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President: Mr. FELICKI (Poland)

Item of the agenda**	Subject	Paragraphs
6	General debate and report for 1974-75 (continued)	1 - 29
	Statements by the delegates of:	
	Turkey	1 - 8
	Egypt	9 - 19
	Mongolia	20 - 28
13	Examination of delegates' credentials	30 - 39
14	Election of Members to the Board of Governors	40 - 43
6	General debate and report for 1974-75 (continued)	44 - 87
	Finland	44 - 60
	Ghana	61 - 68
	Thailand	69 - 76
	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	77 - 87

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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. Mr. TUNALIGIL (Turkey) welcomed Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and the United Republic of Tanzania to membership of the Agency [1]. It went without saying that the universality of the organization had been enhanced by their decision to join.

2. The changes which were at present taking place in international relations seemed to have assumed compelling dimensions, due partly to the recent realization of the need to amend the existing rules of the international system, which appeared to be unsatisfactory in the present-day context, and partly to the emergence of potential new economic centres in regions other than the traditional areas of economic power. There was likewise to be discerned in international affairs a shift of emphasis from military and political towards economic potential. From that trend his delegation concluded that "interdependence" among nations had once more become a concept of prime importance. However, in a world where one half of the population lived in relative ease and the other half was starving, one could not speak of genuine "interdependence", justice and of a fair international system. What was now needed was not a short-term, even if equitable, distribution of existing wealth, but a system which would redistribute the opportunity and capability to create wealth.

3. With these considerations in mind, it was his delegation's belief that the Agency was likewise failing adequately to assist its developing Member States, which were desperately striving for an improvement in their energy levels and resources. Still, that should not affect overall confidence in the Agency, which constituted a unique organization for the planning and provision of assistance. The Agency was of crucial importance for the developing countries' incipient nuclear industry and for meeting their needs as regards nuclear research and training. In that connection he was happy to announce that his Government had decided to increase its 1976 voluntary contribution to the General Fund to the assessed level, and he hoped that all Members would give proof of their faith in the Agency by promptly contributing their share to the General Fund. The Turkish Government considered that the Agency's technical assistance functions should be adapted to the changing concept of international relations, and in view of the generally acknowledged importance - against the background of the energy crisis - of nuclear energy and related matters, his delegation expected the Agency to contribute even more to international co-operation in the nuclear field.

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

4. His Government felt strongly that more assistance should be accorded to uranium prospecting projects, and also that more funds should be made available for training and the provision of equipment under the technical assistance programme. The time had come to revise the rules governing the grant of technical assistance, with a view to introducing necessary elements of flexibility into the arrangements for the financing of projects. It might be desirable to establish a special emergency technical assistance fund in order to secure implementation of certain projects. More flexible rules would enable the Agency to transfer funds from one project to another should circumstances so demand, and it should be possible for unused Agency technical assistance funds to be credited to the account of the country in question for application in subsequent years, as was the case in respect of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) projects.

5. Another pressing need was the standardization on an international basis of the legal provisions governing nuclear energy matters. The untrammelled flow of information on nuclear energy was likewise a basic need for the developing world. Turkey firmly believed in the free exchange of information, and in that connection his delegation wished to praise the work of the International Nuclear Information System (INIS). It was a pleasure for him to inform the General Conference that more than 85 persons representing 32 countries and seven international organizations had participated in the INIS/AGRIS Training Seminar held in Ankara in June 1975, and that the Seminar had proved to be extremely beneficial to all participants.

6. The Turkish Government was anxious to introduce nuclear power into the country, and provisions to that end were included in the third Five-Year Economic Development Plan.

7. He wished to stress that the Agency would in the crucial years ahead be confronted by the difficult task of meeting the needs of the nuclear energy programmes of the developing world. Those needs would be numerous, ranging from materials and equipment to training and fellowships. Needless to say, the Agency's success in that mission would greatly depend on the existence of an altruistic and genuinely co-operative spirit among those Member States which were financially and technologically stronger than the rest.

8. In conclusion, he affirmed that the Turkish Government pledged its full support to the Agency in its efforts to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the world.

9. Mr. SIRRY (Egypt) said that nuclear energy had established itself as the main future source of energy to meet the ever-increasing demands for electricity, heat and indeed potable water. There were however many technological problems associated with the development, construction and operation of nuclear power reactor systems

of proven types to be solved. In addition, the development of other reactor systems of the future, such as the fast breeder and high-temperature gas-cooled reactors, should be pursued vigorously. At the same time, close co-operation between the developed and the developing countries would be necessary in the planning of nuclear programmes to be undertaken during the following few decades. That should include, first, continuous review of the energy demands for different applications in the various countries; second, future cycle requirements covering uranium supplies, fuel element fabrication, uranium enrichment capacity and reprocessing of nuclear fuel; and third, the problem of disposal of highly radioactive wastes and measures to guarantee nuclear safety and environmental protection.

10. His delegation noted with satisfaction that the Agency was aware of such problems, as was reflected in the activities undertaken under the 1975 programme and those planned for 1976. In that connection, it supported the convening of the International Conference on Nuclear Power and its Fuel Cycle in 1977 and the Agency's activities in organizing special courses for training scientists and engineers from developing countries in the planning and implementation of nuclear projects. It also wished to urge the Agency to expand and intensify its activities in the field of nuclear power and to allocate a higher percentage of its budget to that part of the programme. The importance of the Agency's role in ensuring adequate and timely supplies of materials and services, particularly in connection with the nuclear fuel cycle, hardly needed emphasis.

11. Egypt considered that the Agency's activities in the uses of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes (PNE) should be further expanded and accelerated, since many developing countries were expecting to derive great benefits from the use of nuclear explosives in their mining and civil engineering projects. It was to be hoped that the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on the subject would make a significant contribution in that direction.

12. His Government's policy regarding safeguards was well known. It firmly believed that an effective system of safeguards should be foolproof and based on the principle of universality.

13. Egypt had always taken an active interest in the safeguards system and particularly in the work of the Safeguards Committee (1970), which had formulated the contents of the agreements to be concluded with the Agency under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) [2].

14. Since many delegations had expressed regret that all States had not acceded to NPT,

his delegation wished to state clearly that in its desire to promote, strengthen and safeguard peace and security in the world and particularly in the Middle East, Egypt had always firmly supported NPT. Believing that the widest possible adherence to NPT was essential to its effectiveness and viability, it had been among the first countries to sign it. It had however no choice but to stop short of ratification since Israel, which had acquired the potential capability to manufacture those deadly weapons of mass destruction, had heretofore refused to adhere to NPT. Nevertheless, Egypt had not hesitated the preceding year to join Iran at the General Assembly of the United Nations in calling for the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East. It hoped that those States which had been instrumental in bringing about NPT would bear in mind their special responsibilities in that respect. He assured the Conference that Egypt would not be the first country to introduce nuclear weapons into the region.

15. In the preceding year, Egypt had made further progress in the development of the peaceful applications of nuclear technology. Its nuclear programme included the construction of its first atomic power plant near Alexandria, which was expected to become operational by mid-1981. It would generate 600 MW(e) of electricity, and desalinate 20 000 m<sup>3</sup> of sea-water daily. That potable water was to be used in an associated pilot agricultural farm to study the economic and technical aspects of the use of desalinated water in agriculture and special irrigation techniques, special cropping patterns and salinity problems. Tenders for the project were being evaluated, and site development work was under way. The negotiations for a bilateral agreement on co-operation with the United States of America in the civil uses of nuclear energy were in progress, and an agreement was expected to be concluded in the near future.

16. Another important activity was the establishment of a national radiation technology centre, to go into operation early the following year, comprising a one-million curie cobalt-60 source, and a 1.5-MeV accelerator which was supplied by UNDP and was being installed with the Agency's help. The centre would carry out research and development work in medical sterilization, food preservation and agro-industrial applications.

17. His Government fully endorsed the Agency's promotional activities in the applications of radioisotopes and radiation techniques in biology, agriculture, medicine and industry, which were of great benefit to developing countries. It had however noted with some concern the high rate of growth of funds allocated to safeguards in comparison with those to promotional activities or technical assistance. It hoped that a more equitable balance would be struck between those activities and that the continuous increase of safeguards expenditure from \$5.2 million in 1975 to a proposed \$6.4 million in 1976 would

[2] Reproduced in document INFCIRC/140.

be revised in order not to impose too heavy a burden on the developing countries.

18. Egypt considered that technical assistance to developing countries was one of the most important activities of the Agency, which could be made more effective by providing assistance for relatively large integrated projects to be implemented on a biennial or triennial basis, as it had suggested at the preceding session of the General Conference [3]. That suggestion deserved serious consideration. In 1976, Egypt would maintain its voluntary contribution to the General Fund at the same level as in 1975, which was in excess of its base rate of assessment.

19. In conclusion, he wished to extend a warm welcome to Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and the United Republic of Tanzania to membership of the Agency.

20. Mr. SODNOM (Mongolia) congratulated Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and the United Republic of Tanzania on having been approved for membership of the Agency.

21. The Conference's session was taking place at a time of détente, marked by the successful conclusion of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, at which the decisions reached not only represented a turning point in the history of relations between the peoples of Europe but also opened the way for the establishment of lasting peace in other continents, including Asia, where the Vietnamese people's victory in its struggle for freedom and independence had led to positive changes. In that connection, he emphasized that his country favoured the strengthening of peace and security in Asia on a collective basis and the development of collaboration among all Asian States.

22. His Government considered it important to strengthen and to secure the universality of existing treaties and agreements on disarmament, among which NPT occupied a special place. NPT was playing an important role in minimizing the risk of nuclear war and had become recognized as a major instrument of peace. However, a number of countries with considerable military and economic potential - including some already possessing nuclear weapons and some with the capacity to produce them - had not yet acceded to NPT. Further steps should be taken to increase the number of States party to NPT, thereby making it more effective, and his delegation welcomed the proposal that preference in the provision of technical assistance should be given to countries which had concluded with the Agency safeguards agreements in connection with NPT. Moreover, his delegation considered that the Agency's task in carrying out its safeguards functions would be made much easier if exporting countries provided the Agency with information about the nuclear material and equipment which they were supplying to other countries.

23. Like many other delegations, the Mongolian delegation attached great importance to the Agency's work in formulating and improving standards for the physical safety of nuclear material. The Agency's activities in connection with environmental protection, the handling of scientific and technical information, nuclear power plant safety and other problems also had its full approval.

24. His country supported the Agency's activities connected with the concept of regional nuclear fuel centres. The establishment of such centres would increase the effectiveness of Agency safeguards.

25. The Agency was doing important work aimed at implementing the provisions of Article V of NPT, which related to the use of PNEs. While recognizing that all States should have access to the potential benefits of such explosions, his country considered that non-nuclear-weapon States should not carry them out themselves and that the services necessary for carrying them out should be provided through the Agency. In that connection, he pointed out that several international legal and other aspects of PNEs required further study.

26. His delegation noted with satisfaction the increase in many forms of technical assistance being provided by the Agency, since Agency technical assistance was important for the large number of Member States trying to exploit the achievements of nuclear science in industry, agriculture, medicine and scientific research. The training of specialists was a significant aspect of Agency technical assistance and one in which Mongolia was particularly interested.

27. His delegation also noted with satisfaction that contacts between the Agency and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) were becoming closer. It hoped that collaboration between the two organizations would help in realizing the desire of all peoples for peace, open up new possibilities for economic and scientific development in many countries and promote the peaceful utilization of atomic energy.

28. With regard to voluntary contributions, his delegation welcomed the raising of the target to \$5.5 million and his country would be making its modest contribution to the General Fund.

29. The PRESIDENT announced that provided delegates had no objection, it would expedite the conduct of business if the Conference interrupted the general debate at that juncture to deal with two other items - the examination of delegates' credentials (agenda item 13) and the election of Members to the Board of Governors (agenda item 14).

#### EXAMINATION OF DELEGATES' CREDENTIALS (GC(XIX)/561)

30. The PRESIDENT drew the Conference's attention to the report of the General Committee

[3] See document GC(XVIII)/OR.172, para. 42.

on its examination of delegates' credentials (GC(XIX)/561). In relation to paragraphs 4 and 5, the Director General had received credentials satisfying Rule 27 of the Rules of Procedure for the delegates of Albania and Algeria since the report had been prepared.

31. Paragraph 7 of the report contained a draft resolution which the Committee recommended the Conference to adopt.

32. Mr. VALDES (Chile) said he must protest at the observations contained in paragraph 2 of the report. By making irrelevant comments about the credentials of the Chilean delegation, the delegations of the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia had introduced politics into the strictly technical agenda of the Conference.

33. Such a misplaced attitude was all the more surprising inasmuch as it contained elements that were completely contrary to the basic rules governing the Conference's meetings and contrary to the principles of law and international relations.

34. The credentials of the Chilean delegate had been submitted and scrutinized strictly in accordance with the principles set forth in Rules 27 and 28 respectively of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference.

35. His Government had normal relations with more than 90% of the States Members of the United Nations which, like Chile, respected the principles governing international community life.

36. In that connection, he could not but emphasize the fact that the two delegations which had attacked his country's Government had in their statements in the general debate [4] stressed their adherence to the principles of Helsinki. They appeared to forget that an important place was given in those principles to a confirmation of non-interference in the internal affairs of other States. However, he did not think it was a matter of a lapse of memory; he was sure that those countries were showing by their attitude that they only accepted those principles when it suited their interests to do so. The motives of the attacks against Chile were clear to his delegation.

37. Lastly, he could not refrain from mentioning that the credentials of the Chilean delegate were identical with and signed by the same authority as had been those of the Chilean delegate to the eighteenth session of the General Conference in 1974. They had been considered valid in 1974. [5] It could be seen that objections had

been made to them on the present occasion solely for political reasons at the whim of those responsible.

38. The PRESIDENT said that in the absence of any objection he would assume that the Conference was prepared to adopt the draft resolution recommended by the General Committee in document GC(XIX)/561, paragraph 7.

● 39. It was so decided.

#### ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS (GC(XIX)/557)

40. The PRESIDENT drew attention to his memorandum in document GC(XIX)/557 on the election of Members to the Board, in paragraph 2 of which he notified the Conference that 11 Members had to be elected and specified the number to be elected from the various geographical areas mentioned in Article VI, A.1 of the Statute.

● 41. The Conference appointed a member of the Austrian delegation and a member of the Swedish delegation to serve as tellers.

● 42. A vote was taken by secret ballot to elect 11 Members to the Board.

43. The PRESIDENT suggested that in view of the time it would take to count the votes, the Conference should continue with the general debate while awaiting the results of the elections.

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

44. Mr. LAURILA (Finland) said that 20 years had elapsed since the unforgettable Atoms-for-Peace Conference in Geneva had taken place, the most remarkable features of which had been its spirit and its atmosphere of enthusiasm. Maybe it had just been that enthusiastic spirit which had led many famous scientists to make prognoses and promises of unrealistically fast development and of new technologically applicable scientific discoveries in the near future. The public at large was told in general that the golden atomic age was "just around the corner".

45. However, the course of events and progress had been considerably different. It was true that today the large-scale use of nuclear energy in a number of countries was a reality, even if its part in the general energy economy was still modest. The technology used, however, was not based on new scientific discoveries. The thermal reactor had not become old-fashioned. The real progress had been in technology, and in many cases the advances had been due to the old and proved method of trial and error. That the difficult problems in the development of the peaceful use of atomic energy did not belong to the field of nuclear physics, perhaps not even to

[4] Summarized in documents GC(XIX)/OR.178, paras 13-49 and GC(XIX)/OR.181, paras 100-108 respectively.

[5] See document GC(XVIII)/538, para. 4.

nuclear technology, had had to be learnt. The greatest problems had been and still were outside physics and techniques.

46. The best way he had found to characterize the wide range of the real problems was to say that those problems were arising as an inevitable result of an effort to implant new, intricate and large-scale technical systems into the already complex machinery of modern society. Despite those difficulties, the number of nuclear power plants was large and was growing. The amount of radioactive waste produced annually - including the fissile material, plutonium - increased at the same time. In the disposal of radioactive waste problems of public acceptance necessarily arose, but disposal as such could and had to be solved solely with the aid of science and technology. Even in the case of plutonium, much still remained to be done before reliable and improved methods of using that fissile material as a source of energy for peaceful purposes would become commercially available. The real problem with plutonium was, however, how to guarantee that it did not fall into the hands of people and nations who, for some strange reason, loved nuclear weapons and yearned to become owners of them.

47. The danger of the proliferation of nuclear explosives had been recognized since the birth of the atom bomb. Ways and means of preventing proliferation had been under consideration ever since 1945. The desire to create a world-wide "safeguards" system was apparently an important factor in developments which led to the founding of the Agency. The Agency's activities were, however, wider, and its duties to provide technical assistance for its Member States when they were trying to apply the achievements of nuclear science for the peaceful benefit of their peoples would not be underestimated.

48. Once the political decisions had been made on both the national and the international levels regarding the creation of a safeguards system or systems, the question of the implementation of the safeguards remained. That problem was partly administrative and organizational, partly technical. In both cases existing practice was the result of historical development. Before the Agency had been able to start its own activity, safeguards could be arranged only on the basis of bilateral agreements. Once created, it had been impossible to eliminate the system of bilateral control arrangements as the international system of Agency safeguards was created. The only sound way had been to reconcile the two systems. Today it could be noted with satisfaction that great progress had been made in that direction.

49. The basic techniques - and he was using the word techniques in its broad sense - of safeguards control were also developed before the Agency's day. The feeling could not be avoided that some remnants of the thinking of the early days of bilateral co-operation were still reflected in the Agency's current safeguards concepts. Never-

theless, his delegation considered that, particularly during the past few years, the Agency's Safeguards System (1965, as Provisionally Extended in 1966 and 1968)[6] had been effectively developed in a sound direction.

50. In building up its own solely peaceful nuclear programme, Finland had been brought into contact with many countries. Consequently, it had also concluded a number of bilateral nuclear co-operation agreements. In those agreements, due account was taken of the fact that Finland had submitted its peaceful nuclear activities to Agency safeguards. Up to the present, Finland had had no reason to complain about the functioning of those arrangements.

51. On the basis of its practical experience, Finland had become firmly convinced that a world-wide and unified system of safeguards was far superior to a network of many kinds of bilateral arrangements. The Finnish delegation considered that the existing safeguards practices embodied in the Agency's Safeguards System were satisfactory. They were, of course, open to criticism, but it was worth asking whether it would not be better to make the Agency's system more satisfactory rather than setting up entirely new and additional safeguards systems on a bilateral basis.

52. In his view, a survey should be carried out within the Agency of the various elements that should be subjected to safeguards requirements in order to determine the basic facts to be incorporated in an optimal safeguards system. NPT provided the Agency with a large-scale concept, and attempts would be made to strengthen it further. That could only be done through multilateral arrangements; otherwise there would be a risk of going back to the era of bilateralism.

53. Indeed, the real weakness of the existing system was not in the safeguards system as such, but in the fact that too many countries were keeping themselves outside any safeguards whatsoever or had accepted the application of safeguards only in a very limited way. As an international agency, the Agency had the status of a civil servant who had to fulfil statutory functions. One of those functions, of course, was to administer safeguards where asked to do so. If that was the Agency's role, then it had but limited possibilities for action in getting more general acceptance of international safeguards.

54. The only existing international instrument which could be used as a basis for further development of the most complete and reliable safeguards system for the whole world and within the framework of the Agency was NPT. It had become evident at the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT Review

[6] INFCIRC/66/Rev.2.

Conference) [7] that even that instrument could and should be made more effective and, at the same time, more attractive to the countries still remaining outside it.

55. The NPT Review Conference had been not only a major event in the field of arms control and disarmament, but also an event with important consequences for the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy, and hence for the work of the Agency. In its Final Declaration the NPT Review Conference had reviewed Articles III, IV and V at length and, in so doing, had put forth a number of authoritative interpretations.

56. With respect to Article III, the NPT Review Conference had expressed its strong support for effective Agency safeguards and had urged that, in all achievable ways, common export requirements relating to those safeguards should be strengthened, in particular by extending the application of safeguards to all peaceful nuclear activities in the importing States not party to NPT. It had also urged that such common requirements should be accorded the widest possible measure of acceptance among all suppliers and recipients. His delegation was encouraged by the determined efforts under way in that direction.

57. In that connection, Finland had suggested that, in order to strengthen further the Agency's Safeguards System, States party to NPT should consider committing themselves not to import nuclear materials or special equipment from countries which were not party to NPT or which had not accepted NPT safeguards or which otherwise had shown that they acted as if they were not party to that Treaty. Finland believed that that suggestion was still worth serious consideration, and the Finnish delegation certainly intended to pursue it in an appropriate form.

58. In reviewing Article IV, the NPT Review Conference had reaffirmed the inalienable right of all States party to NPT to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with Articles I and II of NPT. It had also recognized that regional or multinational nuclear fuel cycle centres might be an advantageous way to satisfy the needs of many States in the course of initiating or expanding nuclear power programmes and had welcomed the Agency's studies in that area. Bearing in mind the rapidly increasing amounts of plutonium and radioactive waste, he wished to draw attention to the increasing needs to create universally acceptable rules for dealing with waste disposal problems.

59. Several studies and research projects were being carried out, but very little was being done in regard to the problems of liability that would

arise not only nationally but also - which was more important - internationally, in connection with waste disposal and transport. Taking into account the risks involved in the possible misuse of the huge amounts of radioactivity in such wastes, he believed that the scope of NPT should be enlarged to cover not only nuclear materials but also nuclear wastes.

60. Finland also supported the NPT Review Conference's interpretation of Article V, according to which any potential benefits accruing from PNEs could be made available to non-nuclear-weapon States party or not party to NPT by way of nuclear explosion services provided by nuclear-weapon States, as defined by NPT, and conducted under appropriate international observation and international procedures - under the auspices of the Agency - as called for in Article V, and in accordance with other applicable international obligations. It was imperative, however, that access to such benefits, whatever they might be, should under no circumstances lead to any proliferation of nuclear explosive capability.

61. Mr. ALLOTEY (Ghana) said it was a matter of considerable gratification to his delegation that the applications of Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and the United Republic of Tanzania for membership of the Agency had been approved.

62. He recalled that the Director General's statement [8] had included a survey of the Agency's activities, and he wanted to touch on a number of issues involved.

63. Since the previous regular session of the General Conference a number of international conferences had taken place including the NPT Review Conference. Ghana was proud to have played a meaningful role in that Conference, having already ratified NPT, but his delegation shared the fears of the Director General that certain non-nuclear-weapon States "had left the Conference with a feeling of frustration, wondering whether giving up the nuclear option made any sense in the present state of affairs"[9]. His delegation therefore hoped that international discussions on nuclear arms reductions and a total nuclear test ban would produce concrete results within a reasonable period of time. Referring to the International Centre for Theoretical Physics at Trieste (Trieste Centre), he recalled that in June his country had had the honour to host the meeting of the Advisory Group on Programmes for Nuclear Physics in Research in the Developing Countries, sponsored by the Agency and dealing with the problems of nuclear physics teaching and research in the developing countries of Africa, the region acknowledged as the least developed from the point of view of

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

[8] GC(XIX)/OR.176, paras 21-59.

[9] Ibid., para. 45.

nuclear physics programmes. His country was proud that it had been able to host the first international meeting of that kind in a developing country in Africa. Equally gratifying to his delegation was the work of the ad hoc consultative committee appointed by the Director General to draw up proposals for the activities of the Trieste Centre. In its report that committee had expressed great admiration "for the vision and courage of those who initiated the project for the International Centre for Theoretical Physics", and for the confidence and sustained interest of the sponsors namely the Agency, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the Italian Government. Thanks were also due to the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA), UNDP and the Ford Foundation for their generous support of the Centre. His delegation hoped nevertheless that a more stable way of funding the Centre could be found. His delegation was satisfied with the invaluable role that the Trieste Centre had been playing as a meeting place for scientists from the developing countries and their counterparts from the advanced countries. His delegation was also delighted that the duration of the sponsorship agreement between UNESCO and the Agency for the operation of the Trieste Centre had been extended for a further three-year period.

64. Ghana endorsed the current emphasis on technical assistance programmes for introducing nuclear power and technology into Member States. That emphasis called for corresponding attention in respect of safeguards, physical protection of nuclear materials, nuclear safety and environmental protection, and it was gratifying that the Agency had attached priority to those areas. The oil crisis had shown the need for developing countries to find alternative sources of power, and the report of the market survey conducted by the Agency in 1974 indicated the economic potential and attractiveness of nuclear power. The priority that the Agency was giving to the programme for introducing nuclear power into Member States was thus a move in the right direction. As a developing country gripped in the throes of the energy crisis Ghana would have to look to nuclear power and he hoped that the Agency would grant Ghana the necessary assistance when the time came.

65. The proposed target of \$5.5 million for voluntary contributions to the General Fund for 1976, which would be used to provide technical assistance, showed an appreciable increase over the figure for the current year, but in absolute terms the Agency was not responding adequately to the urgent demands from developing countries for vital assistance. His delegation therefore agreed with the Director General that it might be advisable to review the policy of technical assistance to take account of present realities and future forecasts. In that connection his delegation wished to reiterate its belief that technical assistance - like safeguards - should be funded, at least in part, by the Regular Budget and not entirely by voluntary pledges. To let the

vital needs of Member States depend on such uncertainties did not reflect the degree of concern his delegation had come to associate with the Agency's attitude to technical assistance.

66. One of the objectives of the Agency's technical assistance programme was to ensure that knowledge acquired through technical assistance continued to be applied on conclusion of the project. That not only required training of competent national staff but also their retention in the recipient countries to carry on where the assistance left off. Regional training programmes were a means of promoting staff training. In 1971 and again in 1974, with assistance from the Agency and UNDP, Ghana had been privileged to organize interregional training courses for laboratory technicians from English-speaking countries in Africa. The catalytic effect of those courses on staff training and development in the countries concerned would no doubt have an impact on the radioisotope applications programmes of the countries from which the participants were drawn. Ghana was grateful for the assistance received from the Agency and UNDP, which made it possible for those courses to be held and he hoped that the two organizations would also support future training courses in his country.

67. He recalled that in his statement the year before he had informed the General Conference of the active steps being taken by the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission to implement a government decision to reactivate the Ghana Nuclear Reactor Project.[10] His delegation appealed to the Agency to support that programme, especially by the provision of supplies and equipment and the award of fellowships. While the main objective of the Ghana Nuclear Reactor Project was to carry out scientific research on the reactor, the research programme of the Ghana Nuclear Centre would be biased towards applied research, which in turn would be geared to the developmental and economic needs of the country. At the same time it was hoped that the project would help to introduce nuclear power technology into the country and would strengthen the programme of applications of nuclear techniques. In line with his Government's policy of co-operation with other African countries the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission planned to foster collaboration with scientists from West Africa and indeed from all African countries in a joint endeavour to apply nuclear science and technology to the solution of problems of national development. To that end, the facilities available at the Kwabanya Nuclear Centre would be placed at the disposal of scientists from African countries for meaningful co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in research and development.

68. In conclusion, he wanted to place on record his delegation's great esteem for the Director

[10] GC(XVIII)/OR.173, para. 63.

General and its thanks to the Agency for responding to his country's requests for assistance.

69. Mr. TALABHAT (Thailand) said that his delegation would like to join in welcoming Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and the United Republic of Tanzania to membership of the Agency. It also welcomed the participation for the first time of the delegation of the Republic of South Viet-Nam. Those latest additions to the membership strengthened his country's conviction that the Agency could and did play an important role in the material advancement of the developing countries.

70. His delegation had studied the annual report (GC(XIX)/544 and Corr. 1) and listened to the Director General's opening statement with keen interest; the two together furnished a clear and concise account of the Agency's complex and wide-ranging activities up to the time the session had begun. The Director General and his staff were to be commended on their successful work.

71. Thailand, which had been an active Member since 1957, was greatly interested in all aspects of the Agency's work. As a developing country with only a moderate state of nuclear development, however, it was naturally more concerned with the areas of less complex technology, such as the application of isotopes and radiation in medicine, agriculture and environmental protection. In that regard, it was most encouraging to note the growing close collaboration between the Agency and the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). On the financial side, UNDP's steady assistance to the Agency through its increasing financial support was also to be borne in mind.

72. As a firm believer in regional co-operation, Thailand had been a party since 1972 to the Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology [11]. It was ready to continue its active participation in that worthwhile endeavour, in which the Agency had an important role.

73. During the past year, his country had been a keen participant in the study of various aspects of the use of PNEs, and it was pleased to note that the NPT Review Conference, in which it had also taken part, had designated the Agency as the appropriate international body for the purposes of Article V of NPT, thus giving added force to the earlier Board resolution providing for the establishment of an advisory group to study the subject in greater depth. Earlier in the year it had furnished an expert for a technical committee convened by the Agency to study recent developments in the peaceful uses of nuclear explosions. On the

other hand, his country did not support unconditional use of PNE, despite its vast potential in economic benefits and would not have resort to it at home without prior public consent. Furthermore, the costs involved in its use needed thorough study by an impartial and respected body such as the Agency.

74. His delegation welcomed the proposal made by the Director General in his opening address concerning steps to improve the Agency's safeguards activities. The action advocated would, inter alia, require full co-operation from both the recipient and the supplier States. His delegation likewise attached importance to the matter of the physical protection of nuclear material on which subject it was co-sponsoring a draft resolution for submission to the Committee of the Whole, aimed at improved procedures. [12]

75. His country had recently extended its interests to embrace also the possibilities offered by nuclear power for the production of energy. Given the fourfold increase in petrol prices, accompanied by the rapid growth in the demand for electricity in the country, plans were afoot for the building of Thailand's first nuclear power plant in the early 1980s. Bidding for its construction could start within the next two years. The establishment of a nuclear fuel cycle centre in the region would be complementary to the said construction.

76. In conclusion, he stressed the central role which the Agency played in assisting the developing countries in their nuclear programmes. That positive aspect had long been recognized by his country and, as in the past, it had therefore paid its full assessed contributions to both the Regular Budget and the General Fund at an early date.

77. Mr. PAK (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) congratulated Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and the United Republic of Tanzania on their admission to the Agency. The people of South Viet-Nam also deserved congratulations, since the representatives of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet-Nam were for the first time participating in the General Conference.

78. The past year had seen many countries achieve national independence and begin to strive for self-sustenance, prosperity and peace. That was an irresistible historical trend which could be supported significantly by the Agency, and which created favourable conditions for its work.

79. His country's independent national economy had been further consolidated and was rapidly developing. The industrial output of 1974 had been 57.5 times that of 1948, and great successes had been achieved in socialist cultural con-

[11] See documents INFCIRC/167 and Add. 2.

[12] GC(XIX)/COM. 5/2.

struction. Among other things, the Government of the Republic had paid much attention to the development of science and technology, with the result that progress had been made in the major tasks of technical revolution: to diminish the distinctions between heavy and light labour and between agricultural and industrial work and to free women from household chores.

80. Progress had also been made in the peaceful use of nuclear energy. His country had paid much attention to the use of nuclear techniques in solving the various problems of the national economy, and extensively used radiation and radioisotopes in industry, agriculture, medicine, biology, hydrology and construction, and also for scientific and technical management of production processes in the mining industry, metallurgy and the chemical industry.

81. In order to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Korean people were successfully carrying out the tasks of developing and consolidating the socialist system and accelerating the independence and peaceful reunification of their fatherland by bringing about the ideological, technical and cultural revolutions recommended by the Fifth Congress of the Workers' Party.

82. His Government had done everything in its power to promote national reunification during the past year in accordance with the three principles and the five-point policy of national reunification. In the General Assembly of the United Nations and elsewhere a number of countries had supported that policy of national reunification and helped to create favourable conditions for the reunification of Korea without foreign intervention.

83. His Government was grateful for that support from the socialist countries, the countries of the third world and the non-aligned countries, but considered it necessary to draw attention to the serious situation that was developing on the Korean peninsula, where the United States of America was the cause of increasing tension and the fundamental obstacle to the independence and peaceful reunification of Korea.

84. The United States of America was continuing its illegal introduction into South

Korea of modern weapons and military equipment including various kinds of atomic weapons and guided missiles and large numbers of other nuclear weapons. Many of those weapons were deployed near the military demarcation line bordering on North Korea and the ruling circles in the United States were increasingly threatening that they would use nuclear arms in Korea. Thus, on 25 June 1975, President Ford had said that the deterrent forces of the United States would be used flexibly in the interests of that country, while the Secretary of Defence of the United States had openly stated that he would not hesitate to use nuclear weapons in Korea.

85. The armies of the United States and South Korea frequently staged ostentatious war exercises, launching tactical nuclear weapons everywhere in South Korea, and constantly perpetrating acts of provocation consisting of missile launching exercises, even in the vicinity of the Demilitarized Zone. That state of affairs constituted the main obstacle to the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea. His Government therefore resolutely demanded that United States troops should withdraw from South Korea without delay, taking with them their lethal weapons, including the nuclear ones, so that the reunification of Korea could go ahead without any foreign interference.

86. He was confident that the Governments and peoples of the countries friendly to Korea would show deep concern at the violation of the Agency's Statute by the Government of the United States and at the serious situation created by that Government in Korea, and that they would firmly support his urgent demand.

87. The Agency still faced much work in promoting the peaceful use of nuclear power, though it had done a great deal already. It was now confronted with such tasks as the application of radioisotopes, radiological protection, nuclear power and reactors, safeguards, technical co-operation and training, and drawing up and supplementing a series of regulations, including technical regulations. He considered that the Agency should vigorously follow the 1975-80 programme in order to bring the great tasks confronting it to a successful conclusion. His Government approved of the annual report for 1974-75.

● The meeting rose at 1.5 p. m.