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President: Mr. FELICKI (Poland)

Item of the agenda**	Subject	Paragraphs
6	General debate and report for 1974-75 (continued)	1 - 108
	Statements by the delegates of:	
	Portugal	1 - 8
	Libyan Arab Republic	9 - 14
	Bangladesh	15 - 26
	Poland	27 - 31
	Cuba	32 - 38
	Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic	39 - 54
	Bulgaria	55 - 70
	Malaysia	71 - 77
	Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	78 - 88
	Mexico	89 - 91
	Austria	92 - 99
	Czechoslovakia	100 - 108

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** GC(XIX)/559.

THE RECORD

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

1. Mr. CONDE (Portugal) congratulated Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and the United Republic of Tanzania on being approved for admission to membership of the Agency. [2] He then paid tribute to the Director General for the competence with which he had discharged his duties and for the clarity with which he had set out the Agency's objectives.

2. He recalled that he had been in the United States when the Agency's Statute had been drawn up and when the great debate on the dangers associated with nuclear energy had begun. He had witnessed an atomic explosion in the Nevada desert in 1957 and had appreciated the threat posed by that form of energy if it was employed for purposes other than those pursued by the Agency, but he was also aware of the hope which nuclear energy inspired in the hearts of mankind.

3. The Portuguese Government would like to indicate what it proposed to do to fulfil its obligations with respect to the Agency. Since 25 April 1974 it had been endeavouring to make as active a contribution as possible to international peace and security and to promote co-operation with all nations.

4. It shared the Agency's interest in the application of the safeguards system, the physical protection of nuclear material, nuclear safety, environmental protection, as well as technical assistance and co-operation programmes. Accordingly it had placed its research reactor under Agency safeguards.

5. The Government of Portugal was intent on strengthening its ties with the Agency so that Portugal might benefit from increased technical assistance.

6. The uranium reserves of his country amounted to 8000 tons, of which half was being exploited. Further mining activity was planned in the Nisa region. The Portuguese Nuclear Research Centre was being completely reorganized to make sure that the knowledge and experience accumulated were channelled into specific co-operation projects in industry and agriculture.

7. The Portuguese delegation approved the annual report for 1974-75 (GC(XIX)/544 and Corr. 1) and the supplementary appropriation under the Regular Budget for 1975 [3] as well as the Agency's budget for 1976 [4].

8. In conclusion, he said that activities of fundamental importance like technical assistance and co-operation programmes should be financed from the Agency's Regular Budget and not by voluntary contributions to the General Fund.

9. Mr. ABDELAZIZ (Libyan Arab Republic) welcomed Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and the United Republic of Tanzania to membership of the Agency.

10. He expressed his delegation's appreciation for the great achievements of the Agency in the past year. Its activities had covered all fields of the peaceful uses of atomic energy as well as technical assistance programmes of particular benefit to the developing countries. As one of those countries the Libyan Arab Republic had begun to benefit from such assistance and it therefore supported all technical assistance programmes, particularly those concerned with training; all the same it felt that much remained to be done to reduce the huge gap between developed and developing countries. It hoped that the day would come when all peace-loving countries in the world could co-operate closely in the field of atomic energy.

11. It had become clear that the danger of atomic weapons being acquired by an increasing number of countries was a real threat to world peace. The situation was very serious and all countries should co-operate in directing advances in nuclear science to peaceful purposes rather than to military applications. The Libyan Government considered it essential for the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) [5] and the complementary agreement concluded with the Agency to be signed and ratified by all Member States.

12. The Libyan Arab Republic had drawn up plans for establishing solid scientific foundations in the field of nuclear sciences based on the experience of experts who had previously been engaged in non-nuclear activities and the co-operation of all countries sincerely wishing to assist the developing countries. The Libyan Government was intent on developing its nuclear energy programme and would give it full financial and moral support, bearing in mind that any knowledge acquired or projects undertaken should be directed towards peace and prosperity. The nuclear energy programme would be undertaken by the Libyan Atomic Centre at Tripoli. Activities had already started at the Tajoura Research Centre to the east of Tripoli where several laboratories were doing work in the field of analytical chemistry as well as training the personnel needed for the implementation of the nuclear energy programme. In the initial stage that programme would be based on the following installations: a research reactor of the swimming-pool type with an initial power of 2 MW(e) rising to 8 MW(e) and then 10 MW(e).

[1] GC(XIX)/OR.180, paras 1-85.

[2] See document GC(XIX)/OR.176, paras 14-16.

[3] GC(XIX)/548.

[4] GC(XIX)/550.

[5] Reproduced in document INFCIRC/140.

The flux density would initially be 1.6 to 1.8×10^{14} n/cm² sec and could be increased later by a factor of 1.5. Upgrading would involve modifications to the heat exchangers and reactor core.

13. The second installation was a radioisotope laboratory with a radiation level of 500 Ci. The isotopes produced would be used for various medical, agricultural and industrial applications and would generally be of great benefit to the national economy. The third installation would be an activation analysis laboratory equipped with a small versatile accelerator which could also be used for nuclear physics research. The fourth installation was a hot plasma physics laboratory with facilities for research in the field of thermonuclear fusion. That initial research programme was part of the general plan of the Libyan Atomic Centre which was to have numerous departments specializing in various nuclear activities such as reactor technology, nuclear physics, radiobiology, nuclear chemistry, nuclear engineering, uranium prospecting and radiological safety as well as training and scientific information departments.

14. In conclusion, the Libyan delegation expressed the hope that the Agency would increase its training facilities to Member States in need of trained manpower.

15. Mr. CHOUDHURY (Bangladesh) congratulated the President on his election and welcomed Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and the United Republic of Tanzania on their admission to the Agency. He reiterated his Government's confidence in the Agency's efforts to promote the development and application of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes throughout the world. He had noted with great satisfaction the Director General's statement to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) in July in which he had stressed Member States' need for increased services from the Agency.

16. At the moment his Government was placing greatest priority on its nuclear power programme. Nuclear power was currently the only means of meeting increased energy demands in the world; particularly in Bangladesh. Furthermore, nuclear power was now cheaper than power obtained from oil-fired plants, even when the capacity of the facilities was as low as 100 MW. It therefore represented an attractive economic alternative for many developing countries, more especially Bangladesh. Some 40 developing countries were interested in nuclear electricity, which would account for more than half the capacity to be installed between 1980 and 1990.

17. Although nuclear power was economically viable, its acceptance by the public constituted an acute problem in many countries. The safety of the nuclear power production system, the handling and storage of radioactive waste, and the risk of unauthorized use of fissile material and of proliferation of nuclear weapons were

the aspects that chiefly gave rise to misgivings. His delegation agreed with the Director General that it was imperative for the Agency to undertake an extensive programme for the preparation of a set of internationally acceptable safety standards, codes and guides for the main types of nuclear power plant. Cessation of not only the manufacture and stockpiling of nuclear weapons by the major Powers but also the spreading of such weapons to other countries were equally essential, since the fact that they might also fall into the hands of criminal elements posed a terrible threat to mankind. It was therefore vital for the Agency to broaden the scope of its safeguards activities and make them more effective.

18. The programmes relating to safety, environmental protection and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons were not the only matters of concern to the developing countries; they also had serious problems in the areas of financing and recruiting qualified personnel. The Agency should therefore provide advisory services, training courses and qualified personnel, at the same time organizing the international funding of nuclear power projects for the developing countries, more especially in the States which were least developed.

19. His delegation was gratified to see that the Agency was giving high priority to the problems faced by the developing countries in the introduction of nuclear power. Those countries had urgent need of proven and standardized power stations in the 100-400 MW(e) range. He wholeheartedly supported the Agency's programme for the joint purchase by several countries of a series of identical nuclear power plants with a capacity of 100-400 MW(e). He suggested that the Agency should seriously try to arrange the financing of the installation of the nuclear power plants in those countries through the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and other international and regional financial organizations.

20. The Agency had played a very commendable part in the Review Conference of the Parties to NPT (NPT Review Conference) [6] which had brought about a considerable increase in the number of signatories thereof. It was on that account that he urged the Agency to improve the efficiency of the system for automatic processing of safeguards data; that was very important if the sphere of application of safeguards was to be expanded.

21. Bangladesh attached great importance to the International Conference on Nuclear Power and its Fuel Cycle that was to be held in 1977 to study the acute problems involved in the implementation of nuclear power programmes.

22. With regard to the programme and the budget estimates for 1976, his country approved

[6] Held at Geneva from 5 to 30 May 1975.

the programme for augmenting technical assistance activities relating to reactors, safeguards, nuclear safety and environmental protection, nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes (PNE) and life sciences. While approving an increase of 17% in the funds assigned to safeguards, he felt that the Agency should make a special effort to improve safeguards techniques and to strengthen the present system without resorting to an undue increase in staff.

23. Turning to technical assistance, he was happy to see that the proportion represented by equipment had gone up from 37% in 1973 to about 41% in 1974, and hoped that the relative size of the equipment component would continue to increase in the coming years. His Government was greatly concerned, however, at the inadequacy of the technical assistance financed from the Agency's own resources, together with the fact that it had not been possible to meet one third of the technical assistance requests in 1975. He proposed that the Agency should fix the target for voluntary contributions for 1976 at not less than \$6 million, to which sum would be added the aid provided by Member States in the form of fellowships, expert services and equipment.

24. His country supported the Director General's proposal for a 30% increase in the Regular Budget between 1975 and 1976. Such action was essential in order to keep sufficient posts and funds for the Agency's increased activities and in order to meet increased costs due to inflation and fluctuations in the exchange rate. The Agency would require more funds if it was to finance adequately its various activities in the developing countries.

25. Furthermore, his delegation realized that the increase in contributions to both the Regular Budget and the General Fund would be a heavy burden on the less affluent Member States, more especially in Africa, South Asia and Latin America. Those countries required immediate international aid to counteract widespread starvation, disease and illiteracy, and long-term technical assistance to improve their socio-economic conditions. A great deal had been said in the United Nations and its specialized agencies on the establishment of a new international economic order based on the redistribution of wealth and the narrowing of the gap between the developed and underdeveloped countries; his Government fully supported the General Assembly resolution on a 10% reduction in military expenditure by the permanent Members of the Security Council, and utilization of some of the money saved in that way as aid to developing countries. He suggested that part of those savings could also be used for financing international bodies.

26. Recalling that the world was spending close to \$300 000 million a year for military purposes, of which \$5000 million went on nuclear weapons (already representing about 16 000 megatons), he stressed that the Agency had the special responsibility of preventing both the vertical and

horizontal proliferation of such weapons. He warmly supported the appeal made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations for a complete ban on the production of nuclear weapons. A halt in their production would permit savings of thousands of millions of dollars, which could then be placed at the disposal of the Agency for technical assistance purposes, including the communication of technologies and the financing of nuclear power projects in the developing countries.

27. Mr. KARSKI (Poland) said that 1975 had been marked by a number of important anniversaries, among them the 30th anniversary of the victory of the anti-Nazi coalition over fascism, of which Poland had been one of the main victims. The tragic events of that time had induced countries to unite their efforts to preserve peace, as shown by the 30-year history of the United Nations. Important progress had been recorded, especially at the NPT Review Conference, at the meetings of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament and, first and foremost, in the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, which should serve as a model for regional peaceful co-operation in numerous fields. The present state of affairs was highly promising and all countries represented at the General Conference should do their utmost to strengthen peace in the world and rid it of the threat of an armed conflict. In that spirit the Soviet Union had proposed the conclusion of an international treaty for the complete and universal prohibition of nuclear weapons tests. Similarly, numerous States were urging the Agency to redouble its efforts to render NPT universal in scope.

28. He thanked the Agency for the efforts which it had made to increase the number of accessions to safeguards agreements concluded in connection with NPT. However, it should not be forgotten that, as a result of nuclear power station construction contracts, certain countries were in a position to develop their nuclear potential in an uncontrolled manner, which involved a growing hazard for the whole world. The establishment of regional fuel cycle centres would favour the creation of nuclear-free zones, while at the same time enabling States to profit more easily from the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

29. Poland was anxious that the Agency should aim at playing a universal role and consequently welcomed Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and the United Republic of Tanzania to its ranks. His Government was gratified at the agreement between the Agency and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) [7], and at the co-operation agreement between the Agency and the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM) [8]. Research on the peaceful uses

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

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

of atomic energy was simultaneously a factor for progress and enabled the Agency to expand its scope. Poland accorded a favoured position to research on nuclear physics, hot plasma physics, nuclear chemistry, radiobiology, and the industrial, medical and agricultural applications of nuclear energy.

30. Poland was in process of building its first nuclear power station. The facility had been purchased from the Soviet Union but was being constructed largely by Polish personnel. The progress accomplished by Poland in the nuclear field was being made possible by extremely broad co-operation with countries such as the Soviet Union and the other members of CMEA, and also with the Agency. Poland hoped to conclude further contracts of that type, and to participate in joint research and development programmes and in co-operative industrial undertakings, with both industrialized and developing countries.

31. Turning to the Agency's programme for 1976, he congratulated the Director General and the Secretariat on their excellent work. His Government accepted the programme as proposed, but hoped that the Agency would endeavour to implement the decisions contained in the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, which marked the beginning of European collaboration in nuclear research and development. Recognizing the important role played by the Agency in providing assistance to the developing countries, the Polish Government had decided to increase its voluntary contribution to the General Fund by 67% as from 1976. Poland was also interested in the programmes relating to reactors, nuclear safety, environmental protection, and the applications of nuclear technology to biology, medicine and agriculture. It likewise desired to participate more closely in the International Nuclear Information System (INIS), which should be so organized as to permit its wider use by the less developed countries. The Agency was of course restricted by the financial difficulties accruing from fluctuations in exchange rates and from inflation, and the Polish Government congratulated the Secretariat and the Director General on the efforts they were putting forth to make the best possible use of the Agency's available resources.

32. Mr. SAENZ SANCHEZ (Cuba) was pleased to see the admission of Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and the United Republic of Tanzania to the Agency. The Conference's session was being held at a time when the peace-loving peoples of the world were striving to enhance levels of assistance and co-operation at international level. The recent Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe had substantially contributed to the realization of those aims.

33. In its efforts to build a new society, the revolutionary Government of Cuba was devoting particular attention to scientific and technological development, and had therefore allocated large

resources to the establishment of research centres. That will to accelerate development was amply demonstrated in the field of education: illiteracy had been non-existent for almost 15 years past and 98.8% of children between the ages of 6 and 13 were receiving free education. In comparison with the pre-revolutionary period, there were eight times more pupils enjoying secondary education and five times more students attending universities.

34. Before the revolution there had been practically no research centres in Cuba. The revolutionary Government had established more than 105 research establishments in the fields essential to the country's development. They employed more than 4000 university graduates on a full-time basis and about 12 000 working part time. During the period concerned, the Academy of Sciences had also been set up, with 22 research establishments attached to it. In addition, the four universities placed strong emphasis on scientific research. Hundreds of fellows were studying at universities and research centres in various socialist and friendly countries, and with the assistance of international organizations.

35. In order more effectively to direct national scientific policy, the Cuban Government had in 1974 established a National Council for Sciences and Technology, followed a few months later by a National Commission for the Peaceful Utilization of Atomic Energy. The principal functions of that commission were to lay down, co-ordinate and supervise scientific and technical policy connected with the peaceful applications of atomic energy, to provide the means of training the national staff required for that purpose, and to promote international collaboration in the nuclear field, especially with the Agency.

36. The Five-Year Plan for 1976-80 envisaged the beginning of construction of a nuclear power station in Cuba, which would be an essential component in the country's energy development. There would be a need for a team of highly qualified experts on reactor calculations, physics and technology, capable not only of operating atomic power stations but also of progressively assimilating various aspects of the associated technology. Construction of nuclear power stations was to be preceded by a whole range of activities, including the design and construction at the beginning of the Five-Year Plan of a zero-power critical reactor, and the building of a research reactor for the local production of radioisotopes and labelled compounds. In order to implement all those activities in the most satisfactory manner, the Academy of Sciences' Nuclear Research Institute would be housed in new premises. There, it would be possible to provide more thorough training to the experts and technicians who would be participating in the construction of the country's first atomic power station.

37. The application of nuclear techniques had yielded remarkable results in the mining and

metallurgical industry, the preservation of certain categories of food commodities, the sterilization of various supplies and the induction of mutations in plant species of economic importance. Those were the areas in which Cuba wished to concentrate its efforts during the years to come. The application of nuclear methods and techniques to medicine was proceeding satisfactorily, and it was also expected that work in that direction would be continued. The Atomic Energy Commission attached particular importance to all aspects of radiological protection and was at present engaged in drafting national radiation protection standards. All those were priority activities, in one form or another, within the first Five-Year Plan on science and technology, which was about to receive the revolutionary Government's approval.

38. Cuba would continue to collaborate with the Agency by offering voluntary contributions as in the past. He was pleased to observe that the Agency's programme for 1975-80 took account of the interests of all Member States. Cuba, which had no petroleum resources, was making a serious effort to develop nuclear power in order to offset that lack.

39. Mr. NEMETS (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said the period that had elapsed since the previous session of the Conference had been characterized by the consolidation of international détente. That state of affairs had come about largely as a result of the measures adopted during recent years to slow down the arms race and achieve nuclear disarmament. Important steps in the process had been agreements between the United States and the Soviet Union on the limitation of strategic weapons and underground experiments with nuclear weapons, the agreement concluded at Vladivostok which laid the basis for an agreement aimed at stopping the strategic arms race, and Soviet proposals to prohibit the development of new types and systems of weapons for mass destruction. The most outstanding development, however, had been the signing of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe in which all the signatory Governments had undertaken to give concrete expression to détente. Thus, the role of the Agency as the organization responsible for supervising the application of NPT and, therefore, of the non-proliferation arrangements, had been enhanced.

40. NPT could be completely effective only if as many States as possible acceded to it. It was therefore a matter for satisfaction that five States Members of EURATOM (Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands) had decided to become parties to NPT at the NPT Review Conference.

41. In its Final Declaration the NPT Review Conference expressed the opinion that the parties to the Treaty had satisfactorily fulfilled their obligations under the main

provisions of the Treaty, and it had stated that the Agency's safeguards, far from interfering with the sovereignty of the non-nuclear-weapon States, contributed to the expansion of international co-operation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy. It had recommended that the Agency should pursue its safeguards activities with increased efficiency.

42. So far the Agency had successfully discharged that task and the Ukrainian delegation was convinced that it would continue doing so in the future. It was, however, the safeguards system itself that needed to be strengthened, since safeguarded fissionable materials supplied to a particular State through the Agency or on the basis of a bilateral agreement might be used not only for the activities specified in the supply contract but also for other purposes. Such an assumption was in no way unjustified, as it was difficult to know in advance and in full detail what would be the programme of nuclear energy applications in a given country. However, contracts for the supply of fissionable materials provided for the safeguarding only of their use in a well-defined area and took no account of other activities connected with the use of nuclear energy. For those reasons, the Ukrainian delegation considered it essential to ensure that States not party to NPT receiving fissionable materials should be required to place all their nuclear activities, without exception, under safeguards. In its Final Declaration the NPT Review Conference had expressed an identical opinion.

43. The establishment of regional fuel reprocessing centres presented great advantages for many non-nuclear-weapon countries. Such centres would make it possible to meet efficiently and economically the continually growing needs for nuclear energy, and would, moreover, be placed under Agency safeguards.

44. Agency activities in the field of nuclear science and technology, in particular in connection with INIS, deserved particular mention, as did the tightening of its co-operation links with various regional organizations, the activities of which were connected with the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, especially with CMEA, which had recently concluded an agreement with the Agency. CMEA was an organization for the integration of the socialist countries and its programmes touched on all fields of activity of importance to its members; it attached particular importance to progress in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy at the national level. Its programme of scientific and technical co-operation for 1976-80 made provision for a number of peaceful applications of nuclear energy; e.g. measures for radiological protection and protection of the environment, improved methods of handling radioactive wastes, development of methods for controlling radioactive pollution and for decontaminating nuclear installations and measures for the control and monitoring of pollution in the Baltic Sea and the

Danube. The experience gained by CMEA would undoubtedly be of great use to the Agency.

45. Scientists from the Ukrainian SSR participated actively in the work of CMEA in many fields of nuclear physics. In May 1975 CMEA's Scientific and Technical Co-ordination Committee on Radiological Protection had met at the Nuclear Research Institute of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences to study various problems, including the applications of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, the development of nuclear power, the classification of nuclear power station failures and methods of detecting reactor breakdowns, regulations governing protection of the environment in case of radioactivity leakage from power plants using water-cooled and water-moderated reactors and so on. On that occasion a group of Agency consultants had presented a paper on its work in connection with safety codes and guidelines for nuclear power plants.

46. Work in the Ukrainian SSR on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy was concerned in particular with advanced research on the nucleus, the increasing use of radioisotopes and other radioactive sources and their practical applications in the national economy.

47. Theoretical and experimental study of the nucleus had led to the discovery of new effects connected with shell structure, yielding new information about the properties of the nucleus and the mechanism of reactions. The interaction constants of different nuclear particles had been the subject of intensive research. Information about the interaction constants of neutrons of various energies was regularly communicated to the Agency and published by it. Research had been undertaken on dissociation gases as coolants in fast-neutron reactors. New data had been obtained on the mechanism by which faults developed in various materials exposed to radiation, and the nature of structural deformations and of the laws governing them had been studied as a function of dose and irradiation conditions. Polymers and other materials with predetermined properties had been obtained by means of ionizing radiation.

48. In the domain of agronomy the discovery of a number of physiological and biological processes had led to the development of techniques for accelerating plant growth for the purpose of increasing productivity. New varieties of plants and micro-organisms that had been obtained or were being studied were highly promising. The development of a method of rapid analysis of the nitrogen content of certain irradiated seeds afforded a means of selecting high-protein-content seeds without devitalizing them. In the years ahead a large-scale campaign would be launched against fruit-tree parasites, using the sterile insect technique.

49. In medicine, studies on tumour treatment with neutrons had revealed that the method offered certain advantages over gamma-ray

treatment. Statistical data collected in that connection would serve as a basis for drawing conclusions about the various types of radiation and the doses that might be recommended for the treatment of various tumour diseases.

50. Work was also done in the Ukrainian SSR on derived applications of nuclear activity, e. g. the use of low-temperature thermal waste from nuclear power plants. Such work might be of great interest to the Agency. The Ukraine was willing to consider concluding research contracts with the Agency relating to any matter that might be of interest to it.

51. As regards the construction programme, the 1000-MW nuclear power station at Chernobilsk was nearing completion; in future years its capacity would be increased to 4000 MW. Apart from the construction of other nuclear power plants it was intended to erect large multipurpose nuclear plants for power production, water desalination and irrigation of arid land. The very extensive application of radioisotopes and radiation sources in many branches of Ukrainian industry contributed to a considerable increase in productivity and improvement of working conditions. Radioisotopes were also being used successfully in medical institutions. Because of the quality of its product, the national industry producing various types of medical equipment using isotopes ranked with the world's best. Equipment of that type had been offered to the Agency by the Ukraine as a voluntary contribution to the General Fund.

52. The Ukrainian SSR was pleased to announce that its contribution to the General Fund in 1976 would be increased to 80 000 roubles in national currency, an amount which might be used to supply facilities, equipment and materials of various kinds and to provide assistance under Agency supervision, priority being given to developing countries which were party to NPT.

53. Thanks to its activity the Agency was acquiring more and more authority internationally, as was indicated by the increasing size of its membership. The Ukrainian delegation therefore took pleasure in welcoming the representatives of Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and the United Republic of Tanzania. It was also gratified by the participation of a representative of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Viet-Nam in the present session.

54. Finally, he wished to express the conviction that the Agency, as a body for the co-ordination of all nuclear activities for peaceful purposes, would contribute unceasingly to the establishment of a lasting peace.

55. Mr. KOSTADINOV (Bulgaria) said he wished to associate himself with other delegations in congratulating the President on his election and in welcoming the representatives of Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and the United Republic of Tanzania, which States would

henceforth participate in the Agency's efforts to promote the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

56. The current session was taking place in an atmosphere of international détente. The agreements concluded in Europe in preceding years and especially the positive results of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe would certainly contribute to détente, peaceful co-existence and co-operation between countries of different social and economic structure. The agreements between the Soviet Union and the United States also deserved mention in that context; they were of vital importance for the consolidation of peace throughout the world, for the prevention of a nuclear world war and for the slowing down of the arms race. The Soviet Union's proposal at the United Nations, aiming at the prohibition without reservation of nuclear arms testing, was also to be welcomed.

57. Such détente was a prerequisite for the expansion and consolidation of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. As a member of the United Nations family the Agency had an important part to play in that respect. That role had been confirmed by the NPT Review Conference, which had expressed great appreciation of the Agency's activities in connection with Articles III and IV of NPT. The Agency was continuing to strengthen its authority as an international organization competent in matters relating to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and to the development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

58. Bulgaria attached great importance to NPT and was pleased at the Agency's efforts in the field of safeguards, the universal acceptance of which would ensure the international control of nuclear materials and their utilization for the benefit of mankind. The safeguards activities of the Agency would, of course, continue expanding with the growth in the number of countries which had concluded safeguards agreements with it, and Bulgaria for that reason welcomed the fact that the Agency was trying to devise effective methods for checking on the movement of nuclear materials. The application of new control techniques would result in savings thanks to a reduction in the number of inspections, especially in countries with proven national systems of accountability and control.

59. The Bulgarian delegation, which had studied with care the various Agency activities mentioned in the annual report, noted with satisfaction that the Agency had persisted in its efforts to enable developing countries to acquire the means to utilize nuclear energy in the realization of their peaceful aims. The Agency was clearly taking account of current developments and supporting the introduction of nuclear energy in more and more countries. That policy was having a considerable influence on the nature of the technical assistance which the Agency was providing, with a view to the exploitation not only of nuclear energy itself but

also of all the other achievements of nuclear science and technology, especially those connected with nuclear physics and medicine and with the use of ionizing radiation in agriculture.

60. Aware of the fundamental importance of technical assistance, Bulgaria had regularly contributed to the General Fund in keeping with its base rate of assessment and would do so again in 1976. As regards the use made of the General Fund, his country noted with pleasure that a steadily increasing percentage of the resources was being spent on the provision of equipment. That was very important for many developing countries greatly needing modern equipment, the absence of which often hampered the development of nuclear science and technology. From the information given in the report about technical assistance, it appeared that the latter was being provided mainly in two areas: nuclear power generation and agriculture. That fact was significant in that many countries were having not only to cope with the energy crisis but also to expand their agricultural production. The results obtained thanks to the Agency's help, especially the development of several improved cereal varieties, were rather encouraging.

61. Parallel with the progress which it was achieving in nuclear science and technology Bulgaria was making more and more use of radioisotope and radiation techniques in other fields. Until a few years previously, such techniques were employed principally in scientific work; now they were also being used with increasing frequency in industry (especially for flaw detection, automation and process control), medicine, geophysics, geochemistry and agriculture (for example, in rationalizing various types of work). At the Bulgarian Institute of Nuclear Research and Nuclear Power, a team of specialists had, with the Agency's help, devised prototypes of new instruments which had received the approval of the competent bodies within the Agency and were being used in the course of safeguards inspections.

62. With regard to nuclear power generation, the solution of Bulgaria's problems was being greatly facilitated by the disinterested help of the Soviet Union. The Bulgarian delegation had already had occasion to mention the start-up of the country's first nuclear power station, at Kozloduy, which had been built and put into service in a relatively short time, four years and three months, and was operating satisfactorily. After the entry into service of the second unit, which was under construction, the total capacity of the station would be 880 MW. The intention was to increase the station capacity, in two subsequent stages, to 2640 MW.

63. The Bulgarian nuclear power programme, which was part not only of the country's overall power programme but also of its environmental protection programme, included the improvement of techniques for the internal and external monitoring of nuclear power plants, nuclear

material accountancy and control in accordance with the provisions of NPT, the production within the country of nuclear power plant equipment, optimization of the medical surveillance of nuclear power plant personnel, the formulation of laws and of operating standards in the light of the expected development of power generation, and the training of personnel. The Committee for Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy was active in all those fields, in co-operation with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Power Production and other competent institutions. With regard to the serious question of the safe disposal of radioactive waste, steps were being taken to enlarge the existing areas available for burial.

64. Until about 1990, the reactors operating in Bulgaria would be thermal reactors of the types WWER-440 and WWER-1000. However, Bulgaria was following with interest the work being done in the field of fast reactors and expected to embark on the construction of its first fast reactor between 1986 and 1990.

65. The first Bulgarian specialists in nuclear power generation had been trained with the help of Soviet experts and of courses given in Bulgaria at the place of work and at establishments of higher education. In that connection, the Bulgarian delegation wished to thank the Agency for all it was doing to facilitate the training of specialists in nuclear power plant construction and operation.

66. Bulgaria considered the courses, seminars and study tours organized by the Agency very useful and would be pleased to participate in the organization of some of them; it was already concerned with the organization of the study tour which was planned for November 1975 and would include a visit to the Kozloduy nuclear power station. The Bulgarian authorities would do everything necessary to enable the representatives of developing countries to benefit from Bulgaria's experience in the construction and operation of nuclear power stations.

67. As regards equipment, Bulgaria was concentrating on co-operation within the overall programme of CMEA - or, to be more precise, within the programme of "INTERATOMENERGO", an association created on the initiative of CMEA's Permanent Commission for the Peaceful Utilization of Atomic Energy.

68. In that context, the Bulgarian delegation was pleased at the Board's decision to recommend to the General Conference the conclusion of an agreement between CMEA and the Agency. Over the years, CMEA had expanded its collaboration with a number of countries regardless of their social and political régime and had established close ties with the Agency, whose representatives had participated in many CMEA undertakings in the field of the peaceful utilization of atomic energy. Conclusion of the proposed agreement would lead to a strengthening of

collaboration relating to nuclear power generation, the design and construction of equipment, isotope production, radiation protection and the use of isotope methods and instruments in various sectors of the economy.

69. With regard to the Agency's programme and budget, inflation and exchange rate fluctuations were undoubtedly causing difficulties, but a 25% budget increase for those reasons alone was hardly justifiable. The Director General and the Secretariat were to be commended for their efforts to achieve economies through the regrouping of certain activities, facilitated by the existence of many unfilled posts which would make it possible to provide for staff expansion as INIS was extended.

70. In conclusion, the Bulgarian delegation wished to assure the Agency that the Bulgarian Government would continue to support all its activities in the field of the peaceful utilization of atomic energy.

71. Miss LIM (Malaysia) said that on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the first international conference held on the peaceful uses of atomic energy, it should be remembered that the mission given to the Agency had been to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world and to ensure that the assistance provided was not used in such a way as to further any military purposes. However, there was a danger that concern with preventing nuclear energy from being used for such purposes would make the Agency overlook the fact that it was supposed to encourage uses of nuclear energy that were of benefit to humanity.

72. The arms race was at present becoming more intensified. The lack of progress towards a comprehensive treaty banning the testing of nuclear weapons led to a problem of world security and, in particular, the security of non-nuclear-weapon States which had foreclosed their nuclear options by acceding to NPT, and to questionings as to whether their gesture had any meaning. The NPT Review Conference had stated that the co-operation of nuclear-weapon States was necessary to ensure that non-nuclear-weapon States did not feel threatened by the use of force involving either nuclear weapons or non-nuclear weapons. The developing countries were not obtaining any benefit from nuclear energy at the moment and, in addition, the recession and increase in the cost of energy were delaying their entry into the nuclear age.

73. Nevertheless, the Director General was to be congratulated on the action he had taken to expand the Agency's activities in the fields of particular interest to the developing non-nuclear-weapon countries; particular mention should be made of the studies on reliability of nuclear reactors, waste disposal, safeguards, the creation of regional fuel reprocessing centres, the carrying out of the tasks entrusted to the

Agency by the NPT Review Conference, the technical assistance programme and the application of nuclear techniques in medicine, agriculture and hydrology.

74. The Malaysian delegation considered that the Agency should adapt itself to the changing needs of the developing countries, which expected nuclear technology to make a rapid improvement in their social and economic conditions. It welcomed the arrangements made to hold a meeting during the present session to consider the projects carried out under the Asian Regional Co-operation Agreement. All those activities were financed largely from the General Fund; the latter consisted mainly of voluntary contributions and had as its 1976 target the sum of \$5.5 million. Several delegations had expressed the hope that in future there would be an increase in the target level, the figure for which was paltry in comparison with the world's expenditure on arms. In fact, one third of the requests for technical assistance had to go unsatisfied in 1975 owing to lack of funds. Her delegation acknowledged with appreciation the additional contribution of \$100 000 made by a nuclear-weapon State for technical assistance projects which the Agency had been unable to carry out in 1975 due to lack of resources.

75. The developing countries were particularly interested in the Agency's food and agriculture programme, but the 1976 budget allocated only an average of \$250 000 for each of the components of that programme. It was to be hoped that some industrialized countries would be able to increase their contributions so as to help meet the special needs of the developing countries. To be meaningful, technical assistance must be timely so that the developing countries could embark on nuclear programmes before inflation and currency instability put them out of their reach. The 1976 programme provided an increase of only 2.5% for technical assistance and training, whereas the increase for safeguards was nearly five times greater. The Malaysian delegation would like a balance to be preserved between those two fields.

76. In regard to safeguards, the NPT Review Conference had urged that the same kind of safeguards should be applied to both classes of States party to NPT and not directed solely to non-nuclear-weapon States. Moreover, the share of the costs of safeguards borne by developing countries should be reduced.

77. In conclusion, she said that Malaysia recognized the value of the role played by the Agency in promoting co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and in assisting the developing countries and that it would continue to participate in those activities of the Agency.

78. Mr. KRASIN (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said he was gratified that the Conference's session was taking place in an atmosphere of international détente that was assuming increasingly concrete form. A major

event in that respect had been the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, which heralded a new era in world history. The unanimous decisions taken at the level of the European continent in favour of consolidating peace - a unique happening in the annals of international relations - would have tremendous repercussions. In that connection he quoted an extract from the speech by Mr. Brezhnev at the end of that Conference.

79. The main thing now was to supplement the political détente with a military détente. It was therefore essential to curb the arms race and prevent all further proliferation of nuclear weapons, so as gradually to achieve general and complete disarmament. The Agency had a leading part to play in the prevention of all further proliferation of nuclear weapons and materials. The NPT Review Conference had itself emphasized that role and had pointed out that, five years after the entry into force of the Treaty, the Agency's safeguards activities had in no way encroached upon the sovereignty of States or hindered their scientific and technical progress.

80. His delegation was gratified at the way in which the NPT Review Conference had welcomed the plan to set up regional fuel cycle centres and the working out of measures for the physical protection of materials. The recommendations by the Review Conference on Article V of NPT were extremely important.

81. Pursuing its unrelenting struggle for a halt to the arms race and implementation of practical measures gradually leading to general and complete disarmament, the Soviet Union had placed on the agenda of the thirtieth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations the question of a treaty relating to a general and complete ban on nuclear arms tests and prohibition of the manufacture and use of new types of weapons of mass destruction.

82. The atmosphere of détente was having a beneficial effect on the activities of international organizations, more especially those of the Agency, whose authority was steadily growing as the peaceful uses of nuclear energy throughout the world increased. His delegation was gratified to see that the Agency intended to step up its activities relating to nuclear safety and environmental protection, further development of INIS and expansion of inspection activities, including the provision of analytical services in connection with safeguards; also its work in power and reactor matters and its co-operation with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the larger scientific and technical centres for health protection.

83. Likewise, his delegation warmly welcomed the conclusion of a co-operation agreement between the Agency and CMEA. The strengthening of relations between those two organizations opened up for the countries of the world broad prospects of economic and scientific development through the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

84. For its own part, the Byelorussian SSR had in 1975 carried out an expanded research programme on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Mention should be made, more especially, of work in the following areas: radiation chemistry, calculation and systematic classification of nuclear constants, solid-state physics, radiobiology, application of radiation in agriculture, and improvement of production processes as applied in industry and medicine.

85. For a number of years the research work carried out in Byelorussia under contracts with the Agency had produced excellent results in radiobiology. The planned development of work on activation analysis techniques would enable his country to collaborate more closely with the Agency. At present Byelorussia intended to participate in the joint IAEA/WHO programmes concerned with studying the role and content of trace elements in cardiovascular pathology.

86. As far as progress in nuclear power was concerned, the main problem at the present stage was transition from thermal reactors to fast neutron reactors with a low doubling time, which were more reliable, safer, more economical and non-polluting. In that connection the work of the Nuclear Energy Institute of the Byelorussian Academy of Sciences was of major interest. It concerned the development of new types of nuclear power plants based on fast reactors cooled by a dissociating gas, particularly nitrogen tetroxide. The specific combination of thermal properties and chemical reactions found in the latter gas was such that it would certainly be possible to reduce the cost and volume of heat-exchangers and turbines in the plant as a whole, and also the cost of electricity and heat. The theoretical and experimental research work that had been done during the last few years at the Byelorussian Academy of Sciences on the physical and thermal properties of nitrogen tetroxide used as coolant (technology and resistance to heat and irradiation) had made it possible to design, in 1974/75, a nuclear power plant based on the new coolant; the project appeared to have a bright future and was the basis of successful co-operation between the members of CMEA.

87. Realizing the economic difficulties which developing countries were having to face, Byelorussia intended to raise its voluntary contribution to the Agency's General Fund for 1976 to 20 000 roubles in national currency, which sum could be used for the provision of material and equipment to those countries.

88. In conclusion, his delegation wished to welcome the representatives of Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and the United Republic of Tanzania. It was also happy to see the representative of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet-Nam present at the Conference. He was certain that, as a result of international détente, the Agency would further strengthen its authority and offer the scientists of all countries extensive

opportunities for co-operation in the interests of the people of the world and in the consolidation of world peace.

89. Mr. ALBA ANDRADE (Mexico) said that his Government's long-term policy in nuclear energy was aimed at making greater use of its peaceful applications in order to speed up the country's economic and social development. With the extraordinary possibilities offered by nuclear energy in mind, it had drawn up a programme whose object was to make possible greater recourse to the new sources of energy which were essential for its further advancement. It was essential to start drawing on nuclear power before conventional sources of energy became exhausted. But nuclear energy could contribute to industrial development and the well-being of mankind only if it were renounced as an instrument of destruction or a means of political coercion. It was those considerations which had led in 1975 to amendment of Article 27 of his country's political constitution, in order to specify plainly that competence in regard to nuclear fuel supply for nuclear power production and to regulation of its applications which, according to the law, was ruled out for other than peaceful purposes, lay exclusively with the State. Those were the principles governing the international policy pursued by Mexico which, as a peace-loving country, had been among the sponsors of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America [9] (the Tlatelolco Treaty) and among the first to ratify NPT. It therefore followed that its whole nuclear programme had been placed under the Agency's safeguards system, to which Mexico gave its full support as a means for ensuring that material, services, equipment and facilities furnished by the Agency should be used exclusively for peaceful purposes. Likewise, Mexico was in favour of establishing safety standards for the protection of health against possible hazards resulting from the use of nuclear energy.

90. There was, however, another highly important function also devolving upon the Agency, namely, the provision of technical assistance. The need in that area was for a substantial expansion at a more rapid pace than that envisaged for the development of safeguards activities. Any efforts made by the Agency in that direction would therefore have his country's support.

91. Mexico had benefited greatly from the assistance furnished by the Agency in connection with its nuclear power programme, particularly in relation to the two Laguna Verde reactors (Veracruz) [10], the first of which would come

[9] United Nations Treaty Series, Vol. 634, No. 9068.

[10] Being furnished under the agreements reproduced in documents INFCIRC/203 and Addendum 1.

into operation in 1979 and the second a year later. The possibility of constructing additional power stations in various parts of the country was under study. According to forecasts, by 1990 nuclear power should account for 30% of total electricity production. If that objective was to be attained, large amounts of uranium would be required. Prospecting work was being actively pursued and it was expected that an area of 1 million square kilometres would be surveyed over the next seven years. Results already obtained were very promising and a number of likely areas were now being evaluated. Mexico deeply appreciated the help given by the Agency in technical assistance and in the training of personnel needed for the creation of a domestic nuclear fuel industry.

92. Mr. MANZ (Austria) said he would like to congratulate the President on his election and to proffer a welcome to the new Members. Since the preceding session of the General Conference, the Agency had expanded its activities and would accordingly need to find the necessary resources, despite the financial difficulties besetting it and its Members. In addition to its regular contribution, Austria would be making a voluntary contribution to the General Fund in 1976 in the amount of \$31 900, and would make available the same amount of Type II fellowships as in the previous year.

93. With regard to NPT, his Government had noted with satisfaction that an additional 13 non-nuclear-weapon States had signed the Treaty and that another 13 had ratified it. Furthermore, the NPT Review Conference would doubtless lead to more effective steps to implement the Treaty. A number of measures designed to that end had already been taken; in 1974, several major exporting countries had reached an understanding to apply certain standards in the implementation of Article III.2 of NPT. For its part, Austria was in the process of preparing regulations to govern the required export control system; the regulations in question would come into force before the end of the year. As the Austrian delegation at the NPT Review Conference had already pointed out, it was essential to establish standard procedures and practices in relation to physical protection, based on guidelines and recommendations to be drawn up by the Agency, in order to prevent sabotage or access of unauthorized persons to nuclear material. Progress had also been made in work on the conclusion of safeguards agreements in connection with NPT; in that regard, he mentioned that the safeguards analytical laboratory at Seibersdorf would shortly be completed and would soon become available for use by the Agency.

94. The Agency's work in nuclear safety and environmental protection included the drafting of codes and guides for nuclear power stations, the promotion of research and the holding of symposia. One such symposium had been held in Vienna in co-operation with the Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organisation for Economic

Co-operation and Development; the results had proved very successful and such co-operation should be extended to other organizations dealing with the same issues.

95. The Agency should likewise endeavour to establish closer co-ordination and co-operation at the international level with other bodies dealing with energy supply problems, e. g. in the matter of conducting market studies. Its links with the World Energy Conference had been strengthened; the Conference Commission responsible for studying possibilities for savings in energy resources was to begin its work at Vienna in October, with the Agency's active support. Activities of that kind would help to ensure a more global approach to the energy problem.

96. Furthermore, steps should be taken to foster the exchange of information on developments in public opinion regarding the construction of nuclear power stations. His delegation recommended that every possibility of pooling such information within the Secretariat should be examined. In addition, symposia and conferences dealing with safety and other general aspects of nuclear power should consider the items on their agendas also from the point of view of public acceptance of nuclear plants; such meetings, too, were sources of information for the individual as well as for the mass media.

97. In 1977, Austria would have the honour of acting as host to the planned International Conference on Nuclear Power and its Fuel Cycle, which was to study the problems arising at the various stages of the nuclear fuel cycle. As representative of the host country, he wished to inform the General Conference that the main construction work for the Agency's permanent headquarters at the Donaupark would be completed by the end of 1975 and that the buildings would be ready for occupancy by 1978.

98. Referring to his country's nuclear energy programme, he said that its first nuclear power station would be put into operation in 1976 and would help to meet the additional demand for energy expected in the 1980s. A second nuclear power station was to be constructed at a later date.

99. In conclusion, he paid a tribute to the Director General and the Secretariat for their joint efforts over the past year and for the excellent co-operation maintained with the Austrian authorities.

100. Mr. NEUMANN (Czechoslovakia), after congratulating the President on his election, said that the Conference's session was taking place in an atmosphere of international détente, a particular contribution to which had been made by the completion at Helsinki of the third stage of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe and by the formulation of political principles that were to govern the relations between the States of Europe. It would now be

necessary to ensure that the same development extended to other parts of the world, that détente also entered the military domain, permitting an end to the arms race, and that nuclear energy was used exclusively for peaceful purposes. In that connection the importance attached by the recommendations of the Helsinki Conference to international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy should be emphasized, and such co-operation encouraged in every way.

101. Recalling the role of the Agency in implementing NPT, he said he was convinced that the strengthening of safeguards provided for in the Treaty would be noted with approval by the delegates. NPT should be of a universal nature and it was to be deplored that a number of countries, some which possessed nuclear weapons and some which did not, had not yet acceded to it. The Czechoslovak delegation supported without reservation the efforts made to expand and consolidate NPT, and those of the Agency to increase the effectiveness of safeguards and to persuade all States party to NPT to accept them.

102. The year that had elapsed since the last session could be considered satisfactory, as many important non-nuclear-weapon countries had ratified NPT and concluded safeguards agreements with the Agency. It was essential that those countries should now begin to apply fully the Agency's safeguards system, without seeking to avoid the issue by new demands or procedural formalities. Czechoslovakia approved of the present safeguards system, which respected the sovereign rights of States, did not hamper their economic, scientific and technological development, and did not prevent international co-operation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy. As much attention as possible should be paid to implementing the conclusions of the NPT Review Conference concerning the establishment of standardized and universal safeguards, the organization of national systems of accounting and control, and so on. Czechoslovakia could offer the services of its experts in the establishment of national surveillance systems and was prepared to let other countries benefit from the experience it had acquired in the application of Agency safeguards to its nuclear installations. In 1975 it had begun to implement Article III, 2 of NPT and it was convinced that other countries would soon follow the same course.

103. In preparing for the current session of the General Conference the Czechoslovak delegation had carefully studied the Agency's accomplishments during the preceding year, and its programme for 1976. It set particularly high value on the Agency's efforts in the field of nuclear power and nuclear safety. The Agency was applying itself to the solution of the important problem of providing mankind with a safe, economical and clean form of energy,

and was seeking to ensure effective protection of the environment throughout the world. Czechoslovakia likewise supported unreservedly the radiation protection programme, especially where it concerned the safety criteria applicable to the study, construction and operation of nuclear power installations. It was also ready to participate actively in traditional types of work under the Agency's programme, such as the use of radionuclides and ionizing radiation.

104. The Czechoslovak delegation was fully satisfied with the expansion of INIS during the past year and supported without reservation the proposed programme for that activity.

105. The same was true of technical assistance. The Government of Czechoslovakia was providing assistance to the developing countries on a bilateral and multilateral basis as well as through the Agency. It thought highly of the programme drawn up for those activities and recommended giving priority in the provision of technical assistance to developing countries that had ratified NPT. As in 1975 Czechoslovakia would contribute 250 000 crowns in national currency to the General Fund.

106. As to the Agency's Regular Budget for 1976, he considered that the anticipated increase of nearly 30% was actually surprising, particularly as the increase for activities was only some 5% whereas 25% was due to inflation. The Czechoslovak delegation fully approved the budget only in so far as it provided for work on safeguards, nuclear power and reactors, nuclear safety and environmental protection, and lastly INIS. It was convinced that the Secretariat recognized the full importance of those matters and would spare no effort to achieve maximum economy, in particular by reducing administrative expenses.

107. He also wished to stress the importance of the co-operation agreement recently concluded between the Agency and CMEA, and fully supported all measures provided for in the Agency's programme with a view to intensifying co-operation between the Agency and the Standing Committee of CMEA in connection with the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

108. In conclusion, he was pleased to invite the Agency to hold the second international symposium on nuclear information in his country, which was also prepared to offer in 1976 five long-term fellowships to attend Czechoslovak institutions of education, four one-year fellowships to institutions attached to the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences or other research institutes coming under the national nuclear programme, and subsidies for the purpose of supplementing three one-year fellowships financed by the United Nations Development Programme.

● The meeting rose at 5.55 p. m.

