 million years ago. The fact that the fission products had not migrated from the reaction sites had important practical consequences, for it proved that storage of wastes in suitable geological formations was a satisfactory solution to one of the problems of nuclear development.

45. The elimination of the public's misgivings about nuclear development was an important task, and one to which the Agency was already contributing significantly, although its efforts in that direction would have to be further increased. Man, in the guise of the general public, was less mature than his technology; characteristic evidence of that was the distrust of experts. The experts were admittedly not infallible, but it surely was wrong to suppose that the quality of not being an expert automatically put one in the right. The world's nuclear development was occasionally represented as an egoistic plot into which Governments were enticed by the experts, who were imagined to derive from it some unknown satisfaction at the expense of the health and happiness of the population, although in fact it was they who bore the heaviest duties and responsibilities.

46. Within the United Nations family itself there had in 1975 been a regrettable attempt to deprive the Agency of its responsibility for safety standards and codes, which were essentially its own field, and to give that responsibility to another organization possessing neither the mandate nor the competence to discharge it. The pretext was that the Agency, being responsible for matters connected with the development of applications of fission throughout the world, could not be sufficiently impartial to prepare recommendations on the safety of installations, recommendations which, according to the Agency's detractors, would carry far more weight if they were prepared by - of all things - specialists on the environment!

47. The Government of France continued to be deeply interested in the work of the Agency, whether it was aimed at facilitating the developing countries' access to the new technology, or was concerned with the conditions under which installations were used in the industrialized countries where the nuclear industry was being developed on a large scale.

48. Everywhere in the world nuclear development conjured up the delicate problem of non-proliferation, a problem to which all countries concerned would have to devote close attention for many years to come. France had always sought to ensure that its co-operation with other countries would not lead to their achieving an atomic explosion, and therefore it intended to draw more and more on the Agency's services to provide the assurance of peaceful utilization, which constituted the condition under which France supplied nuclear materials. Such safeguards should be adapted to the substance of the exchanges, and therefore extend, in certain cases such as isotope separation or reprocessing installations, to transfers of technology. That much said, France would continue to act with due respect for the national sovereignty of the importing countries, without exerting pressure upon them, and would in the Agency oppose anything that might be interpreted as discrimination among its Members. The Agency required the help of all if it was to succeed in its difficult tasks. It could in any event call upon the good team of specialists and true experts gathered in the Secretariat under the firm and continuous guidance of the Director General.

49. Mr. HAUNSCHILD (Federal Republic of Germany) said that there were three important aspects to the work of the current session of the Conference: the role of nuclear energy in energy policies; the effect of that role on the Agency's programme; and the Agency's tasks pursuant to the NPT Review Conference. He proposed to examine those issues as seen by the Federal Republic of Germany.

50. The subject of future energy policies had been widely discussed since the previous regular session of the General Conference, when his Government had considered that dependence on oil could not be palliated solely by the use of other conventional sources of energy, such as coal, gas and hydroelectric power. Although measures could be taken to conserve energy, their effect was limited. Other sources of energy, apart from nuclear fission, were nuclear fusion and solar energy, both of which had considerable development potential justifying extensive research and development. His country was therefore continuing its work on fusion and solar energy, although it realized that large-scale economic exploitation of those two sources of energy was still a long way off. Nuclear-fission energy was thus assuming a central role in energy strategies, being the only new source which was capable of large-scale utilization. According to present estimates, moreover, the cost of nuclear energy was less than that of other sources. Estimated

nuclear power requirements in his country remained unchanged at 20 000 megawatts in 1980, and 45 000 megawatts in 1985; that would account for 45% of the electric power production.

51. The large-scale use of nuclear energy depended not only on scientific and technical achievements, but also on industrial capacity and performance, and the nuclear industry of the Federal Republic had become a key industry embracing numerous electrical, engineering and chemical enterprises, with a work force of 25 000, most of them highly qualified. Its present annual production capacity comprised eight large nuclear power stations plus some small ones. In his country's opinion, light-water reactors had the best economic prospects for the time being, and the commissioning of the Biblis A nuclear power station in 1974, with an installed capacity of 1200 MW(e), indicated the high level of light-water reactor technology. Ten nuclear stations with a capacity of 3500 MW were in operation in the Federal Republic, and another ten with a capacity of more than 10 000 MW were under construction. Further standardization was aimed at because of the economic advantages and because the multiple use of a proven type facilitated licensing procedures. The Federal Republic's development activities were still concentrated on two advanced reactor lines, namely the high-temperature reactors and the sodium-cooled fast breeder reactors, and one 300-MW prototype of each line was under construction.

52. An industrial-scale enrichment capacity being built up on the basis of the British-Netherlands-German centrifuge technique, aiming at 2000 tons of separative work per year by 1982, was proceeding according to schedule.

53. A reliable industrial-scale reprocessing capacity was essential to the economic production of nuclear energy, and in the Federal Republic of Germany a plant for reprocessing 1500 tons of fuel per year was planned. In that connection facilities for temporary storage would be built, and final disposal of the waste would take place in underground salt layers at the same site. That concept of a nuclear fuel cycle park was in line with Agency studies on the advantages of geographic concentration of nuclear installations.

54. In the Federal Republic of Germany, as in other countries, nuclear energy was viewed with reserve by a part of the population: a site for a nuclear power plant in south-west Germany, for instance, had been occupied by demonstrators since the beginning of the year. The motives for such actions differed, but one of them was the understandable concern for health, safety and the environment. His Government thought such matters should be discussed openly with the public, and greater efforts would have to be made to inform the latter of the need for and the safety of nuclear energy. His Government was confident, however, that the strong arguments in favour of nuclear energy would prevail, and it was convinced that nuclear energy technology could safely

be applied. The risks were not as great as other accepted risks, but manufacturers and operators of nuclear installations would have to strive for uncompromising safety.

55. His Government would ensure that measures to protect the public received absolute priority. A broad reactor-safety research programme for light-water reactors was being carried out and much attention was being devoted to the safety of new reactor types

56. More and more nuclear energy would be needed, not only by industrialized countries but also by developing countries. The availability of nuclear industrial capacity in the Federal Republic of Germany had resulted in co-operation with other countries. An agreement on co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy had been concluded in June with Brazil, providing for long-term co-operation in the construction of up to eight nuclear power stations and in the whole range of nuclear fuel-cycle operations. Such co-operation would make for a rapidly increasing involvement of Brazilian industry, and several joint enterprises were envisaged; it would also help to meet the growing demand for energy in Brazil, and would ensure adequate supplies of natural uranium for the Federal Republic of Germany. The whole undertaking was a rare example of modern and sophisticated technologies being transferred from one country to another.

57. In the agreement both partners committed themselves anew to the principle of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. A tripartite safeguards agreement with the Agency was envisaged, and the two countries hoped to submit a first draft before the end of the year. The purpose of the safeguards agreement would be to ensure that not only the nuclear materials supplied or manufactured but also the equipment or relevant technological information exported or transferred were not used for the production of nuclear weapons or any other nuclear explosive devices. The application of safeguards would be a prerequisite for any transfers to third countries. The two partners had also agreed on strict measures for the physical protection of nuclear materials and equipment. Those arrangements went beyond the obligations of the Federal Republic of Germany under NPT.

58. In the light of the situation he had just described, there were obvious tasks for the Agency:

- (a) It should draw up world-wide recommendations on all aspects of nuclear safety, ranging from reactor safety to the public acceptance of nuclear energy;
- (b) It should assist countries, especially developing countries, in the introduction of nuclear energy;
- (c) It should support the introduction of other nuclear techniques, for example in agriculture, food production and medicine;

- (d) Finally, it was the Agency's duty to apply safeguards to prevent the misuse of nuclear energy and to elaborate recommendations for the physical protection of nuclear material.

59. In regard to the programme, and in the light of the forthcoming programme review in 1976, he thought the Agency should determine the less important areas and try to be more selective in its activities, for it could not cover the whole field. That request also resulted from the economic and budgetary problems of many Member States.

60. The effects of price increases and currency fluctuations on the Agency's budget for 1976 had been drastic. Although the draft budget provided for contributions of approximately \$34 million, which was about 28% more than in 1975, the programme as such would show a real growth of only 3.8%. In the past the Agency had done remarkably well in its efforts to economize. However, price and currency developments had placed national governments in an exceptionally difficult situation, forcing them in many cases to abstain entirely from real increases in national budgets; international organizations should support governments in their struggle and he therefore welcomed the Director General's decision to cut his initial budgetary and staff estimates for 1976.

61. Turning to the financing of technical assistance, he noted that Agency resources of immediate interest to developing countries had risen by some 40% from 1974 to 1975. That was clearly a more than proportionate rate of growth, and more moderate rates of increase would seem possible for the future.

62. In 1976, the voluntary contributions of the Federal Republic of Germany would again exceed \$1 million. His Government intended to raise anew its contribution to the General Fund. It would also provide 30 fellowships and was prepared to send at least 20 experts at its own expense on Agency missions to developing countries. About \$600 000 would be contributed by the Federal Republic to three special projects sponsored by the Agency, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and numerous institutes in developing countries: the protein project, the nitrogen fertilizer project, and the tsetse fly project. The Agency's second training course for key managerial and technical staff from developing countries would be conducted at the Karlsruhe Nuclear Research Centre from September to December 1976, following the first course just opened by the Director General at Karlsruhe on 8 September.

63. The General Conference had to consider two co-operation agreements, one between the Agency and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) [4] and one between the

[4] The draft agreement is set out in document GC(XIX)/545, Annex.

Agency and the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM) [5]. His delegation was in favour of both agreements.

64. The Federal Republic of Germany had ratified NPT on 2 May 1975, together with Belgium, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands, which were also members of the European Communities. The NPT Review Conference had also been held in May and in his Government's view had produced positive results. The Final Declaration rightly affirmed the importance of universal adherence to NPT, and it was regrettable that 21 of the Agency's Member States had not yet signed the Treaty, and that another 11 had signed, but not ratified it. The NPT Review Conference had rightly emphasized the need for States party to NPT to conclude safeguards agreements with the Agency as soon as possible. His Government hoped that the three NPT Depositary Governments would subject the civilian sector of their nuclear activities to Agency safeguards in the near future, in the interests of equal competition between nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States. The NPT Review Conference had also recommended that common export requirements should be strengthened, and that they should be accepted by all suppliers and recipients. It had also supported the role of the Agency in general and its activities in specific areas. In particular, it had stated that the further improvement of safeguards techniques should remain a matter of priority to the Agency, and that the Agency should complete a set of recommendations for the physical protection of nuclear material at an early date. The Review Conference had also endorsed the Agency's technical assistance programme. His Government welcomed the fact that the Board of Governors had heeded the recommendation of the Review Conference and set up an Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Nuclear Explosions for Peaceful Purposes.

65. In conclusion, he wanted to commend the Agency and the Director General on their successful work and to assure them of his country's continued active support.

66. Mr. BOSWELL (Australia) said that as was known, Australia had discovered very large deposits of uranium in recent years and the potential for further discoveries was high. But because Australia had an abundance of natural gas and easily won coal, a need for nuclear power had not arisen and was still some time off. With no domestic demand for uranium, Australia had the potential to export significant quantities.

67. However, there had been many expressions of concern by the public about exports. Those had ranged from sincere worries about health hazards, fears for the environment, considerations of possible illicit diversion and objections

to the use of nuclear power anywhere in the world. A public inquiry had begun to examine a proposal to mine and mill uranium in Australia. Australia was thus following a path which was well trodden by many advanced nations with environmental consciences, and there was no doubt that many other less-developed nations would follow as they, in turn, established nuclear industries.

68. Much of the concern expressed by the public arose from a lack of information and understanding. There was certainly a need to educate and inform, so that rational debate could take place. But when factual, authoritative, unbiased information on nuclear matters was sought, very little could be found. He believed that many nations would be assisted if the Agency increased its publication of factual papers; those should not argue a case or contain any hint of emotionalism, they should simply set down the facts.

69. The Agency had access to and could draw on the expertise and experience of many nations. There were numerous working groups and panel meetings tackling a variety of problems, such as radioactive waste management, codes of practice for mining, but they tended to produce what he might term technical specific papers. He suggested that they might produce parallel papers which could be readily understood by the general public. He had in mind expanded versions of chapters in the excellent Agency publication "Nuclear Power and the Environment". [6]

70. The Agency's objective under the Statute was "to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world"; it was concerned "to establish or adopt . . . standards of safety for protection of health and minimization of danger to life and property". [7] It submitted reports to the General Assembly and other organs of the United Nations. The Agency had a reputation for responsibility and it could further enhance that reputation by educating the ordinary man, who would see it as a responsible body in world affairs, not swayed by national interests, and one to which he could look for simple, reassuring, objective comment and sound advice on nuclear matters.

71. He hoped that the result of the public inquiry would satisfy the Government and people of Australia that the industry would be acceptable and that very soon Australia would rapidly enter the business of exporting uranium. In the longer term Australia planned to upgrade the product before export.

72. As Australia became a major exporter of uranium, a greater responsibility would fall on it to ensure that nuclear energy was used for peaceful purposes. Safeguards were the respon-

[5] The draft agreement is set out in document GC(XIX)/556, Annex.

[6] STI/PUB/321/Rev. 1.

[7] Articles II and III. A. 6 respectively.

sibility of Governments, and the Australian Government, in addition to ratifying NPT, had given further undertakings to the Director General. [8] In accordance with those undertakings and Australia's NPT obligations it would be part of the Government's policy in the matter of future sales of uranium to non-nuclear-weapon States, only to supply such States if they had either ratified NPT or had given assurances of non-explosive use and if they permitted Agency verification. Australia would do its utmost to apply and to develop the safeguards regimes applying to its exports; it could not work alone and it was primarily through the Agency that it looked for the co-operation of suppliers and consumers alike.

73. Australia recognized the dangers inherent in developing the use of peaceful nuclear explosions outside appropriate international supervision. It saw a unique opportunity for the Board of Governors to rationalize and guide international thinking in the use of that technique through the newly formed Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Nuclear Explosions for Peaceful Purposes.

74. Finally, he wished to say how pleased Australia was to see the Agency broadening the scope of its activities and strengthening its co-operation and co-ordination with other international organizations. It valued the achievements of the Agency in the field of safeguards, which was of course a subject of paramount importance. Nevertheless, as the world turned increasingly to nuclear power, the Agency should broaden its field of activities to ensure that the nuclear industry was not only safeguarded but safe.

75. The Australian Prime Minister accorded a very real priority to the work of the Agency within the United Nations family of organizations. Only if the work of the Agency was successful would there be any assurance that nuclear energy would contribute to the welfare of mankind.

76. Sir John HILL (United Kingdom) said that it was always enjoyable to welcome new Members to the Agency especially, for his delegation, when one of them was a member of the British Commonwealth. He was confident that Tanzania, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar would provide valuable contributions to the work of the Agency. [9]

77. As the Director General had shown in his comprehensive survey of activities [10], the Agency was going through a busy and difficult time; busy, because of the gathering momentum of the new and accelerated programmes instituted in the past two years; and difficult, because of the repercussions of inflation and exchange rate

fluctuation on financial resources. At the same time, Member States had been troubled by the recession in world trade. Despite those difficulties, the Director General had, as ever, continued to provide a wise and prudent stewardship of the Agency's affairs, for which efforts he deserved every commendation.

78. In the United Kingdom, the plans for the introduction of more nuclear power stations were proceeding on the lines he had explained to the General Conference the previous year [11], with continued building on the experience of many years in developing and improving capabilities in the fields of enrichment, reprocessing, and medical and industrial uses of radioisotopes. Work on the environmental and safety implications of the growing uses of atomic energy was also being increased and deepened.

79. He would take the opportunity to mention that his delegation was looking forward to welcoming conference delegates to Winfrith the following Saturday where the United Kingdom 100-MW power station of the steam generating heavy-water reactor type was located.

80. Of the many aspects of the Agency's work mentioned in the annual report for 1974-1975 he wished to take particular note of the development of the Agency's plans for the publication of codes and guides on reactor safety (GC(XIX)/544, paras 118 and 120). The general acceptance of the Agency's radiological protection standards had been highly valuable, both in assisting the sound development of nuclear power and in reassuring public opinion in the countries concerned. The United Kingdom believed that similarly useful work could be done by the Agency in other fields related to safety, as an important element in orienting its work to satisfying the needs generated by the recent expansion of interest in nuclear power. The United Kingdom was taking part in that work at every level. The maintenance of the right balance between the desired comprehensiveness of the safety codes and the degree of flexibility permitting the evolutionary development of nuclear power was important, particularly in the case of the code on reactor design. The more detailed guides would provide a valuable back-up to the codes, and in their case it was more important to give sound advice in depth on certain well selected subjects rather than limited general advice on too wide a front.

81. A major event in the past year had been the holding of the NPT Review Conference at Geneva in May 1975. And since in its Final Declaration, the Review Conference had requested the Agency to initiate or continue necessary studies on matters of joint concern, he would like to offer a brief account of his Government's attitude to some of the issues in question.

[8] See document INFCIRC/209.

[9] See document GC(XIX)/OR. 176, paras 14-20.

[10] Ibid., paras 21-59.

[11] See document GC(XVIII)/OR. 171, para. 14.

82. The Review Conference had expressed the hope that all States having peaceful nuclear activities would establish and maintain effective accounting and control systems, and had welcomed the readiness of the Agency to assist States in so doing. Such an accounting and control system was an essential part not only of safeguards but also of the efficiency and economic operation of nuclear plants. The Agency, he was sure, would continue to offer every assistance to its Members in that field.

83. The Review Conference had recommended that intensified efforts be made towards the standardization and the universality of application of Agency safeguards, partly through ensuring that safeguards agreements concluded with non-nuclear-weapon States which were not parties to NPT should be of adequate duration and should contain appropriate provisions for the continuation of the application of safeguards upon re-export. Those recommendations would be welcomed by the Director General and his staff; and for its part, his Government endorsed the Director General's call for the universal adoption of safeguards on all civil nuclear activities, and would give full support to any action to that end.

84. The Review Conference had also urged all parties to NPT actively to pursue their efforts to seek, in all achievable ways, the strengthening of common export requirements relating to safeguards, in the hope that there would be the widest possible measure of acceptance for such common requirements. His Government regarded that matter as one of great importance to every Member State. Possibly the objective might best be achieved through progress toward the standardization and the universality of application of Agency safeguards. Regarding the recognized need for more attention and support to be given to the improvement of safeguards techniques, instrumentation, and data handling, the Conference had noted with satisfaction the establishment by the Director General of a standing advisory group on safeguards implementation. His Government would play a full part in the work of that group.

85. On the question of peaceful nuclear explosions, the Review Conference had recognized the Agency as being the appropriate international body through which potential benefits from peaceful application of nuclear explosions could be made available to any non-nuclear-weapon State. It had urged the Agency to expedite work on identifying and examining the important legal issues involved in the structure and content of the necessary special international agreement or agreements; as also to set up appropriate machinery within which intergovernmental discussion could take place and through which advice could be given on the Agency's work in that field. In June the Board of Governors had established an Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Nuclear Explosions for Peaceful Purposes, which was scheduled to meet shortly. His Government would take a full and constructive part in the Group's activities, in the belief that

the Agency had much to contribute in that important and complex area.

86. Much had been said at the Review Conference about the desirability of technical assistance being given on a preferential basis to States which were parties to NPT. His Government recognized that the Agency could not discriminate between one class of Member and another, while at the same time, feeling that States which had incurred the obligations of membership of NPT were entitled to expect preferential assistance from other States party to the Treaty. It had therefore decided that, in addition to the normal United Kingdom voluntary contribution to the Agency's technical assistance programme - which, as usual, had been pledged in full - a further, though necessarily smaller, contribution would be made, with the request that it should be set aside for training activities for the benefit of States which were party to NPT. In addition, the United Kingdom, when receiving requests for training from the Agency, would give particular emphasis to meeting requests originating in States party to NPT. As in previous years, the United Kingdom was ready to meet its full assessed contribution to the 1976 budget.

87. It was hoped that the Agency would study in detail two other subjects of concern to the Review Conference, namely, the physical protection of nuclear materials and the possible development of regional nuclear fuel cycle centres. In that regard, his delegation welcomed the work done by the Agency in preparing a new edition of its recommendations for the physical protection of nuclear material. [12] It was to be hoped that all Member States would do their utmost to implement the revised recommendations, as his own Government would certainly do. As for the important studies now being started concerning the feasibility of regional or multinational nuclear fuel cycle centres, the important aspects of identification of the complex, practical and organizational difficulties which would need to be dealt with in connection with such projects, to which the Review Conference had drawn attention, should not be overlooked. Notwithstanding those difficulties, the United Kingdom, as a country with major and expanding facilities covering the whole of the fuel cycle, would play its full part in the studies in question.

88. Turning to the progress made by his Government in negotiation with the Agency and the Commission of the European Communities towards the conclusion of an agreement to implement its voluntary offer to accept Agency verification of EURATOM safeguards on the British civil nuclear industry, it had been hoped that the negotiations would have been concluded in time to enable a draft agreement to be submitted to the Board of Governors at its meetings immediately prior to the General Conference.

[12] INFCIRC/225.

That had not proved possible, although the negotiations were, in fact, very near to conclusion and no matters of substance were outstanding. He was confident that the final text of an agreement would be ready for submission to the Board of Governors early in 1976. As soon as the necessary procedures for its ratification had been concluded, his Government would wish to implement the agreement without further delay.

89. Mr. URSU (Romania), welcoming the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and the United Republic of Tanzania as Members of the Agency, said that the present session of the General Conference was being held at a time when the peoples of the world increasingly aspired for mastery over their fate and national wealth, for greater economic and social progress and for the establishment of a new international economic and political order. Its purpose was to evaluate the Agency's activities in 1974 and review those for the future in the light of the decisions adopted in particular by the Sixth and Seventh Special Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, identifying specific ways and means of putting into practice, in so far as the nuclear field was concerned, the objectives of building a better and more just world.

90. The Agency's achievements in the preceding year had been positive in its fields of activity, which included nuclear power engineering and related technologies, environmental protection and safety of nuclear facilities and training of personnel for developing countries. Particular attention had been devoted to the problems of the fuel cycle, including nuclear materials and radioactive wastes. Romania, which had been among the countries to receive fissionable materials and also help in developing their own national technologies, considered that such assistance should be extended continuously.

91. The research contracts programme, in spite of limited financial resources, had assisted institutes from the Member States in solving various applied research problems and in developing the applications of nuclear techniques in medicine, agriculture, biology, hydrology and so on.

92. His delegation commended the Agency's efforts in stimulating fundamental research in plasma physics and controlled fusion, direct conversion of nuclear energy, solid state physics, neutron physics and structure of the nucleus. Important results had been obtained also in the nuclear data programme.

93. The programme of the scientific meetings had taken due account of the specific needs of the developing countries.

94. As regards the activities for the coming years, the Agency was entering into a new stage with the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in an increasing number of developing countries, passing from the period of generous promises

for the future to that of actual implementation. As the main international forum for co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the Agency must increase its activity in that field to meet the increasing requirements of its developing Member States and provide effective assistance to them in the use of nuclear energy as an important tool in solving their economic and social problems. Such activity was provided for in Article II of the Agency's Statute and in Articles IV and V of NPT and reiterated in the final document adopted by the first NPT Review Conference, and must be reflected in the Agency's programmes for the future years.

95. In its future programmes, the Agency should attach particular importance to facilitating the access of all States to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy on a non-discriminatory basis, greater technical assistance to non-nuclear-weapon States, including the supply of nuclear materials and equipment, and liberalizing the transfer of technologies. Promotion of fundamental and applied research in the nuclear field in the developing countries should also receive special attention, and the activities relating to nuclear power, research contracts for the developing countries, and the scientific meetings organized by the Agency should be further expanded. In that connection, the initiative taken by the Director General in convening the Conference on Nuclear Energy and its Fuel Cycle in 1977 was welcome.

96. While Romania hoped that the Agency's activities in 1976 would be focused on problems of particular interest, especially to the developing countries, to assist them in the development of nuclear power and assimilation of nuclear technologies, it was essential that a just ratio be maintained between its main function, viz. development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and its safeguards activities.

97. Romania had been advocating a programme of true general and nuclear disarmament since on that depended international peace and security. At the Seventh Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations it had strongly urged that the military budgets of all States should be reduced by 10%, the expenditure for 1975 being taken as the base figure, and that half the funds thus released be made available unconditionally to a special United Nations development fund for the benefit of the developing countries. It also considered that a part of the fissionable materials made redundant by nuclear disarmament should be placed at the Agency's disposal for the purpose of technical assistance to developing countries.

98. In the context of building a multilaterally-developed socialist society, Romania attached great importance to the development of science and technology, including nuclear energy, and was putting into practice the latest achievements of modern science; it promoted a policy of nuclear research. In accordance with its general foreign policy, it had been developing scientific co-

operation with all the socialist, developing and other States and actively participating in international scientific and technical exchanges, thus contributing to a climate of détente and multi-lateral co-operation in the world.

99. In his country's economic and social activities, nuclear power and nuclear technology had been given a central place. Under the new national programme on nuclear power adopted the previous year by the Eleventh Congress of the Romanian Communist Party about 6000 MW(e) of nuclear power would be installed, to which work the Romanian scientists and industry would contribute substantially. In view of the dimensions of the new national nuclear programme, an integrated National Centre of Physics had been established near Bucharest in 1974. About 5000 persons of different professions were currently employed there for work or training.

100. Romania's most important achievements were, among others, in the field of nuclear fuels (e. g. UO_2 powder preparation, sinterization of UO_2 pellets, production of Zr alloys and experimental fuel elements). In achieving those results it owed much to technical co-operation with the Agency, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and several Member States. It hoped to put into operation by the year's end a pilot plant for the fabrication of natural uranium fuel elements.

101. Positive results had also been obtained in research in nuclear physics, solid state physics, nuclear chemistry and electronics, especially with reference to nuclear power. Further important work had yet to be done in those fields and it was hoped that the Agency and other international organizations, as well as Member States, would provide greater assistance.

102. As a developing socialist country, Romania wished in the future to benefit from the Agency's technical assistance and was ready, in its turn, to offer assistance to other developing countries and to make a voluntary contribution to the General Fund in proportion to its base rate of assessment.

103. The Romanian delegation was, in principle, in favour of the budget increase, provided higher allocations were made for the new programmes of technical assistance and for research contracts for the benefit of the developing countries. In that connection, it was necessary to review the way in which the Agency's sources were utilized and to introduce a proper balance between the different items of expenditure in the budget. Since the proposed budget for 1976 was 30% higher than that of the preceding year without fulfilling Romania's conditions, his delegation was unable to support the draft budget proposed by the Board of Governors.

104. Mr. ETEMAD (Iran) said that at the previous General Conference he had announced Iran's intention to implement a broad nuclear development programme as an important con-

tribution to the solution of the country's energy problems over the next few decades. [13]

105. Since that time the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran had grown into a major administrative unit in which more than 600 scientists, technicians, experts and other personnel were employed.

106. With a view to providing the country by the year 1994 with 23 000 MW of nuclear generated electricity, the Iranian Government had established close co-operation with technologically advanced countries in the field of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and had at the same time carefully studied the best possible ways to implement the Iranian nuclear power projects.

107. The first domestic nuclear power plant would be composed of two pressurized water reactors of 1200 MW(e) each, at present being installed at a site near Halileh in the Persian Gulf. It was anticipated that the power plant would become operational during the year 1981.

108. A contract for the construction of a second nuclear power plant had been signed. The plant would consist of two pressurized water reactors of 900 MW(e) each. Two possible sites were at present under study. The construction of the second plant would commence as soon as the final decision on siting had been made.

109. With regard to prospecting for uranium in Iran, efforts were being stepped up and various promising regions were being singled out for detailed investigation. Meanwhile, action had been taken to ensure a supply of uranium for the Iranian nuclear power programme, including enrichment services.

110. Despite the successful efforts in that area, the Iranian Government was concerned about the ever-increasing world nuclear fuel demand. The problem was being looked at closely by the Agency and it was hoped that it would come up with reasonable solutions acceptable to all States.

111. The scarcity of qualified engineers and technicians all over the world, especially in the developing countries, created an important bottleneck in nuclear development. Iran had therefore decided to carry out a broad and diversified training programme. At present numerous young Iranian scientists and technicians were being trained under special agreements and with the aid of fellowships.

112. A number of Iranian technicians and experts had improved their knowledge by attending Agency seminars or training courses. But in view of the crucial importance of such courses, there was need to improve them both in quality and quantity.

[13] GC(XVIII)/OR. 170, paras 1-4.

113. Finally, a word should be said on the development in Iran of nuclear research centres. At present, two research centres were in operation. One was the Nuclear Research Centre of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, which so far had carried out various research projects using existing facilities, including a 5-MW research reactor and a Van de Graaff accelerator. The other research centre was the Centre for Radioisotope Research and Application, which was mainly concerned with the use of isotopes in hydrology, industry, biology and agriculture.

114. Plans were under way for the establishment of a third nuclear research centre at Isfahan, which was expected to become operational around 1978. The new centre would be mainly concerned with research and development in the field of nuclear technology.

115. In view of its own initiative in the peaceful applications of nuclear energy, the Iranian Government was gratified to see that the community of NPT nations continued to grow,

even though the rate of that growth did not match its expectations.

116. The fact that Iran has been one of the first countries to ratify NPT was an indication that it had always looked on nuclear energy as a major element for the betterment of mankind.

117. In conclusion, he wished to stress the vital need for the transfer of nuclear technology from the more advanced States to the developing countries. The Agency, as the most appropriate international organization, was expected to play an important role in seeing to it that the transfer of technology was carried out in a spirit of sincere co-operation and without unnecessary obstructions.

118. The transfer of technology was, apart from any other consideration, a moral task, without which it would never be possible to free the greater part of humanity from political and economic dependence on a small number of technologically advanced countries.

● The session rose at 1 p. m.