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Held at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi
on Friday, 7 December 1979, at 3.10 p.m.

President: Mr. SETHNA (India)
later: Mr. GOLDSCHMIDT (France)

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GENERAL DEBATE AND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1978 (continued)

1. Mr. PERESSIN (Holy See) said that in his address to the General Assembly of the United Nations, His Holiness Pope John Paul II had recalled that the progress of humanity must be measured not only by the advances of science and technology, but above all by spiritual and moral progress. In the light of that principle, the vertical proliferation of nuclear weapons could only be regarded as scandalous. As long as such proliferation continued, discussions of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy would always be influenced by it, because nuclear materials were in danger of being diverted from peaceful purposes, and that danger inspired fear in the minds of large sectors of the public. Admittedly, the nuclear industry was subject to scrutiny more than any other, and the hazards connected with the fuel cycle had been investigated seriously. Nevertheless, much remained to be done, and the Agency should redouble its efforts to establish the strictest safety standards, in particular where the reprocessing of spent fuel and the decommissioning of nuclear facilities were concerned.

2. As the debate on nuclear power had become more and more polemical, the attitudes of both advocates and opponents had hardened. Many - notably Christian churches and groups of Christians - flatly rejected nuclear energy or demanded a moratorium for its development to be stopped temporarily. The Agency should not refuse to listen to them nor leave them without an answer. The public should be informed honestly about the dangers of nuclear power, so that it could make rational judgements that were not inspired by fear; and everyone should be able to participate, at his own level, in decisions concerning nuclear energy. His delegation also wished to warn against the dangers of wasteful consumerism, which was liable to distract man from his noblest aspirations.

3. The Holy Father's question whether the progress achieved by man made life on earth more human should be central to discussions and decisions concerning nuclear energy. The criterion for judging achievements in the nuclear field should be the well-being of each individual and of mankind as a whole.

Mr. Goldschmidt (France) took the Chair.

4. Mr. TORRES SERRANO (Venezuela) requested the temporary President to transmit to Mr. Sethna the Venezuelan delegation's congratulations on his election as President of the Conference; he commended the Indian Government on its excellent preparations for the Conference and thanked the inhabitants of New Delhi for their hospitality.

5. His delegation considered that technical assistance should be increased to give more scope for co-operation with the growing number of countries wishing to use nuclear energy peacefully in solving their problems of economic and social development.

6. The evolution of nuclear activities in Venezuela was affected by the fact that the country was at the same time a producer and exporter of energy. Internally, it followed a policy of saving energy, limiting its oil production and at the same time seeking to develop high-potential oil-fields. It had begun to exploit its hydro resources, which potentially amounted to 20 000 MW, and its coal deposits, which would be able to support a regional iron and steel industry and a national electricity-generating programme.

7. Venezuela could thus afford to hesitate before taking the decision to start a nuclear programme. It had requested its National Council for the Development of the Nuclear Industry to evaluate the advantages nuclear energy would have for the development of the country, taking into account the existence of the other energy resources, since it did not intend to undertake the peaceful utilization of the atom without careful preparation and the certainty that it would meet the needs of the country. In that respect, Venezuela enjoyed the support of the Agency, whose work it observed closely and with which it hoped further to improve its relations.

8. He wished to recall that Latin America had attempted to remove from its peoples the threat of nuclear destruction by concluding the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (the Tlatelolco Treaty), which was acquiring ever greater importance at a time when it was vital to take steps to bring the nuclear arms race to an end.

9. Mr. KOSTADINOV (Bulgaria) said that after the Soviet-American Strategic Arms Limitation Talks the peoples of the whole world hoped that the resultant SALT II Treaty would be ratified and would come into force in the near future. In addition, the new proposals announced by Mr. Leonid Brezhnev in his speech in Berlin on 6 October 1979 opened the way to a new series of negotiations on disarmament and détente in Europe and throughout the world. His delegation also wished to stress the importance of the second NPT Review Conference, the success of which would be facilitated by a strengthening of the Agency's safeguards system. Similarly, the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material would help to reinforce the nuclear non-proliferation regime and the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. At the same time, the General Assembly

of the United Nations, at its thirty-fourth session, was considering a number of proposals, in particular some important ones made by the Soviet Union, that would contribute to reducing the risks of proliferation.

10. His country supported the Agency's activities, especially where the strengthening of the non-proliferation regime and the improvement of the Agency's safeguards were concerned. It co-operated with the Agency not only by applying safeguards to all the nuclear reactors in Bulgaria, but also by providing the Agency with the services of experts on the International Nuclear Information System (INIS) and certain scientific and technical aspects of safeguards, by supplying prototype verification equipment and by conducting technical experiments on the Bulgarian research reactor. His country also participated in the multilateral technical assistance activities of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) and had, in particular, taken part in the expedition organized by the CMEA member countries to study the radioactivity of the Danube.

11. Mr. AL-ESKANGI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) considered that the IAEA and the industrialized countries should urgently develop nuclear energy as far as possible in order to avoid a catastrophic energy situation arising in the decades to come. All efforts should be directed to the construction of safer, more economical and more reliable nuclear power plants. Light-water reactors would play the principal role until the year 2000; at about that time the use of fast breeders should become widespread, whereas heavy-water reactors would probably represent only a limited capacity during the 1990s.

12. The uranium supply situation was not very encouraging. Recent studies showed that world consumption up to the year 2000 would amount to about 3 million tonnes and would probably reach a cumulative total of 10 million tonnes by 2025, whereas in December 1977 the reserves which could be considered reasonably assured were only 2.2 million tonnes. It was therefore urgently necessary to accelerate the development of fast breeders in order to avoid a nuclear fuel crisis similar to the one being currently experienced with fossil fuel.

13. In nuclear technology the gap between developing and developed countries continued to grow, and his delegation wished to reiterate its urgent appeal to the developed countries to increase their technical and financial assistance, in particular in connection with the fuel cycle and processing; the financing of such assistance should be regularized. Also, Article VI of the Statute should be amended.

14. His country had, in October 1979, concluded a safeguards agreement under paragraphs 1 and 4 of Article III of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear

Weapons (NPT); that agreement covered the twin objectives of using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and strengthening the country's development plans.

15. He wished to draw the attention of the Conference to the activities deployed by Israel and South Africa to develop nuclear weapons; they constituted a serious threat to the peace and security of the region, and his delegation urgently requested the Agency to inquire into those activities and to stop all technical assistance to Israel in order to preserve the credibility of NPT.

16. One of the principal aspects of his country's nuclear activities was uranium ore processing. A ⁶⁰Co irradiation facility would shortly be put into operation, and the construction of a nuclear research centre at Tajura was progressing well. The centre would have a 10-MW research reactor and sub-critical assembly, a thermo-nuclear fusion research laboratory equipped with a tokamak device, two 14-MeV neutron generators and a hot laboratory for nuclear chemistry.

17. In conclusion, he wished to thank the Agency for the assistance it had given to his country, which had decided to increase its voluntary contribution for 1980 to US \$70 000.

18. Mr. von BÜLOW (Denmark) congratulated the President on his election and expressed his gratitude to the host country. The Agency's Secretariat and the Director General were carrying out their tasks perfectly, and Denmark, which had always participated fully in the Agency's activities since its establishment, would continue to support it.

19. Denmark, which produced 92% of its energy from imported oil, had been one of the countries most affected by the energy crisis from the beginning. The Government had taken vigorous steps to save energy, increase the production of its own gas and oil and develop alternative sources of energy. The electric utilities had been urged to make greater use of coal and to prepare for the introduction of nuclear power. The Government had asked experts to investigate the economic consequences of adopting or rejecting nuclear power. Once satisfactory solutions to the problems of reactor safety and radioactive waste disposal had been found, a referendum would be held.

20. His country thus had a particular interest in the Agency's work on reactor safety and waste disposal. The codes of practice and safety guides were very useful, as was the supplementary nuclear power safety programme, which would

enable safety to be increased without causing delays in implementation. The Agency's studies of waste disposal also held much promise. The utilities had been requested to provide information on the conditions under which safe disposal was possible. His Government considered that countries like Denmark, with a small area or a relatively modest nuclear power programme, should seek an international solution to the problem of waste management. His country therefore required the Agency's assistance and approved of its work on such a solution, which would help to preserve the energy supply of future generations.

21. He also attached great importance to the safeguards system, which helped to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and to the plutonium storage scheme. By improving safety and security the Agency would stimulate international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

22. Mr. NEMETS (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) stated that political détente had now become a reality, thanks to the efforts of the Soviet Union, the Socialist Community and the peace-loving countries. It was alarming to note, however, that forces existed in the present state of the world which desired to reverse the course of history and to return to the "cold war". That was why his country considered it important not only to prevent the militaristic circles of the imperialist countries from continuing the arms race, but also to achieve real disarmament. A step in that direction had been the signing of the Soviet-American Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty, which demonstrated that it was indeed possible, while recognizing the legitimate interests of the parties concerned, to arrive at an agreement on the most complex international problems. Furthermore, the Soviet proposals announced on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the German Democratic Republic opened the way towards effective disarmament and the benefits of détente and peaceful co-operation. The non-proliferation of nuclear weapons was of crucial importance and justified the proposals put forward by the Soviet Union at the twenty-third session of the United Nations General Assembly, which had taken decisions of principle on those matters. It was now necessary to incorporate them in agreements binding under international law. In that context, his delegation was gratified that about 110 States were already parties to NPT. It also welcomed the conclusion of the negotiations concerning a convention on the physical protection of nuclear material. Those grounds for

satisfaction should not, however, veil the dangers of nuclear weapons in the hands of countries practising an aggressive foreign policy, such as South Africa and Israel. It was therefore all the more important that the Agency and all States should redouble their efforts to check the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

23. In a situation where traditional sources of energy were rapidly being exhausted, the development of nuclear power was assuming growing importance. The Socialist countries were in favour of active co-operation in nuclear technology between all interested countries, and the tokamak thermonuclear reactor project was a promising step in that direction.

24. One of the main conditions for the development of nuclear energy was the safe operation of power plants, and it was a cause for regret that certain Western companies, for financial reasons, did not pay sufficient attention to that problem. The Socialist countries, in contrast, had accorded pride of place to the consideration of nuclear safety, waste management and other problems affecting the safety of man and his environment.

25. The Ukraine's internal activities included a growing amount of research on nuclear energy, in particular on the fundamental and practical aspects of nuclear physics, radiations and the uses of radioisotopes and sources of ionizing radiation in chemistry, physics, medicine, biology and geology. Under the five-year plan, the construction of nuclear power plants in the Ukraine would solve a whole complex of problems associated, inter alia, with heating, irrigation, agro-industrial centres and water supply. The Byelorussian, Moldavian and Ukrainian Academies of Sciences were jointly conducting research on fast breeder reactors.

26. Internationally, the Ukraine was continuing to develop its co-operative activities and relations, especially with the IAEA. In the past three years, three IAEA experts' meetings, several training courses and two study tours had taken place in the Ukraine, which was prepared to organize one or two further study tours for experts from developing countries in 1980 and 1981.

27. His delegation was authorized to pledge a voluntary contribution to the General Fund of 100 000 roubles for 1980. That sum could be used for the supply of materials and equipment to developing countries Members of the Agency and for study tours in the Ukraine.

28. The establishment of a Standing Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy within the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance was of the highest importance for nuclear co-operation. In conclusion, mention should be made of the joint effort of the CMEA countries to study the radioactivity of the Danube, the Black Sea and the Baltic.

29. Mr. BARRERA DELGADO (Peru) thanked the Government and people of India for their hospitality and congratulated Mr. Sethna on his election as President of the Conference. He considered it encouraging that, at a time when the advantages of nuclear power for solving the energy problem and for development were being doubted in many parts of the world, India, which had a philosophical culture going back thousands of years, had embarked on an extensive nuclear power programme in order to ameliorate its people's lives.

30. In 1976 nuclear activities in Peru had seen a turning point with the elaboration of a realistic plan designed to put nuclear energy at the service of national development within a reasonable period and at reasonable cost. The first stage of that plan, covering the years 1977 to 1983, involved the training of a sufficient number of staff with the appropriate qualifications and the setting up of the minimum installations needed to ensure full development of the capacity available. Simultaneously, a study was to be made of Peru's uranium resources and of the possibility of constructing nuclear power stations; that included an estimate of the approximate date of installation of the first power station and its capacity. Peru's nuclear plan was being implemented at a satisfactory rate and with a positive cost-benefit ratio in view of the investments that had been approved.

31. In addition to the training of staff, which was a matter of priority, the objectives of the Peruvian Nuclear Energy Institute were as follows: construction, under an agreement with the National Atomic Energy Commission of the Republic of Argentina, of Peru's new nuclear research centre; prospecting for uranium and evaluation of Peru's uranium potential; separation of radioisotopes and labelling of molecules in order to satisfy local demand; application of nuclear techniques in medicine, in co-operation with the University of Peru; nuclear applications in agriculture by the National

Agricultural Institute; radiation protection and nuclear safety; construction of a 10-MW research and training reactor; and nuclear power planning studies in co-operation with national organizations concerned with electrical energy.

32. It was clear that those objectives could not be met unless Peru received all possible technical assistance. Internationally, Peru had benefited from the joint assistance of the IAEA and UNDP and, in a bilateral context, it had concluded a co-operation agreement with the Republic of Argentina for the construction of the new nuclear centre and for the training of scientific and technical staff. An additional sphere of co-operation was the United Nations nuclear energy project, under which approximately \$3 million were to be invested over the years 1977 to 1981.

33. It was necessary to inform the Conference frankly about the concern that countries such as Peru felt in relation to the problem of the transfer and exchange of nuclear technology. The countries of the world were divided into two very distinct categories: those in which nuclear energy had reached the highest levels of industrial development and technical perfection, and in which the problems encountered related to economic or political competition and technical optimization; and those, constituting the large majority, which faced fundamental problems such as a lack of appropriate scientific and technical knowledge, the difficulty of adapting the technological progress and procedures of more advanced countries to their own situation, and finally the limitations on their own means and resources. The main question was how to co-ordinate the aims and interests of the countries in those two categories so as to promote nuclear development in the world as a whole and in each country in particular.

34. The most urgent need was to achieve concerted action which would benefit all, and in which all participated, without any country dominating. In that connection, his delegation was gravely concerned about matters such as the defence of natural resources or the changing legal position in different countries. It was certain that factors such as the Club of London, the Finland Resolution, the Tripartite Meeting and the general instability

of nuclear legislation in certain States merely accentuated the dangerous division that was manifesting itself in various forms of discrimination between nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon States, between supplier countries and purchaser countries, between North and South. Meetings such as the General Conference, which brought around the same table countries with very different levels of nuclear development, could enable appropriate solutions acceptable to all countries to be reached, without discrimination and without any attempt to obtain one-sided advantages in the application of concepts or criteria - advantages often enough justified in the name of the non-proliferation principle.

35. The vast majority of developing countries, which believed in peace, had signed NPT or the Tlatelolco Treaty or safeguards agreements with the IAEA. However, those of them which had embarked on nuclear power programmes were being subjected to strong pressure by the nuclear powers. The Non-Proliferation Treaty had established a balance of responsibilities, but it seemed that the nuclear-weapon States had so far done hardly anything to meet their obligation to proceed with nuclear disarmament and to enable countries which had renounced nuclear weapons to gain access to nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. Such behaviour tended to create a natural bias, in most countries of the world, against the nuclear-weapon States.

36. The development of a strategy which would allow an effective and economical transfer of technology was a matter of primary concern in the nuclear world. The problem of the transfer of technology lay in reconciling the apparently antagonistic interests of the supplier country and of the recipient country. In many spheres those two basic interests could find a balance. Where nuclear technology was concerned the situation was completely different. Transfer assumed a certain equality in the technical and scientific development of the two parties which could not be found in the world of today, since technical and scientific knowledge in the nuclear sphere was virtually the exclusive preserve of a few countries. For effective nuclear exchange on a world scale, many countries would have had to have received appropriate technical assistance already in order to provide themselves with a basic infrastructure.

37. Peru provided a good example of the position of most developing countries where nuclear power was concerned. It was a country undergoing rapid development and had large energy requirements. Its hydro resources required a considerable thermal complement in which nuclear power would have to play a part. Having performed preliminary studies with the help of its own and Agency experts, and embarking as it was currently on research into the possibility of developing a domestic fuel supply and fuel export potential, the country would, before deciding to construct its first nuclear power station, have to have acquired a technical capacity enabling it to ensure that the power station would comply with the highest standards of safety and quality. It would have to have highly qualified staff, draw up the necessary legislation and set up the appropriate regulatory and monitoring bodies. A Government's decision to construct a power station depended mainly on economic and political factors and could be taken at any moment, on condition that the country in question possessed the necessary scientific and technical infrastructure. It was on those considerations that Peru's nuclear activities were founded, at a time when international co-operation and horizontal transfer of technology, organized on a basis that was not strictly commercial, could produce very favourable results.

38. Mr. OMOLODUN (Nigeria) congratulated the President on his election. The fact that the present session was being held in India demonstrated the international community's recognition of India's contribution to peace and justice.

39. In order for the Agency to be able to fulfil its functions - both those related to the development of nuclear applications and those related to safeguards - its Member States needed to be equitably represented in all its organs. A trend towards democratization had manifested itself over the previous three years, but that process ought to be accelerated. Nigeria had always associated itself with other Member States which had proposed an increase in the number of seats set aside for two seriously under-represented regions, one of which, Africa, was the area least represented in the Agency. In 1977 Nigeria had been

a co-sponsor of a draft amendment designed to give three additional seats to Africa and two to the Middle East and South Asia. That draft had encountered stiff opposition; but, even so, the principle of equality of Member States remained one of the fundamental principles of the Statute and the current session should provide an opportunity for reconsidering the composition of the Board and for adapting it to the new situation in order to ensure equitable representation of all areas.

40. More and more countries needed nuclear technology in order to become industrialized. Although Nigeria was an oil-producing country, it believed that oil should be reserved for uses other than the production of energy, for which purpose efforts should be made to find renewable sources.

41. Developing countries could not develop nuclear applications if the Agency did not organize the transfer of technology in a way that would benefit them. The energy crisis, which affected all countries, could only be solved on an international basis and the Agency should redouble its efforts in the pursuit of its promotional activities. Those were at present being neglected, receiving as they did far less emphasis than safeguards activities. The Agency assisted developing countries by providing them with expert services and equipment and by granting fellowships to their nationals, in order to further the transfer of nuclear science and technology for peaceful purposes and the development of their applications in agriculture, biology, the mining industry and so on. That assistance was, however, not increasing quickly enough owing to a lack of resources. Every year, the target for voluntary contributions was established only after long negotiations, because the industrialized countries and the developing countries did not have the same conception of the Agency's role. Since regulatory activities had so far occupied a position of privilege, and transfer of technology was becoming more and more urgent, it was essential that sufficient resources be allocated to technical assistance.

42. There were two obstacles in the way of the development of nuclear technology: first, many ecological, pacifist or radical movements were exaggerating the risk of nuclear accidents and were weakening the nuclear policies of their Governments.

The Agency should inform the public better and make the true situation plain. Secondly, suppliers were imposing conditions that were becoming more and more strict. Nigeria, a State party to NPT, accepted the principles which had inspired that Treaty. At the same time, it regretted that transfers of nuclear technology for the benefit of South Africa were taking place and it condemned all collaboration with a country which practised apartheid. Developing countries had for a long time been warning Western countries, including France, of the dangers that their collaboration with South Africa entailed. France had stated that the conditions it imposed on the supply of nuclear technology were even stricter than those of NPT. The question arose, then, how South Africa had recently been able to test a nuclear explosive device. It appeared that a diversion from peaceful applications had occurred at the time when deliveries were being made by France, and that the Board of Governors had decided to turn a blind eye to that hazard. What, then, was the point of compelling Member States to sign NPT and to accept restrictions that impeded their nuclear development? Was it hoped that the countries of Africa would not react? It was essential that the Agency re-examine its policy on the transfer of technology to developing countries. For the time being, countries possessing that technology were holding on to it jealously in order to exert pressure on the Third World.

43. With regard to technical assistance, Nigeria congratulated the Director General and the Secretariat on the work they had done and thanked them for the assistance that it itself had received in the spheres of agronomy, animal production, tsetse fly control and data acquisition and analysis systems used in nuclear research and for teaching. Nigeria had benefited from expert services and fellowships. However, the Agency should increase its assistance to all developing countries, for example by organizing more of the courses which they needed.

44. Nigeria, believing that nuclear technology could contribute to its development, had recently set up a Federal Ministry of Science and Technology responsible for drawing up an energy programme, for co-ordinating the development of all sources of energy and for giving impetus to the training of nuclear engineers.

45. In conclusion, he declared that his country was gratified by the expulsion of the delegate of South Africa, but felt obliged to condemn the indulgent attitude of certain Western countries towards South Africa.

46. Mr. KOLYHAN (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) noted that the 1970s had been dominated by détente in political relations between States, thanks to the action of the USSR and the Socialist countries, supported by other countries committed to peace. During the 1980s the policy of détente should be pursued further, and even more assiduously. In that connection, the conclusion between the USSR and the United States of America of the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT II) was to be welcomed, and it was to be hoped that the Treaty would come into force very soon. The proposals announced by Mr. Leonid Brezhnev in Berlin in October 1979 were also important.

47. His delegation was convinced that the security of States required the abandonment of hegemonistic policies, the conclusion of a treaty calling for renunciation of the use of force in international relations, and further agreements to strengthen safeguards in the non-nuclear-weapon States. A speedy conclusion of the talks between the USSR, the United States of America and the United Kingdom concerning a complete ban on the testing of nuclear weapons was desirable, and the efforts being made to set up denuclearized zones in different parts of the world were to be welcomed. In furthering the cause of universal and total disarmament, the Byelorussian SSR considered that all nuclear-weapon States should participate in the disarmament agreements, both those in force and those yet to come.

48. His delegation welcomed the progress made by the Agency over the period under consideration, particularly in spheres such as nuclear power, reactors, nuclear safety, environmental protection, evaluation of the nuclear fuel cycle and the elaboration of codes of practice and guides. It was also important that the Agency should participate in the preparations for the second NPT Review Conference.

49. The Byelorussian SSR viewed with concern the possibility of an increase in the number of countries having nuclear installations not covered by safeguards and of an expansion of the "nuclear club". That represented a special threat to the Near East and southern Africa, as could be seen from South Africa's attempts, in close co-operation with the western arms manufacturers and Israel, to acquire nuclear weapons.

50. The Agency had the important task of strengthening safeguards, and it was essential in that connection to improve the organization and co-ordination of the inspection work and to concentrate efforts on the most sensitive parts of the nuclear fuel cycle. The Agency should also improve its safeguards data analysis system and make a comparative study of its own data and the information provided by Member States.

51. His delegation supported the Agency's efforts to give priority to long-term planning and large-scale projects: that approach should make it easier for Member States to achieve good balance in their peaceful nuclear energy programmes. International co-operation in that field should, however, be very closely linked to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

52. Energy needs could only be satisfied, at least in the foreseeable future, by the use of coal and nuclear energy, and the Agency should try to dispel the fears and counter the protests connected with the construction of nuclear power stations. In future years, nuclear power could develop only through the introduction of fast reactors. However, the construction of such reactors involved a danger of proliferation, and the safeguards programme should accordingly be provided with improved methods of controlling the amounts of plutonium in all stages of the fuel cycle; likewise, all problems related to the establishment of regional fuel cycle centres should be studied. It was similarly important to complete the safeguards programme, the codes of practice and the guides by establishing recommendations for the safety of fast reactors.

53. With regard to the budget for 1980, the Byelorussian delegation urged the Secretariat to reduce non-productive administrative expenditure and limit the scale of programmes and seminars devoted to topics covered by other international organizations such as UNESCO and UNIDO (for example, solar energy and

other non-traditional energy sources). It supported the proposal that the draft budget should include estimates covering a period of at least two years and felt that the rate of increase of expenditure should not exceed a few per cent per year, except in the case of safeguards and technical assistance.

54. The Byelorussian SSR had attained considerable success in its research on radiation physics, especially in connection with the practical applications to agriculture and medicine. Preparatory work had also been carried out in connection with the construction of a dual-purpose nuclear plant for generating process heat and electricity.

55. The Byelorussian SSR was taking an active part in the Agency's programmes and would make a contribution of 25 000 roubles to the technical assistance fund in 1980.

56. Mr. BADIOU (Morocco) congratulated the President and thanked the host country for the warm welcome it had accorded the Conference.

57. As the Director General had pointed out, natural energy resources were becoming scarce and the use of nuclear energy seemed to be the only way of satisfying existing demand. At the same time, however, nuclear power programmes had slowed down in 1978 under the pressure of public opinion trends brought about by the fear of nuclear accidents or proliferation of nuclear weapons.

58. The Agency should thus seek to promote even more strongly the peaceful applications of nuclear energy and should increase its efforts to prevent any diversion of material to military purposes. More States had become party to NPT. The number would, however, be greater still if the nuclear-weapon States genuinely respected their commitments, including that of ensuring the safety of States party to NPT. The Moroccan delegation believed therefore that the Agency should prevent both vertical and horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons, ensure the security of non-nuclear-weapon States which were party to NPT and assist those States in developing the peaceful applications of nuclear energy. To that end, it should both strengthen international co-operation to enable the developing countries to overcome their economic difficulties and also reinforce its safeguards system and apply it to all the activities of non-nuclear-weapon States. Those States, and there were many of them, which had concluded safeguards agreements with the Agency had the right to benefit from all the advantages of nuclear energy, especially access to nuclear technology and guaranteed supplies.

59. Morocco had considerable reserves of oil, coal and uranium, for which it was expanding its work on prospecting and exploitation. It had started an accelerated programme for the construction of hydroelectric stations and for the utilization of renewable sources of energy. Thermal power stations, of which half operated on coal, were supplying 65% of the electricity consumed at present, the rest being provided by hydroelectric plants. Morocco had large hydro reserves and was planning to develop them for the irrigation of one million hectares by the year 2000 as well as for the generation of electricity. A study had also been carried out on the extent and the future utilization of oil shales, and Morocco was planning to build a plant for extracting the oil from the shales and a 1000-MW thermal power station fired by that oil. Uranium had been discovered in phosphates in the western Haut-Atlas and the Haute-Moulouja, and it could be extracted at the phosphoric acid stage of fertilizer production. The Moroccan Government had therefore decided to construct a nuclear power station which could come into service after 1990 and would help meet the increasing demand for electricity. The Government was also applying nuclear techniques in agriculture, health and geology.

60. In all its activities, Morocco needed technical assistance from the Agency and was grateful for the aid it had already received. Technical assistance was vital to the developing countries and the Moroccan delegation hoped that the resources allocated to it would be raised to the same level as those for safeguards. It entirely agreed with the revised formulation of the Guiding Principles and General Operating Rules to Govern the Provision of Technical Assistance. Finally, it appreciated the warm relations it enjoyed with the Agency.

61. Mr. SAMANIEGO (Ecuador), after requesting the Temporary President to convey his delegation's congratulations to Mr. Sethna on his election as President, said that 1979 had been a very important year for his country. Since it had returned to constitutional rule, Ecuador had been able to undertake, through its Atomic Energy Commission, the first studies aimed at setting up a nuclear research centre endowed with a research reactor and laboratories for the production of radioisotopes, the labelling of biologically important molecules and the improved use of neutron activation analysis techniques. The centre would be built in co-operation with the Spanish Nuclear Energy Board, and Ecuador had signed a working protocol with Spain to that effect. Ecuador also hoped to obtain the

Agency's co-operation in the project. It had benefited from collaboration with Argentina and Chile in the training of specialized personnel. Ecuador was making good use of the technical assistance it received under the Agency's programme for its long-term projects and hoped to be able to utilize equipment and technical assistance financed in non-convertible currencies. It also hoped that the proposal it had made in the Board would encourage the Agency to continue to concern itself with the problem of small nuclear power plants, because the developing countries had few energy resources and needed nuclear energy for their development. New studies were needed on the possibility of installing small and medium power reactors. The Inter-American Nuclear Energy Commission was to hold a conference on that topic in 1980.

62. With regard to the technical assistance provided by the Agency in the form of fellowships, Ecuador, whose need was not confined to technicians, hoped that such fellowships would also be made available for the training of scientists.

63. In 1979 Ecuador had hosted several important international meetings on atomic energy. The Inter-American Nuclear Energy Commission had organized a meeting on the applications of isotopes and radiation. The Commission had also put in hand a number of regional projects, including a uranium prospecting programme to be financed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America had held its fourth regular meeting in Quito, where it had been announced that the major Powers had already signed the relevant protocols. Finally, the Latin American Energy Organization had held an experts' meeting to prepare for the setting up of a fund to finance study projects on new sources of energy.

64. The Ecuadorian delegation congratulated the Secretariat on the contribution it had made to the work of the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation (INFCE) and was pleased to see the progress towards standardization of international obligations in the peaceful uses of atomic energy represented by the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials.

65. Finally, the Ecuadorian delegation wished to express to the people and the Government of India and to the Indian Atomic Energy Commission its gratitude for the generous hospitality it had received.

66. Mr. NGONGO KAMANDA (Zaire) congratulated the President on his election and thanked the Indian Government for its generous hospitality.

67. The twenty-third session of the General Conference was being held at a crucial moment for the energy future of the world. The Three Mile Island incident had strengthened the anti-nuclear groups. On the other hand, the rise in the price of oil had shown that existing energy supplies were precarious and that nuclear energy was essential. The Agency could help to turn the situation in favour of nuclear energy; it could do that, for example, by implementing the supplementary reactor safety programme which had been proposed by the Director General and for which Member States should provide adequate funds.

68. Zaire hoped that the development of the Agency's activities would not be to the detriment of technical assistance. The Agency should preserve a proper balance between safeguards and the provision of the technical assistance essential to the developing countries, who were putting all their hopes in nuclear energy. The importance of research programmes should not be forgotten, especially those dealing with agriculture, biology and the tsetse fly.

69. The amendment to Article VI.2 of the Statute was again included on the agenda. In the face of the energy crisis, it was essential, if the Agency was to preserve its credibility, for Member States to concert their efforts, and that in turn required that all regions should be represented equitably on the Board of Governors.

70. Zaire reaffirmed its belief in the concept of the peaceful utilization of atomic energy and in the principles set out in NPT. It would give its full support to the second NPT Review Conference, which was to be held shortly. It believed that INFCE had been extremely useful and it approved the concept of regional plutonium management under the auspices of the Agency.

71. Finally, the Zaire delegation wished to thank the participants for the understanding they had shown in allocating the African group two seats on the General Committee. It hoped that that spirit would continue, and in the name of the African group it thanked those who had voted for the rejection of the credentials of the South African delegation.

72. Mr. PEREIRA BASTOS (Portugal) associated himself with earlier speakers who had congratulated the President on his election and expressed their gratitude to the Indian Government. He thanked the Agency for the assistance it had given Portugal for training purposes, especially in the fields of uranium prospecting, nuclear safety, irradiation of foodstuffs, and the production and application

of radioisotopes. Because that assistance was so useful, the Agency should allocate greater funds to it.

73. The Agency had an important role to play in preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Portugal, which was a party to NPT, had concluded a safeguards agreement with the Agency and had completed the documentation for facility attachments. It had followed with interest the work of IAEA and hoped that the results would remove doubts about the use of nuclear energy and would promote its development.

74. Portugal had very little coal and its electricity was being produced by hydroelectric plants or by means of imported fuel. Nuclear energy would enable it to accelerate its economic development. The fact that it had uranium deposits was an additional reason for building nuclear power stations. In that connection, it believed that the codes and safety guides were extremely valuable for countries which were embarking on nuclear energy programmes.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.

