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RECORD OF THE TWO HUNDRED AND SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Neue Hofburg, Vienna,  
on Friday, 22 September 1978, at 10.10 a.m.

President: Mr. MALU wa KALENGA (Zaire)

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\*/ A provisional version of this document was issued on 2 October 1978.

\*\*/ GC(XXII)/605.

GENERAL DEBATE AND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1977 (GC(XXII)/597) (continued)

1. Mr. CHONG JONG-GYU (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that his delegation had carefully studied the documents submitted for consideration by the General Conference. Over the past year there had been progress in the Agency's activities; it had stepped up various aspects of its work on the utilization of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes on a broader basis and was promoting the application of radiation and radioisotopes in industry, agriculture and other areas. There had also been advances in the sphere of safeguards and technical assistance. In particular, there had been a major development in co-operation between his country and the Agency in the form of a safeguards agreement relating to a research reactor, and also closer ties between them in the field of technical assistance.

2. His delegation was satisfied as a whole with the Agency's programmes, but the substantial increases in the budget for 1979 were an indication that it was essential to make more effective use of the allocated funds. Over the past few years the appropriations for technical assistance had been out of all proportion to the funds assigned to safeguards. Hence, it was up to the Agency to strive for a more equitable balance between its promotional and regulatory functions. As far as safeguards were concerned, he believed there should be more effective inspection and control in areas of high nuclear potential and concentration of nuclear material.

3. A short while before the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had celebrated its 30th anniversary. Over the 30 years that had passed since the founding of the country, the people had achieved major victories in the sphere of politics, economics and culture. To mark the occasion, the people of his country had launched an active campaign to complete the national economic plan for the current year ahead of schedule, along with the first year of the new seven-year plan. Considerable progress had also been made in the field of atomic energy, and at the present time radiation and radioisotopes were being introduced into industry, agriculture and other branches of the national economy on a large scale. In order to broaden the scope of the country's activities in the nuclear field, great attention was being given to the training of qualified personnel.

4. He wished to point out that, despite his Government's efforts to reduce tension in Korea and bring about the peaceful unification of a divided country, the situation still existing in the Korean peninsula was a serious one and ran counter to the basic principles of the Agency governing the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

5. Two years before, the United States of America had promised to withdraw all its armed forces and their nuclear weapons from South Korea, but so far such had not been the case; just the reverse, the American armed forces were being increased and a large quantity of modern weapons of mass destruction, including the nuclear type, were being brought into South Korea. More than a thousand units representing different types of nuclear weapons were now deployed in South Korea. Such action on the part of the United States could only increase the tension in the Korean peninsula and constituted a threat to peace in Korea, Asia and the whole world.

6. To reduce the tension, maintain peace in the Korean peninsula and bring about the independent and peaceful unification of Korea, it was essential to withdraw all American forces, together with their nuclear weapons, from South Korea, put an end to foreign intervention in Korea's internal affairs and replace the truce agreement in Korea by a peace treaty.

7. In conclusion, he availed himself of the opportunity to wish the Agency continued success in its varied activities.

8. Mr. SAMANIEGO (Ecuador) said that his Government had approved the atomic energy development plan for Ecuador. A nuclear research centre was to be set up with a 1-3 MW research reactor and the laboratories and staff needed to produce medium- and short-lived radioisotopes for neutron activation analysis. Some friendly countries had offered to support the programme, and Ecuador had signed co-operation agreements with Argentina and Spain. The Agency had co-operated throughout with the national Government, inter alia sending an internationally recognized expert in radiochemistry.

9. The hospitals of Ecuador had received assistance for their nuclear medicine and health physics activities, and the Agency had provided valuable help in the

drawing up of Ecuador's radiological safety regulations. The Government of the United States of America had also supported that effort.

10. The site for the nuclear research centre had already been identified with the assistance of the Spanish Junta de Energía Nuclear, and the specifications for the siting studies had been drawn up. The necessary financing had been provided by the National Anticipatory Financing Fund (FONAPRE), which had unsuccessfully requested a loan from international finance organizations.

11. The co-operation with Spain had begun with an invitation to send an Ecuadorian group to visit the Spanish Junta de Energía Nuclear, which had helped with the preparation of a first set of specifications for the engineering details and the construction of the nuclear research centre. Some Agency experts had visited Ecuador in June to review plans and give advice on how to achieve the proposed aims.

12. The example of Ecuador showed clearly that the Agency was assisting the developing countries in introducing atomic energy as the motor of their economic future, and that the developed and developing countries should join forces to ensure that the Agency could fulfil its fundamental duty, which was the provision of technical assistance.

13. Mr. McGILCHRIST (Jamaica), referring to the Agency's budget for 1979, expressed concern at the disproportionate appropriation of funds to safeguards, which reflected an imbalance between the regulatory and promotional activities of the Agency, more particularly in the provision of technical assistance. Although Jamaica recognized the major importance of safeguards to all countries concerned, as evidenced by the recent conclusion of a safeguards agreement between Jamaica and the Agency, there still had to be a careful balance between safeguards and technical assistance appropriations. One of the best ways to ensure a more balanced development of those activities would be, in his country's opinion, to finance technical assistance from the Agency's Regular Budget. It had to be remembered, in that context, that technical assistance was of paramount importance to developing countries and was often a deciding factor in their decision to become members of international organizations, including the Agency; furthermore, technical assistance was not just a matter

of charity from industrially more advanced countries, but the rightful claim of developing countries in their struggle to improve their national economies in the modern world.

14. Should it prove impossible, however, to finance the Agency's technical assistance programmes for the coming year from the Regular Budget for 1979, it would be advisable to set a target for voluntary contributions of at least \$10 million. At the present time, technical assistance appeared not to be receiving the priority it deserved, especially when one considered the fact that more than 70% of the Member States of the Agency were developing countries.

15. With regard to the provision of technical assistance by the Agency in the field of food and agriculture, there appeared to have been a decrease in real terms. As many developing countries had not yet reached the stage where they could introduce nuclear power, it was very important for them that Agency activities relating to the food and agriculture sector should be given greater stress as a key element in their economic progress.

16. With reference to the difficulties that had been caused in recent years by fluctuations in currency exchange rates, one possible approach would be to draw up a larger part of the Agency's budget in Austrian schillings. If, however, the present system was to continue, it should definitely be based on a fixed and realistic rate of exchange for the Austrian schilling in order to eliminate the need for programme cuts and supplementary budgets, which the developing countries could so ill afford.

17. In the field of nuclear non-proliferation it was heartening to see that 104 States, including Jamaica, were now party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)<sup>1/</sup>. At the same time, those countries with extensive nuclear activities that had not yet acceded to NPT should be urged to do so immediately.

18. As a non-aligned State and a participant in the recent conference of foreign ministers of non-aligned States that had been held in Belgrade, Jamaica fully supported the declaration of the conference, which stressed the importance of international co-operation between non-aligned countries in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and the unhindered transfer of technology. His country also supported the proposal made at that meeting for a conference on the

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

peaceful uses of atomic energy in accordance with Resolution 32/50 of the United Nations General Assembly although it was felt by his Government that the word "energy" should be de-emphasized in favour of the word "technology", since Jamaica's interests lay more in the application of nuclear science and technology in such sectors as agriculture, mining and nutrition.

19. In conclusion, he welcomed the invitation extended by the Government of India to hold the twenty-third regular session of the General Conference in New Delhi and took the opportunity to announce that the Government of Jamaica had agreed to host the advisory group meeting to review the technical and scientific aspects of the selection, management and surveillance of ocean sites used for dumping solid low-level radioactive waste, which was to take place in December of the current year.

20. Mr. JIMETA (Nigeria) said that over the past few years the Agency had made a substantial contribution to the development and peaceful use of nuclear technology and to the improvement of economic conditions in a number of developing countries, including his own. An example was the agreement concluded between the Agency, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and Nigeria on a large-scale project for tsetse fly eradication and control by the sterile-male technique, which would have a lasting effect in eliminating a pest that caused so much damage to livestock and public health. The Federal Republic of Germany had already made a substantial contribution to the project; also, the support being given by Belgium and the United Kingdom was greatly appreciated.

21. With regard to Nigeria's future needs, the application of nuclear techniques was considered to be the most efficient way of providing medical care, improving public health and exploiting natural resources; hence, it was hoped that the Agency would be able to provide increased assistance for various future development projects and research programmes.

22. Nigeria had an annual energy consumption growth rate of 18-25%, compared with 7-9% in some developed countries. The demand for energy was the outcome of the economic development programme now being implemented in different parts of the country under the Third National Development Plan for 1975-80. Most of the projects, which related to the establishment of an iron and steel complex, a petrochemical industry and agro-allied industries, were high consumers of energy. In addition, there were plans for a rural electrification programme

to improve the quality of life of local communities and promote viable cottage industries. Consequently, failure to meet the demand for electricity could pose a major energy problem for the country in the foreseeable future. It had been calculated that, although by the turn of the century all of the country's hydroelectric power potential would have been developed, Nigeria would still face an acute energy shortage. His country had therefore embarked upon a comprehensive national nuclear programme aimed at developing the peaceful use of nuclear energy as the only new and reliable energy source.

23. Many delegations had mentioned the need to ensure that the benefits of nuclear technology were not limited to a few industrialized countries. That view was in keeping with the Agency's objective of accelerating and promoting the contribution of nuclear energy to peace, health and prosperity. However, if it was accepted by all, the technologically advanced countries should show greater interest in making the Agency a more universal organization than had so far been the case.

24. The provision of technical assistance continued to be of major concern to the developing countries. The present situation was not satisfactory, but there would clearly have to be much more discussion before an acceptable solution to the problem was found. The financing of technical assistance from the Agency's Regular Budget would provide a surer base for the programming of activities.

25. Although the importance of safeguards could never be underestimated, there was at the present time a tendency to overdramatize the risks created by nuclear facilities; furthermore, the high cost of ensuring safety gave rise to distrust. There was consequently a need for greater effort in informing the public about the standard of safety that had already been achieved and for more medical research into the treatment of radiation exposure.

26. Nigeria had been among the countries co-sponsoring an amendment to the Statute aimed at a more equitable representation for two under-represented regions on the Agency's Board of Governors. In the 21 years of the Agency's existence, major changes in the Statute had twice been necessary, and it was not difficult to gain the impression either that the original drafters of the Agency's Statute had seriously underestimated the universal acceptance of the Agency or that the Agency had never been intended for the international community as a whole. It had to be borne in mind that the present membership of the Agency was roughly double the original figure.

27. The Director General, in his statement, had referred to the risk of nuclear proliferation in spite of the measures adopted to control the uses of the fuel cycle. In Africa that threat was becoming an ever greater reality as the outcome of collaboration in the field of nuclear technology between the apartheid regime in South Africa and its supporters in Western Europe. Until decisive action had put an end to that regime, his country would not support South Africa's continuing membership of the Agency and would not approve any co-operation between the Agency and that country.

28. In his statement the Director General had explained at length the large increases provided for in the Agency's budget for 1979. While accepting the need for such increases, his delegation believed that it would be advisable in future to fix a ceiling for the budget, which could be worked out during the coming months. It was hoped in the meantime that the needs of the developing countries would be given close attention so that all Member States could derive the full benefit from the peaceful use of atomic energy.

29. In conclusion, he wished to stress that the assertion that the Agency was not a specialized agency of the United Nations, which had been made the day before in the Committee of the Whole, had originated with certain delegations who were fully conversant with the strong bonds between the Agency and the United Nations. Any attempt to dissociate the Agency from the goals of the United Nations would be a regrettable and unacceptable error.

#### EXAMINATION OF DELEGATES' CREDENTIALS (GC(XXII)/607)

30. The PRESIDENT drew the General Conference's attention to document GC(XXII)/607, containing the report of the General Committee on examination of delegates' credentials. The report indicated that, pursuant to Rule 28 of the Rules of Procedure, the Committee had met on Thursday, 21 September, as a Credentials Committee. An account of the manner in which the Committee had approached its task and of the opinions expressed in the discussion was given in paragraph 4 of the document. The last paragraph contained a draft resolution recommended for adoption by the Conference.

31. The draft resolution contained in paragraph 6 of document GC(XXII)/607 was adopted.

#### ELECTIONS TO THE AGENCY'S STAFF PENSION COMMITTEE

32. The PRESIDENT recalled that the Staff Pension Committee included two members and two alternates elected by and representing the General Conference. The members serving since the last session of the General Conference had been Mr. Jenkins (United Kingdom) and Mr. Modranszky (Hungary), and the alternates Mr. Sastradidjaja (Indonesia) and Mr. McCaskill (Canada). Mr. Jenkins and Mr. McCaskill had intimated that they would no longer be available to serve on the Committee. He proposed, therefore, that the General Conference should now elect Mr. Sastradidjaja (Indonesia) and Mr. Estrada Oyuela (Argentina) as members and Mr. Modranszky (Hungary) and Mr. Scheller (Federal Republic of Germany) as alternates.

33. It was so decided.

#### VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GENERAL FUND FOR 1979 (GC(XXII)/604/Rev.3)

34. The PRESIDENT referred the Conference to the memorandum by the Director General in document GC(XXII)/604/Rev.3, which showed that, as of 5 p.m. on 21 September 1978, pledges of voluntary contributions to the General Fund for 1979 had been made by 54 Members of the Agency, to a total amount of \$4 463 874. Since that time, five additional Members had informed the Director General of pledges which brought the total to \$4 506 324.

35. Admittedly, a few Members had indicated in their statements before the Conference that, because of their national budget schedules, their pledges would be forthcoming only at a later date. Even so, he felt deeply disappointed about the low level at which the pledges of voluntary contributions now stood. The amount represented only about 50% of the target for 1979 and was significantly smaller, as a percentage of the target, than the levels attained at other recent sessions of the General Conferences.

36. He therefore felt bound to appeal strongly to all Member States that had not yet announced their pledges, and in particular to those that had made no voluntary contributions during the past two years, to support the Agency's technical assistance programme by pledging themselves to make voluntary contributions. Without the requisite pledges in hand, the planning and implementation of a vigorous technical assistance programme, accelerated as

consistently urged by the Board of Governors, would be much more difficult for the Secretariat to achieve. Finally, he stressed that every Member State had a duty and an obligation to support the Agency's technical assistance programme. That was particularly true of those Members fortunate enough to enjoy such affluence that they could easily afford at least their base rate share in such a modest target.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS (GC(XXII)/606)

37. The PRESIDENT drew attention to his memorandum on the election of Members to the Board of Governors, contained in document GC(XXII)/606; in paragraph 2 of that document he notified the Conference, in accordance with Rule 83 of the Rules of Procedure, that 11 Members had to be elected to the Board, and specified the geographical areas in respect of which elections were required, as also the number of Members to be elected from each area.

38. Mr. SOTOLONGO CODINA (Cuba), speaking on a point of order, drew attention to the fact that there had been circulated an unofficial document whose origin was unknown to his delegation and which incorrectly represented the situation with regard to candidatures to represent the Latin American region in the Board of Governors. A document distributed by the United States delegation correctly represented the situation; moreover, it should be noted that a correct analysis of the situation was clearly set out in the document transmitted by the Chairman of the Latin American group to the Chairmen of all the other regional groups for their information. And in order to remove any possible misunderstanding, he wished to confirm that Cuba's candidature for one of the vacant seats in question was being maintained.

39. The PRESIDENT pointed out that the Agency's Statute made no provision for the submitting of nominations for vacant seats in the Board. Accordingly, any unofficial document issued in that sense had no validity.

40. At the invitation of the President, a member of the Austrian delegation and a member of the Czechoslovak delegation acted as tellers.

41. A vote was taken by secret ballot to elect 11 Members of the Board of Governors.

42. The PRESIDENT, noting that the ballot papers had now been delivered to the tellers, proposed that the meeting be adjourned until the afternoon, in order to give the tellers the time needed for the counting of the votes.

43. It was so agreed.

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.