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PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Neue Hofburg, Vienna,  
on Tuesday, 19 September 1978, at 3.10 p.m.

President: Mr. MALU wa KALENGA (Zaire)

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The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document  
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## GENERAL DEBATE AND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1977 (continued)

1. Mr. BARABAS (Czechoslovakia) recalled that the Agency played a vital role in the maintenance of peace by furthering international détente and general disarmament. In that connection, he stressed the importance of the peace initiatives of the Soviet Union taken under the leadership of Mr. L.I. Brezhnev, General-Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and President of the Praesidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, in an effort to put an end to nuclear armaments, bring about disarmament, achieve détente, strengthen international security and ensure the independence of nations.
2. He referred to the proposals submitted to the United Nations by the Soviet Union in connection with the prohibition of new weapons of mass destruction, the convening of a world disarmament conference and a declaration on the intensification and reinforcement of international détente, and to the unequivocal stand taken by the representatives of the Soviet Union at the recent special session of the United Nations on disarmament. It was for those reasons that the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, along with the other peace-loving countries, laid emphasis on all the progressive aspects of the Agency's activity. Czechoslovakia's foreign policy was based on the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe and was opposed to anything which would tend to distort or degrade its meaning. His country would follow the same course in participating in the Agency's international activities.
3. It was in the content of the cause of détente that Czechoslovakia followed the development of the international situation and it condemned whatever was detrimental to that cause. All constructive trends should apply in the military domain as well so that détente could make even further progress. In a period of more than 20 years the Agency had become not only an instrument of scientific and technical development and co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy but also a guarantor of the efforts made in that direction.
4. The current year marked an epoch, for it was the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)<sup>1/</sup> by the United Nations. Recalling the basic provisions of NPT, he said his country was aware of the importance of that instrument and considered it essential that the Treaty should be made universal. Up to the present, 104 Governments, including three nuclear Powers (the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union and the United States)

had signed it but certain other nuclear Powers and countries which possessed or would soon possess the means of producing nuclear weapons still remained outside the Treaty. That situation was obviously a matter of concern to all forces of peace.

5. As for the Agency's immediate activities in the area of safeguards and control, there were grounds for criticism in connection with the safeguards agreement concluded with the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM), the implementation of which represented the most difficult task before the Secretariat. Czechoslovakia approved the changes which had been introduced in the Agency's activities in the safeguards sector and the measures adopted during the reorganization of the Department of Safeguards, including the creation of two Divisions of Operations and a Division of Safeguards Information Treatment; it also stressed the need to increase the staff of the safeguards evaluation section. Although it was true that problems still persisted and that after ten years not all countries had acceded to NPT, a system of international control without precedent had been established. The Agency's safeguards embraced nearly all countries which engaged in nuclear activities, and were applied to some 600 nuclear facilities. Still further progress needed to be made so that the way could be opened for solving the great problems facing the world of today.

6. The Agency was preparing a draft convention on the physical protection of nuclear material which should become a powerful weapon in the control of nuclear terrorism, which Czechoslovakia like other peace-loving countries unreservedly condemned. Such a convention deserved the support of the greatest possible number of countries.

7. At the International Conference on Nuclear Power and its Fuel Cycle, organized by the Agency at Salzburg in 1977, it had been shown that nuclear power, in spite of the current difficulties, was likely to be in the forefront of the energy programmes of the developed and developing countries because it alone could replace fossil fuels. For more than 20 years, the nuclear power stations now in operation had given proof of exceptional safety. The co-operative action organized by the Agency to solve the problems of safety, environmental protection and physical protection of nuclear material should therefore be intensified.

<sup>1/</sup> Reproduced in document INFCIRC/140.

8. Czechoslovakia welcomed the growth of the International Nuclear Information System (INIS) and the results it had achieved. It was pleased to note that 50 Member States and 13 international organizations were already participating in INIS and that the number of items processed, which was already 70 000 per annum, was continuing to increase.

9. His country was also interested in technical assistance and appreciated the Secretariat's work in that sphere. It was confident that the Secretariat would make the best use of the resources available to it. In that connection, he drew attention to the importance of the application of safeguards in connection with the provision of technical assistance, especially where the transfer of so-called sensitive technologies was concerned, for technical assistance should in no case result in proliferation.

10. His country was offering to act as host to two special meetings of the Agency in 1979; it also proposed to contribute 300 000 Czechoslovak crowns to the technical assistance fund, to make available five long-term fellowships in higher educational institutions, four annual fellowships for work at institutes of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences or other research institutes associated with the Czechoslovak nuclear programme and, also, to make additional funds available for the three annual fellowships provided through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

11. Mr. GARCÍA-LÓPEZ SANTAOLALLA (Mexico) said he had studied very carefully the annual report submitted by the Director General and wished to make the following observations.

12. The International Atomic Energy Agency continued to be the principal international authority dealing with matters of co-operation and control in the area of the peaceful application of nuclear energy. The Mexican Government therefore considered that the decision-making machinery of the Agency should always involve all Member States, as the decisions taken were of primary concern to them.

13. For that reason Mexico had proposed that the work of the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation (INFCE) be co-ordinated by the Agency, thereby acknowledging the great experience of the Secretariat in that area. The Mexican Government wished to take that opportunity to thank the Agency for its untiring efforts in connection with the INFCE programme. Mexico had

participated in three INFCE working groups and was following very closely and with great interest the progress being made. Mexico considered that, although the results and recommendations of that study might not involve any obligation on the part of the international community, many of the questions under study came within the Agency's province, so that the final reports of the various INFCE working groups could prove of great value for the Agency's future activities.

14. It could be seen from the annual report that the Agency had intensified its activities for the benefit of Member States as regards both co-operative ventures and safeguards. That had inevitably resulted in an appreciable increase in the contributions which Member States would have to make for 1979. The Mexican Government was aware that that increase was associated with the Agency's ambitious work programme and with monetary phenomena over which it had no control. Mexico was resolved to fulfil its obligations as soon as the Mexican Congress had given the approval required by law.

15. The Mexican delegation was gratified at the results achieved by the Agency in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and remained convinced that with a strong political will on the part of Member States it would be possible to accelerate economic and social development, particularly in the developing countries. In that connection he recalled that at the inaugural meeting of the fourth session of the World Food Council, held recently in Mexico, the President of Mexico had stressed the importance of seeking ways of deploying the resources made available by the application of disarmament measures for more worthy causes such as solving the world food problem. He also recalled the statement made by President Lopez Portillo on 17 May 1978, during his official visit to the Soviet Union, to the effect that the application of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (the Tlatelolco Treaty)<sup>2/</sup> should be extended to limiting conventional armaments in Latin America. Subsequently, Mr. Santiago Roel, the Mexican Minister of Foreign Affairs, had proposed to the Foreign Affairs Ministers of other Member States of the Organization of American States that negotiating machinery be established for agreeing on the limitation or prohibition of certain conventional weapons.

<sup>2/</sup> Reproduced in IAEA Legal Series No. 9 (STI/PUB/387).

16. He informed the General Conference that the objective laid down in the Tlatelolco Treaty was on the point of being attained, with the creation of the world's first denuclearized inhabited zone. When the Treaty had first been proposed, the majority of nations had regarded it as utopian and many were convinced of the impossibility of establishing such a denuclearized zone. Now, after 11 years, that objective was close to being attained and even exceeded, as the Organization for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (OPANAL) had initiated a study of machinery for promoting the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Thus OPANAL, by virtue of the experience it had acquired and the co-operation agreement it had concluded with the Agency, was destined to become an organization for regional planning and a Latin American information centre with the task of co-ordinating the efforts of and assisting Latin American countries wishing to carry out energy projects. Its function was not just to supervise the strict application of the prohibition of nuclear weapons provided for in the Tlatelolco Treaty but also to stimulate co-operation between all Latin American States in regard to the transfer of peaceful nuclear technology on that continent.

17. That spirit had led the General Conference of OPANAL, at its fifth regular session, to adopt unanimously a draft resolution calling on its Secretary General to propose concrete measures for launching a programme of co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and requesting members to supply the information necessary for compiling an inventory of requirements.

18. The Mexican Government, within the framework of negotiations aimed at achieving general and complete disarmament under international control, commencing with nuclear disarmament, supported the principle of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons as one of the most effective measures for achieving that objective. To that end Mexico based its position on three international instruments: the Statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America.

19. Mexico was willing to participate in negotiating procedures for strengthening safeguards machinery and to renounce any possibility of carrying out nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes, provided that such renunciation were part of a global agreement involving a complete ban on any type of nuclear test.

20. The Tlatelolco Treaty should serve to ensure that the measures required to bring about the development of nuclear energy in the region were adopted through the establishment of complete sub-regional cycles or by means of special agreements. All the same, each country should continue to develop its own peaceful nuclear technology. That objective would only be attainable, however, once a clear policy for the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy had been laid down.

21. The Government of Mexico had already informed the Secretary-General of the United Nations that it supported the convening, under the auspices of the United Nations system, of one or several international conferences concerned with promoting international co-operation in the peaceful application of nuclear energy in accordance with the objectives of Resolution 32/50, approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 8 December 1977. In that connection, the Mexican Government had proposed that, before such conferences were convened, a working group comprised of representatives of a certain number of Member States of the Agency, selected on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, be set up. That group would be given the responsibility of preparing a draft convention on the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy for economic and social development which would be submitted for examination and approval by the General Assembly.

22. In conclusion he said that one of the objectives of Mexico's foreign policy was to render support to international organizations. He pledged his Government's continued support for the International Atomic Energy Agency in the belief that, acting in concert with other organizations, it would perform even better the tasks for which it had been set up.

23. Mr. NORD (Norway) called attention to the work on nuclear energy in Norway, which had started 30 years earlier, and had to do mainly with the OECD reactor at Halden. That project, which had been made possible by continued international support, had been a fertile source of information on fuel utilization and management and had provided a basis for improving the surveillance and control of reactor operations. Norway had had early access to irradiation and isotope techniques and had been able to contribute to progress in neutron physics.

24. In the past, Norway had covered a large part of its energy requirements by drawing on its own traditional resources. Oil from the continental shelf in the North Sea had brought about a further improvement and, thus far, his country had had no need of nuclear energy. In spite of the country's abundant water resources, thermal power could offer certain economic advantages and, at the request of the National Assembly, his Government had in 1976 appointed a committee to carry out a general study on the question of nuclear energy. The committee had already drafted its report, which would probably be submitted to the National Assembly at the beginning of October 1978 to serve as the basis for a debate on the possible introduction of nuclear energy in Norway in the eighties.

25. His country was more concerned with the Agency's regulatory functions than with its promotional activities. Norway considered that the Agency should be provided with all the means necessary to accomplish its safeguards tasks; it realized, however, that the regulatory and promotional activities had to be hamonized.

26. The Norwegian delegation noted with satisfaction that several safeguards agreements, including that between the Agency, EURATOM and the United Kingdom, had entered into force, and that an Agreement between the Agency, EURATOM and France had been concluded. He reiterated the hope that the safeguards agreement between the Agency, EURATOM and the non-nuclear-weapon States Members of EURATOM would become fully implemented during the current year. He sincerely hoped that the Agency would have adequate resources at its disposal to ensure the strict application of safeguards, in spite of the increase in work-load, and the engagement of properly qualified inspectors.

27. With reference to budgetary matters, he said he shared the misgivings of other delegates in regard to the budget increase, although the 1979 budget was an exceptional one because of inflation, the declining dollar, and the extra expenses in connection with the move of Headquarters, in addition to the increase in the volume of safeguards work. Taking all those things into account, the Norwegian Government was ready to support the budget proposals for 1979.

28. In conclusion, he wished to emphasize his country's interest in the Agency's activities relating to nuclear safety and environmental protection, and especially the drafting of codes of practice and safety manuals, and in the work of INIS. Norway also hoped that the Agency would establish an international system for the management and storage of plutonium and possibly of spent fuel, and that it would consider the possible revision when appropriate of its recommendations regarding the dumping of radioactive waste in the sea. Norway also had a keen interest in the elaboration of a convention on the physical protection of nuclear materials and in the results of INFCE.

29. Mr. OSZTROVSZKI (Hungary) said that the main objectives of his country's foreign policy were: the strengthening of peace and security throughout the world, and the maintenance of international détente to help reinforce European safety, expand international co-operation and contribute to the success of the Agency's activities. The Hungarian Government was therefore co-operating with all countries working on behalf of détente; similarly, it was opposed to any action which could threaten détente. Peaceful co-existence and détente were in its eyes the only means of preserving world peace.

30. Hungary hoped that the special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations had given new impetus to the disarmament negotiations. His country would continue to support the extension of NPT and the strengthening of the Agency's safeguards system. It was following with interest the three-Power talks on the complete cessation of nuclear weapons testing. It also supported the proposal of the Soviet Union to include on the agenda of the regular session of the General Assembly of the United Nations an item relating to an international convention on the strengthening of guarantees for the safety of non-nuclear-weapon States. In his country's opinion it was becoming increasingly

important to draft an international agreement prohibiting the development and manufacture of new types of weapons, and Hungary also thought that neutron weapons should be prohibited.

31. The Hungarian delegation was satisfied with the contents of the Agency's annual report for 1977. It believed that the programme for 1979-80 took due account of the needs of Member States and would contribute to the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

32. Scientific and technical co-operation was a very important field of activity. The previous year, the Agency had contributed to that co-operation by organizing the Salzburg Conference, the conclusions of which were to the effect that the satisfaction of mankind's future needs depended on the utilization of atomic energy. The Conference had drawn attention to those problems - primarily in the nuclear fuel cycle and radioactive waste disposal areas - in the solution of which the Agency had an important part to play.

33. In view of the success of the Salzburg Conference, Hungary recommended that the organization of conferences on the peaceful utilization of atomic energy which were convened by a decision of the General Assembly of the United Nations should be entrusted to the Agency. As a first step, such a conference should, if possible, be held in Vienna, the seat of the Agency's Headquarters.

34. The Agency's technical assistance programme was making a decisive contribution to the development of nuclear technology in individual countries; Hungary supported the Agency's technical assistance activities and would make a voluntary contribution of one million forints to the General Fund. His country was satisfied with the use made by the Agency of the Type II fellowships placed at its disposal.

35. The Hungarian delegation supported the idea of long-term projects, which should make it possible to provide technical assistance for operations on a broad scale. The Secretariat was to be complimented on the work it had done in that connection.

36. In Hungary's view, there was no incompatibility between technical assistance and the regime instituted by the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), i.e. the Agency's efforts to ensure that the assistance it gave

was used for peaceful purposes. For that reason, States party to NPT should enjoy priority in the granting of technical assistance.

37. The Agency had a decisive role to play in preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons and in strengthening international control in that area. Hungary hoped that the NPT would become universal in application.

38. Delays in the application of the safeguards agreement concluded with the EURATOM countries were damaging to international co-operation and, in fact, to the Agency's authority. Hungary believed that a single safeguards system should apply to all non-nuclear-weapon States.

39. A prerequisite for the satisfactory implementation of safeguards and granting of technical assistance was the availability of adequate budgetary resources and their rational employment. In that connection, Hungary was deeply dismayed at the serious damage done to the Agency by the depreciation of certain currencies. The Agency was constantly having to revise its budget allocations and that made it difficult for Member States to evaluate the new budget. Nevertheless, Hungary accepted all the obligations resulting from that budget. It did not think the Agency's difficulties could be overcome by modifying the method of constituting the different funds and was in favour of the current system being maintained.

40. Hungary thought that, with its existing composition, the Board of Governors guaranteed proper representation of the different geographic areas and that there was no reason to modify the Statute in that connection.

41. The Hungarian delegation regarded the Agency's co-operation with the United Nations, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization as highly useful and fruitful. Its co-operation with the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) was just as important. A report issued by the CMEA Secretariat had drawn attention to the results of co-operation between socialist countries in the peaceful uses of atomic energy. CMEA's long-term programmes were a guarantee of optimum conditions for the development of nuclear energy.

42. Hungary, too, had achieved much in the peaceful applications of atomic energy. Construction of the first nuclear power station at Paks on the Danube was proceeding apace. A new centre for the storage of radioactive waste

had been put into operation during the current year and the participants in a study tour organized by the Agency would be visiting it shortly. A facility for the radiation sterilization of medical products and equipment had also been put into service.

43. Many Hungarian research institutes were working under contract with the Agency, especially on questions of agricultural interest to developing countries. For example, a new, improved variety of rice had just been developed in Hungary. A course on the applications of neutron generators had just been completed; it had attracted participants from all parts of the world.

44. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that the work of the 22nd regular session would prove fruitful.

45. Mr. CARTER (Canada), referring to the special session which the United Nations Organization had devoted to disarmament, said his country believed that a consensus had been reached on a positive programme of action and that the special session had marked a step forward in the international effort to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, both horizontal and vertical. The Canadian Government was convinced that a further spread of nuclear weapons would seriously diminish world security and that it was the duty of all Governments to pursue policies based on the presumption that proliferation could be stopped. He hoped the international community would continue to support the Agency's efforts in that direction.

46. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons remained the main instrument by which the international community confirmed its commitment to oppose the proliferation of nuclear weapons and to share the benefits of the peaceful applications of nuclear energy. The number of States which had signed NPT and concluded safeguards agreements with the Agency was increasing. For its part, Canada adhered firmly to the two principles which had inspired the Treaty and on which the Agency's Statute was based. Nuclear energy, which was likely to play an important part in helping more and more countries to meet their increasing needs for energy, was the product of an ever-evolving technology. It was essential that the world community should realize that fact and ensure that nuclear technology was applied in the service of peace, health and prosperity throughout the world and that it was not employed for military purposes.

47. Those were the considerations which had led Canada to take an active part in the work of INFCE, which had started in Washington in November 1977. The task of INFCE was to make an evaluation of the various nuclear fuel cycle technologies and of their associated proliferation risks. The evaluation would be useful both to countries which had already decided to produce nuclear energy and to those which were considering the possibility of doing so.

48. However, the development of nuclear techniques had to go hand-in-hand with the development of safeguards techniques, since the Agency had to apply safeguards to installations which were increasing not only in number but also in complexity, and which required new safeguards methods. The Agency therefore had to assume greater responsibilities than in the past and consequently needed additional resources. It would be able to accomplish its mission only if it enjoyed the support of all Member States. It could be assured of the support of Canada.

49. He noted with satisfaction that the Federal Republic of Germany was making a substantial contribution for research and development in safeguards technology. Since the United States of America and Canada were also working in that area in collaboration with the Agency, the latter would be better able to carry out its tasks.

50. Canada had participated in the Agency's promotional activities by sending many of its specialists to meetings of technical committees and advisory groups and to symposia organized by the Agency. It had participated in the technical assistance programme and in the discussions relating to the guiding principles and general operating rules of that programme.

51. The Agency's budget for 1979 represented a considerable increase over that for 1978. Since many countries - including Canada - were following a policy of fiscal restraint, the Agency's budget for 1980 would have to be carefully scrutinized from the point of view of the selection of priority activities, since the proposed increase for 1979 should not be allowed to become a regular event. Canada would continue to support the Agency in its essential programmes, but the Agency, on its side, would have to set priorities if the current financial difficulties persisted.

52. Recently, Canada had negotiated, or renegotiated, bilateral safeguards agreements and nuclear co-operation agreements with more comprehensive safeguards provisions. His country recognized, however, that there were limits to the contribution that unilateral action could make, and that the real solution was to be found in international collaboration. The Canadian Government proposed to do its utmost to help in working out supply assurances and constraints as part of an international system of non-proliferation. His country would continue to participate in INFCE and to give its full support to Agency activities.

53. Mr. de CARVALHO (Brazil) reminded the delegates that world petroleum and gas reserves would soon be exhausted - a circumstance which had led the international scientific and technological community to look into alternative energy sources. Such sources would have to be developed before the end of the century; and, in order to ensure a smooth transition, vigorous efforts towards international co-operation would have to be made. Of the various new sources of energy, nuclear energy had the advantage of being practically inexhaustible; a decisive choice in its favour should therefore be made now.

54. In addition to the energy crisis which confronted many States, there was a growing technological gap between developed and developing countries. Only international collaboration would enable them to close that gap; the International Atomic Energy Agency had a major task especially in that connection.

55. The Agency's two main tasks were the provision of technical assistance and the implementation of safeguards. The two types of activity were not, however, of equal interest to all countries. Although the developing countries wholeheartedly supported the Agency's safeguards programme, they felt that technical assistance was essential to them if they were to emerge from their present status of consumers of advanced technology supplied by the industrialized nations. The latter, on the other hand, laid stress on the Agency's safeguards activities and were less concerned with the supply of technical assistance. He endorsed the Director General's appeal to all Member States to increase their voluntary contributions to the technical assistance programme.

56. As part of the programme, the Agency had, since 1975, been organizing nuclear power project training courses which the Brazilian Government deemed extremely useful for all developing countries. By the end of the current year, 530 participants from some 36 countries in that category would have attended them. Brazil was pleased to note the expansion of Agency activities in that field and the fact that they had become a main component of the Agency's training programme. The Agency should continue its efforts on those lines, since the organizing of such courses was a measure of its readiness to respond to Member States' requirements.

57. A sector in which the Agency's assistance would be the most effective was that of uranium resources availability. Any country having a nuclear power programme must in the first place assess its uranium resources in order to determine whether it was self-sufficient in them or would have to import fuel. Because of the energy crisis, prospecting had been stepped up in all regions of the world. The developing countries were where most of the zones not hitherto prospected were located, and it was in them that a large part of the future reserves were sure to be found. For the past two years, the Agency had been receiving a growing number of requests for technical assistance in uranium exploration and production. It was indeed providing some assistance in that field - largely thanks to substantial funds made available through UNDP. However, it had still not given due attention to the importance of uranium prospecting, despite that activity's place in the nuclear power programmes of most Member States - a point to which he wished to draw the Secretariat's attention.

58. He congratulated the Deputy Director General for Technical Assistance and Publications on the clear and precise information given in the report on the provision of technical assistance for 1977. In order better to implement that programme, Brazil, as soon as the relevant proposal had been put to it, had appointed an officer for liaison between the Agency and the Brazilian Nuclear Energy Commission in matters relating to technical assistance.

59. Brazil was very optimistic about its own uranium resources, since its vast territory contained highly favourable geological features and a wide variety of uraniumiferous rocks. The Government had launched a prospecting programme, for which it had earmarked over \$10 million per annum. Many experts, including 140 geologists, had been assigned to the programme. In 1977 Brazil's assured reserves amounted to 32 300 tons; the amount of inferred reserves was even greater.

60. Brazil congratulated the Agency on the establishment of codes of practice and safety guides. They were the outcome of experience acquired in the various fields reviewed and were drafted in such a way as to be directly applicable by Member States; moreover, they would greatly enhance the transfer of technology from the industrialized nations to the developing countries.

61. With regard to power generation, Brazil was steadily improving its technology, despite the effects of world inflation, the oil shortage and the particularly unfavourable weather conditions of the current year. Energy demand was growing at the rate of some 12.5% per year; electricity generation in 1978 had amounted to 110 000 million kWh, representing almost one half of the figure for Latin America. Brazil had an installed power-generating capacity of 25 000 MW(e), which would be almost tripled when the power plants currently under construction had been completed. At the present rate of development, the country's total installed capacity should far exceed 200 000 MW(e) by the year 2000.

62. Since Brazil's total hydroelectric potential did not exceed 170 000 MW(e), recourse to other energy sources was essential. Electricity generation from fossil fuels was unlikely to continue for long; priority, therefore, clearly had to be given to nuclear energy, first of all in the South-East Region, where the hydroelectricity resources were already almost fully exploited, and next in the North-East. To begin with, the nuclear plants would provide only a complementary source of power; from 1990 onward, however, they would account for the major part of Brazil's electricity output. The country's first nuclear plant, built at Angra dos Reis was due to go into service in 1979, to be followed by two further units - the result of remarkable co-operation between Brazil and the Federal Republic of Germany which had led to a transfer of technology in such fields as nuclear engineering and the fuel cycle.

63. Under the circumstances, he fully agreed with the Director General that the rise of an anti-nuclear movement was to be deplored, that the question of non-proliferation should be seen in its true perspective and that a way should be found to reconcile the requirements of the regulatory bodies in respect of plant operational safety and those of operators, whose task was to produce electricity. Finally, he thanked the countries which had assisted Brazil through the Agency,

and expressed his conviction that the latter would continue to fulfil its role of promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy whilst preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

64. Mr. PRIBIČEVIĆ (Yugoslavia) said that during the previous year the Agency had succeeded, in spite of difficulties, in carrying out its statutory obligations to the benefit of all Member States. The efforts of the Director General should be especially commended; in his excellent speech he had given an extremely valuable analysis of the situation and his conclusions were fully approved by the Yugoslav delegation.

65. It was noticeable that certain nuclear-weapon States were imposing restrictions on the transfer of nuclear technology by invoking the increasing danger of proliferation. At the same time, there was a tendency to over-emphasize the safeguards activities resulting from NPT to the detriment of the role the Agency could play in the transfer of technology. The failure of the nuclear Powers to carry out their obligations under NPT was to be deplored. In particular, no progress had been made towards nuclear disarmament. The situation was causing strong reactions against the development of nuclear energy, especially in countries whose progress was tied to this type of energy production. At its thirty-second session, the General Assembly of the United Nations had adopted by consensus a resolution insisting on the right of all countries, without discrimination, to have free access to nuclear technology and materials under a truly democratic international safeguards system. Certain nuclear Powers were fortunately ready to place their peaceful nuclear facilities under the Agency's safeguards; it was to be hoped that all nuclear-weapon countries would follow that example.

66. The resolution also invited United Nations Members to examine the possibility of convening one or more conferences to promote international co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy. The United Nations special session on disarmament had rejected attempts to apply disarmament measures in a way which might limit the right of countries to develop and to acquire nuclear technology. The non-aligned countries which met in Belgrade in July 1978 gave special attention to the problem of atomic energy. They deplored the monopolistic policies of the nuclear powers and insisted that the transfer of nuclear technology should be free from all discrimination. They supported the idea of convening an international conference on the peaceful uses of atomic energy. The Yugoslav Government believed that the problems related to the use of nuclear

energy in general and to safeguards in particular could only be resolved by political means. It was clear that the results from scientific meetings could be very useful in providing the technical data necessary for arriving at political solutions.

67. The Agency could play an extremely important role by studying various aspects of the needs of developing countries in the nuclear field, such as for example the possibility of pooling their resources. It was essential to resolve international problems related to nuclear energy. Yugoslavia itself would require an installed nuclear capacity of about 12 000 MW by the year 2000 to complement its other energy sources. International regulations and stability in the nuclear field were needed if such a programme was to be realized.

68. Several items on the agenda for the session could be profitably examined only in an atmosphere of understanding and co-operation. In particular, that was true of the Agency's programme for 1979-84 and the budget for 1979. The document containing the six-year programme, although of outstanding quality, did not provide the expected solutions to the problem of accelerating the transfer of nuclear technology. A further example was the budget for 1979, which although much larger than that for the previous year did not give priority to the needs of the developing countries. Technical assistance related to the development of resources and the fuel cycle ought to receive greater financial support. It was high time for technical assistance to be provided by a long-term method of financing which did not depend on voluntary contributions. Moreover, Yugoslavia was firmly opposed to the idea that technical assistance should be limited to NPT countries because that would be a form of discrimination contrary to the provisions of the Agency's Statute.

69. With regard to the amendment of Article VI of the Statute, Yugoslavia had shown its unconditional support for the adaptation of the Agency's activities to the current needs of Member States and to the changing world situation.

70. The co-operation between the Agency and Yugoslavia had been particularly fruitful. Yugoslavia wished to strengthen that co-operation by giving the Agency unconditional support in all its activities related to the rapid development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

71. Mr. FELICKI (Poland) said that the coming twenty years would see a rapid development of nuclear energy even in countries which did not yet possess nuclear plants. If the worldwide demand for energy and the needs of the world population in the year 2000 were to be met, energy production would have to be increased through the construction of many different types of power plant. However, there was a fear among nations that tons of plutonium and enriched uranium might accumulate and might be used to manufacture weapons of mass destruction.

72. It was an essential task of the Agency to protect humanity against that threat by implementing an efficient system for preventing proliferation of nuclear weapons. The Polish delegation was very satisfied with the results obtained by the Agency in setting up a safeguards system based on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), but it regretted the fact that several States which possessed a significant nuclear potential had not shown any intention of acceding to NPT. The Polish Government approved the conclusions in the final document from the special session of the United Nations on disarmament relating to the ways and means of reducing to a minimum the danger of nuclear weapons proliferation. All States had the right of access to nuclear technology, equipment and materials for peaceful purposes but collaboration in that field should be subject to the Agency's safeguards. The Agency should intensify its efforts to make NPT universal and to improve its safeguards and control system. In that endeavour, it could count on the support of Poland.

73. The Polish Government was following with great interest the negotiations on the establishment of effective controls in the non-nuclear-weapon States Members of EURATOM. It was disturbed at seeing those negotiations being prolonged as a result of certain difficulties and appealed to EURATOM and its Member States to remove the obstacles in the way of full implementation of an Agency control system since that was very important for security and co-operation in Europe.

74. Poland supported the initiative taken by the Agency with a view to the establishment of an international plutonium handling system. The subject should be included in the agenda of the next NPT Review Conference.

75. The Polish delegation appreciated, in particular, the Agency programmes for preparing codes on the operation of nuclear power stations. The documents already produced would assist those countries which, like Poland, were beginning to construct such plants.

76. Beginning with 1979, the Agency might usefully undertake research into methods of neutralizing radioactive waste. Poland would take an active part in such a programme.

77. For many years, Poland had supported the Agency's technical assistance programme. In 1979, it would contribute a total of 2.5 million zlotys to the technical assistance fund, but the Secretariat should try to make it easier for contributions in local currencies to be utilized. The industrial potential of Poland was such that the sums contributed could be used to purchase equipment which would be of value to countries which were carrying out research on the applications of atomic energy.

78. The Agency could have recourse in a number of areas to the considerable experience acquired by the socialist countries in their attempts to find collective solutions to many scientific, technological and economic problems, including the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes. In that connection, the co-operation between the Agency, the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance and the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research should be increased.

79. With regard to the Regular Budget for 1979, the Polish delegation believed that a permanent analysis of the indirect costs should be undertaken and that all possible savings which could be made without detriment to the basic programmes should be introduced.

80. An analysis of the Agency's activities during the previous year showed that there had been satisfactory development. Gratitude was due to the Director General and to the Secretariat for the efforts they had made to carry out their difficult tasks. For its part, Poland would maintain its support to the Agency, which was playing an important role in international co-operation and the maintenance of world peace.

81. Mr. NEMETS (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that in the world situation there had been positive changes which to a large extent were the result of the peace-loving foreign policy of the socialist States and of all the progressive forces in the world. However, the most urgent problem remained, namely that of stopping the arms race which, fuelled by the forces of reaction and imperialism, was swallowing up enormous material resources and was creating terrible means of mass destruction.

82. Mr. L.I. Brezhnev, General-Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party and President of the Praesidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, had said that it was time to realize that the arms race would not benefit anyone, that it had to be stopped and that steps should be taken towards disarmament. The special session on disarmament of the General Assembly of the United Nations had been an important move in that direction. At that session the Soviet Union had put forward a large number of constructive and concrete proposals covering all the main aspects of disarmament. The points relating to the Agency's functions were of particular interest to the General Conference; they concerned mainly the efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The Soviet Union's proposals had found wide support at the special session of the General Assembly and had been reflected in its final act.

83. Ten years had elapsed since the Non-Proliferation Treaty had been opened for signature. In that relatively brief period, the cause of non-proliferation had made much progress.

84. The desire to prevent any further proliferation of nuclear weapons had influenced policy governing the export of nuclear technology. Transfers of equipment, facilities and technology had generally become subject to conditions and 15 Member States of the Agency had adopted guidelines reflecting certain agreed minimum conditions.

85. In 1977 the safeguards agreements concluded with EURATOM and Japan under NPT had come into force. By the end of that year 102 States, including three nuclear-weapon States and almost all the large industrial countries in the world had become parties to the Treaty. The Ukraine regretted, however, that NPT was not universally applied and that two nuclear powers, the People's Republic of China and France, had not signed it. In addition, certain non-nuclear-weapon States which were capable of making their own nuclear weapons by reason of their industrial development had not acceded to it.

86. As had been pointed out by Mr. Brezhnev, the proliferation of nuclear weapons would not increase the security of any country; on the contrary, it increased the threat of a nuclear conflict from which no "nuclear umbrella" would provide protection. For that reason steps should be taken towards a universal solution of the problem.

87. His delegation believed that nuclear weapons would be particularly dangerous in the hands of States situated in areas of conflict and tension. For that reason the plans of the Republic of South Africa and of Israel to develop nuclear weapons were worrying. The realization of those plans must not be permitted because that would increase the nuclear threat for the whole of humanity.

88. In the context of non-proliferation, it was important to guarantee the security of non-nuclear-weapon States. To that end the Soviet Union had announced at the special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations that it would never use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States which renounced the production and acquisition of nuclear weapons and did not have such weapons on their territories.

89. The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones could also contribute to the reinforcement of the non-proliferation system. In that context the Soviet Union had signed Additional Protocol II of the Tlatelolco Treaty.

90. In view of current scientific and technical trends there was hardly any alternative to the intensive development of nuclear energy. According to data of the Agency, 206 nuclear installations, representing 5.3% of the installed electricity generating capacity in the world, had been in operation at the end of the previous year. By 1980 the contribution of nuclear energy would reach 8%. The development of nuclear power in non-nuclear-weapon States and the mastery of nuclear technology by those States also involved a risk of the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The quantity of plutonium that had accumulated in non-nuclear-weapon States could already be measured in tonnes.

91. The main function of the Agency was therefore to set up an effective system for safeguarding all non-military nuclear activities. As pointed out in the final act of the special session on disarmament of the General Assembly of the United Nations, international co-operation on peaceful applications of nuclear energy should be backed up by international safeguarding measures.

92. The Agency should pay special attention to the implementation of the safeguards agreement concluded with the seven non-nuclear-weapon EURATOM countries. Eighteen months after that agreement had entered into force, EURATOM was still trying, by using delaying tactics, to reduce the Agency's control over EURATOM facilities. In addition the European Community was constantly attacking the fundamental principle of the Agency's safeguards system, namely, the right to independent verification. The Ukraine was deeply disturbed by the content of the report by the Commission of the European Communities on the operation of the Common Market in 1977, according to which eight agreements had been signed for deliveries of some 1400 kilograms of plutonium produced in Community countries. The report did not contain any additional information and the Commission had refused to give any explanations on the pretext that confidential commercial information was involved. In the opinion of the Ukraine that situation was totally unacceptable and it was essential for the negotiations between the Agency and EURATOM to be concluded as quickly as possible.

93. Many countries, and particularly the socialist States, had on several occasions put forward proposals for strengthening safeguards which involved the following: extending the Agency's regulatory functions to all nuclear installations and not only to materials delivered to non-nuclear-weapon States under bilateral agreements; improving safeguards instrumentation; carrying out more detailed inspections; and considering the establishment of regional fuel cycle centres. In order to prevent international co-operation from contributing to the proliferation of nuclear weapons it was also very important to ensure the physical protection of nuclear materials.

94. He said that, in accordance with the established tradition of Conference general debates, he would describe the main results of his country's work on the utilization of atomic energy for peaceful purposes. The wide range of fundamental and applied research done in the Ukraine included, in particular, work on nuclear power and on the application of ionizing radiation. Great progress had been made during 1977 and in September of that year the first unit of the Chernobyl'sk nuclear power station, which had meanwhile reached its nominal capacity of one million kW, had been put into service. Preparations for putting the second unit into service were making good progress and other power stations were being constructed. During the period 1980-1985 the total installed capacity of Ukrainian nuclear power stations would reach 4-6 million kW and that figure was expected to double during the following five years.

The Ukraine was also planning to construct nuclear plants for urban heating and for providing industrial process heat during the 1980s. Those facts demonstrated the implementation of the programme for development of the nuclear power industry, which had priority in the Ukraine.

95. Scientific research occupied an important place in that regard. The work done related mainly to the safety of power station operation, to new component fabrication techniques and to the scientific and technical principles involved in the construction of fast-breeder reactors. As part of that work, close attention was being paid to studies of the effect exerted by nuclear power stations on the environment and to environmental protection. A large amount of work had been done on nuclear physics; for those studies use was being made of one of the largest isochronous cyclotrons in Europe, a research reactor and various types of accelerators.

96. In various subjects research involved more and more uses of ionizing radiation and the results obtained were used extensively and profitably in the national economy. Radiation devices of all types were used in numerous branches of industry, where they made the mechanization or automation of many labour-intensive operations possible. The use of ionizing radiation sources in medicine and agriculture was also developing continuously.

97. The Ukraine welcomed the developments which had taken place in scientific and technical relations with the Agency. In 1977 an Agency meeting of experts and an Agency advisory group meeting had taken place in Kiev. The Ukraine was also taking part in the exchange of scientific and technical information with the Agency, particularly in connection with the INIS system and on the subject of nuclear constants. Several Ukrainian research centres were working under contract for the Agency.

98. Recently, a group of specialists from developing countries had visited the Ukraine on a study tour concerned with the uses of isotopes and radiation in medicine. Another tour, on agricultural applications of nuclear techniques, would be organized in October. Before the end of the year the Agency would organize, in Crimea, a training course on national systems of nuclear materials accounting and control. The Ukraine would do its best to contribute to the success of the course.

99. Such study tours and courses were organized in the framework of technical assistance and were financed by voluntary contributions from the Ukraine. His country was willing to continue that form of assistance to developing countries. He wished to mention in that connection the importance of voluntary contributions made by Member States in their national currencies, a system which made it possible for the host country to organize the assistance required quickly and to make full use of the contribution, independently of fluctuations in exchange rates on the world market. Tentative calculations showed that the two study tours and the course which he had mentioned would absorb the Ukraine's voluntary contributions for two years.

100. His country would pay a voluntary contribution of 80 000 roubles in national currency to the Agency's General Fund for technical assistance in 1979. Those funds could be used for the purchase of Soviet equipment, for the provision of assistance to developing countries, with priority being given to countries which had signed NPT, and for the organization of courses and study tours in the Ukraine in the context of technical assistance.

101. Mr. SACADURA CABRAL (Portugal) observed that with the 22nd session of the General Conference his country was completing its term as a Member of the Agency's Board of Governors. It had attached a special importance to its election to the Board because it had practically been excluded from international organizations before its return to parliamentary democracy. It had returned to the international scene with the firm intention of making up for lost time and of participating fully in the work of the governing bodies of international organizations. It had therefore endeavoured, as a Member of the Board, to strengthen its relations with the Agency in the areas of technical assistance and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

102. The Agency's activities in uranium prospecting, production of uranium concentrates, nuclear safety, production and application of isotopes and use of ionizing radiation had greatly benefited Portugal. Moreover, in order to collaborate with the Agency in an effort to control the proliferation of nuclear weapons and to strengthen peace and security in the world, his country had signed NPT and also a safeguards agreement with the Agency under that Treaty. The subsidiary arrangements which must follow that agreement were under negotiation.

103. Portugal's participation in the work of the Board had resulted in more fruitful and closer relations between its experts and the experts of the Agency. His country had only small reserves of low-quality coal, and oil prospecting had so far proved unsuccessful. It therefore had to depend on oil and coal imports and on its hydroelectric resources, more than 55% of which had already been developed and which generated amounts of electricity varying from year to year. Nuclear energy therefore represented the only means by which Portugal could attain a level of economic development comparable with that of other European countries and diversify its sources of energy. The feasibility studies carried out in the preceding decade had led to the conclusion that the first nuclear power plant could be commissioned in the early eighties. However, for various reasons the competent authorities had been compelled to postpone its construction, and hence the delay in the drafting of a national nuclear power plan and in the training of the necessary personnel. The matter had been referred to Parliament, which would shortly have before it a white paper on nuclear power plants. No decision would be taken before early 1979. If Portugal took the nuclear option, it would no doubt have to make an unprecedented economic and technical effort, but on that depended its future.

104. Meanwhile, Portugal had recently reorganized its nuclear activities in the public sector, which had formerly been concentrated in the Nuclear Energy Board, by distributing those activities among several bodies. For example, the Directorate General of Mining had been made responsible for uranium prospecting. A Government-owned company had been established for the mining and chemical processing of uranium ores. Laboratory activities, including the production of radioisotopes, protection against ionizing radiation and nuclear sciences, had been entrusted to a national laboratory which was responsible for all research relating to industrial applications. Another body was in charge of the safety problems of nuclear power plants.

105. In conclusion, he pointed out that at present the Department of Nuclear Energy in the Ministry of Industry and Technology was co-ordinating all activities related to the industrial applications of nuclear energy, namely the management of uranium, the nuclear fuel cycle and power reactors, relations with international organizations, safeguards activities connected with nuclear materials and public information.

The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.