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RECORD OF THE TWO HUNDRED AND SEVENTEENTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi  
on Monday, 10 December 1979, at 10.45 a.m.

President: Mr. SETHNA (India)

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\*/ A provisional version of this document was issued on 18 January 1980.

\*\*/ GC(XXIII)/620.

The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document GC(XXIII)/INF/188/Rev.5.

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INTRODUCTION

1. The PRESIDENT, enumerating the items of business to be dealt with by the Conference that day, which included consideration of the report of the Committee of the Whole, commended the Members of that Committee on having brought their work to a successful conclusion and paid particular tribute to its Chairman for the adroit way he had steered the Committee through its complex and delicate task.

EXAMINATION OF DELEGATES' CREDENTIALS (GC(XXIII)/622, 623)

2. The PRESIDENT, introducing that item and noting that his oral report on the 31st meeting of the General Committee, on which the written report in document GC(XXIII)/622 was based, had already been accepted by the plenary on Wednesday, 5 December 1979, at its 211th meeting, drew attention to document GC(XXIII)/623, containing the report of the General Committee on its examination of delegates' credentials, and asked whether any delegate wished to comment on the subject.

3. Mr. SILVA ARANDA (Peru) said he wished to announce that he had just received official credentials for his delegation and transmitted them to the Secretariat.

4. The two reports of the General Committee contained in documents GC(XXIII)/622 and GC(XXIII)/623, together with the draft resolution contained in the latter, were adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS (GC(XXIII)/614, 621)

5. The PRESIDENT reminded the Conference that 11 Members had to be elected to the Board from the geographical areas specified in paragraph 2 of document GC(XXIII)/614, to ensure that the Board would be constituted in accordance with Article VI.A of the Statute.

6. At the invitation of the President, a member of the Australian delegation and a member of the Indian delegation acted as tellers.

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

8. The PRESIDENT informed the General Conference of the result of the voting.

9. The result of the election of two Members from the area of Latin America was as follows:

<u>Abstentions:</u>	18
<u>Valid votes:</u>	140
<u>Required majority:</u>	36
<u>Votes obtained:</u>	
Mexico	77
Chile	58
Cuba	2
Venezuela	2
Bolivia	1

10. Having obtained the required majority, Mexico and Chile were elected to the Board.

11. The result of the election of two Members from the area of Western Europe was as follows:

<u>Abstentions:</u>	2
<u>Valid votes:</u>	156
<u>Required majority:</u>	40
<u>Votes obtained:</u>	
Switzerland	79
Ireland	77

12. Having obtained the required majority, Switzerland and Ireland were elected to the Board.

13. The result of the election of two Members from the area of Eastern Europe was as follows:

<u>Abstentions:</u>	13
<u>Valid votes:</u>	146
<u>Required majority:</u>	37
<u>Votes obtained:</u>	
German Democratic Republic	73
Yugoslavia	73

14. Having obtained the required majority, the German Democratic Republic and Yugoslavia were elected to the Board.

15. The result of the election of two Members from the area of Africa was as follows:

<u>Abstentions:</u>	7
<u>Valid votes:</u>	152
<u>Required majority:</u>	39
<u>Votes obtained:</u>	
Kenya	76
Niger	75
Sudan	1

16. Having obtained the required majority, Kenya and Niger were elected to the Board.

17. The result of the election of one Member from the area of the Middle East and South Asia was as follows:

<u>Abstentions:</u>	6
<u>Valid votes:</u>	74
<u>Required majority:</u>	38
<u>Votes obtained:</u>	
Pakistan	74

18. Having obtained the required majority, Pakistan was elected to the Board.

19. The result of the election of one Member from the area of the Far East was as follows:

<u>Abstentions:</u>	20
<u>Valid votes:</u>	59
<u>Required majority:</u>	30
<u>Votes obtained:</u>	
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	59

20. Having obtained the required majority, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was elected to the Board.

21. The result of the election of one Member from the area of the Middle East and South Asia or of South East Asia and the Pacific or of the Far East was as follows:

<u>Abstentions:</u>	3
<u>Valid votes:</u>	77
<u>Required majority:</u>	39
<u>Votes obtained:</u>	
Philippines	76
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	1

22. Having obtained the required majority, the Philippines were elected to the Board.

23. The PRESIDENT, after congratulating the 11 Members so elected, recalled that under Article VI.D of the Statute they would hold office from the end of the current session until the end of the twenty-fifth regular session of the General Conference, i.e. for a period of two years.

24. He thanked the delegations of Australia and India which had provided tellers, the two tellers themselves, and their Secretariat assistants.

GENERAL DEBATE AND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1978 (GC(XXIII)/610) (resumed)

25. Mr. BERGER (Uruguay) said that holding the twenty-third regular session of the General Conference in India represented an act of special symbolism and significance. It not only recognized the great progress in nuclear science achieved by India but also constituted a reconfirmation on the part of the developing countries of the principle that, without nuclear energy, mankind could not meet its growing needs for energy and food.

26. Uruguay was aspiring to a degree of nuclear development in harmony with its potentialities and requirements, and was carrying out programmes of uranium prospecting, construction of research reactors, radiation safety and the use of radioisotopes in medicine, agriculture and industry. The country was now envisaging the construction of a second research reactor to supplement the 10-kW facility already in operation, and the realization of that project would naturally call for significant assistance from the IAEA and friendly countries.

27. Since Uruguay had no resources of natural gas, petroleum or coal, serious consideration was being given to the generation of nuclear power as a supplement to existing hydro resources. As the size of the steam-raising equipment required was less than the present minimum economic capacity of nuclear power stations, Uruguay had a special interest in developing medium and small nuclear power plants. That was the reason for his country's promotion of a meeting to be held in Montevideo in 1980 in co-operation with the Inter-American Nuclear Energy Commission, and hopefully with the support of IAEA.

28. In view of the complexity and technical difficulties attending the implementation of a nuclear power programme in a small developing country such as Uruguay, his Government believed that a real increase in international, and especially regional, co-operation would be essential.

29. Uruguay was a strong supporter of the IAEA's activities in promoting international nuclear co-operation and was placing experts at the Agency's disposal in that connection. As a logical consequence of its policy of intensifying regional nuclear co-operation his Government had the honour of formally proposing, there and then, the conclusion of a regional co-operation agreement for Latin America, under the IAEA's auspices. It was felt that the success of the similar arrangement introduced by the Agency in Asia and the Pacific could be repeated in Latin America.

30. Uruguay had offered to host various other IAEA meetings and had recently shown interest in participating in a regional project involving industrial applications of non-destructive testing, planned for the region by UNDP. A working group on the subject was meeting in Montevideo with the support of the Uruguayan National Atomic Energy Commission.

31. Although his delegation was gratified at the excellent work being performed by the Agency, as emerged from the reports submitted by the Secretariat, it could not but express its concern at the rapid increase in the Agency's budget, and felt obliged to urge that maximum efforts should be made to prevent the budget growing at its present rate. His delegation maintained its existing policy of support for the principle of financing technical assistance by means of voluntary contributions.

32. It was also essential to strike and keep an equitable balance between promotional and regulatory activities, and as a party to NPT Uruguay desired that the Treaty should be implemented both in the letter and in the spirit. That meant a halt should be called to both horizontal and vertical nuclear proliferation.

33. Uruguay believed that the Agency should continue in its role as a promoter of the peaceful applications of nuclear technology, and applauded the Agency's efforts to improve execution of the technical assistance programme. He wished to take the present opportunity of expressing his country's thanks for the assistance received from the IAEA, which had been of decisive importance in realizing various Uruguayan nuclear programmes.

34. Finally, he wished to express his country's gratitude for the co-operation and assistance received in recent years from Argentina, Brazil and Chile.

35. Mr. ISCEN (Turkey) thanked the Government of India for its hospitality and for the arrangements made at the Conference Centre.

36. In his statement to the Conference, the Director General had outlined the world energy situation and underlined the importance of nuclear power production.

37. Turkey, one of the developing countries severely affected by the energy crisis, had initiated nuclear power programmes as part of its economic development plans aimed at increasing future electric capacity. To that end, the Turkish Electricity Authority was completing the preparatory stage of a 600 MW nuclear power plant. Present plans were that the plant would be commissioned in 1987. With respect to nuclear research activities in Turkey, the 250 kW Triga Mark II research reactor at the Istanbul Technical University had become operational in September 1979. Furthermore, construction work on a 5 MW TR-2 reactor, within the same pool as the TR-1, was under way at the Cekmece Nuclear Research and Training Centre in Istanbul, and it was scheduled to come into operation in the spring of 1980.

38. The importance of nuclear power for developing countries had been pointed out by many delegates and strongly emphasized by the Director General. One of the major problems in that connection was the assurance of long-term fuel supply. The results of the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation (INFCE) would provide guidance when it came to devising an international mechanism for that purpose. His delegation commended the achievements of INFCE, the work on developing a system for international plutonium storage under the auspices of the IAEA and the project on international fuel management.

39. Turkey had completed the necessary legislative and governmental processes for adherence to NPT and hoped to deposit its instrument of ratification in the coming months. However, his delegation agreed with the Director General and many previous speakers that the existing imbalances within the Treaty should be corrected and that additional conditions should not be imposed. Efforts should be made to improve the balance at the second NPT Review Conference.

40. Turkey strongly supported the IAEA and other bodies internationally concerned with nuclear activities, believing that international co-operation in that field was closely related to international peace and stability. His Government welcomed the UN decision to organize an international conference on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in 1983, as well as a conference on new and renewable energy sources scheduled for 1981. The work of the IAEA in framing regulations and implementing technical assistance projects was unique in the world. Turkey had benefited from the regulatory studies undertaken by the Agency, and certain safety, licensing and controlling codes and guides had been translated into Turkish for future application. His delegation extended its thanks to the Agency for its valuable contribution to technical assistance projects in Turkey and for successfully organizing the Interregional Nuclear Law and Safety Regulations Seminar held in Istanbul the previous September. However, it had to be stressed that the technical assistance funds made available to the developing countries from the Agency's budget were inadequate. Turkey supported a shift of technical assistance funding from the General Fund to the Regular Budget. That was the only method of satisfying the technical assistance requirements of the developing countries. He wished to take the opportunity of announcing that the Turkish Government had pledged payment of its full assessed contribution to the General Fund for 1980.

41. Finally, his delegation heartily welcomed the Agency's Supplementary Nuclear Power Safety Programme as contained in the document GC(XXIII)/INF/186. He hoped that the Agency would give to safety-related issues as much weight as it had hitherto accorded to its safeguards activities, particularly in the post-Three Mile Island era. Safety at nuclear power plants was clearly a far more important issue for the developing countries than for the developed nations, a fact which underlined the importance of the Agency's personnel training programmes.

42. Mr. AL OWAIS (United Arab Emirates) said his Government had followed the successful activities of the Agency aimed at accelerating and enlarging the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world. The arms race, particularly in the nuclear field, had to be stopped and the proliferation of nuclear weapons prevented, but the peaceful uses of nuclear energy were playing an increasing role in the rapid development of science and technology and in the enhancement of prosperity and progress for mankind.

43. The United Arab Emirates strongly supported the Agency's technical assistance and training programmes though there was a need for major changes to make them more effective. The provision of technical assistance constituted a major, high-priority function of the Agency and was the most important activity of direct benefit to the majority of Member States.

44. The United Arab Emirates was again in a position to pledge a voluntary contribution to the General Fund equal to its assessed amount.

45. Although the United Arab Emirates was producing a reasonable quantity of oil for world use, it was clear that, because of the continuing increase in the demand for oil, production would peak and then start to decline. The world's need for oil would then probably overtake supplies and the energy shortage would have to be partially satisfied from other sources.

46. To ensure a smooth transition, greater international co-operation was essential. Vigorous research and development together with conservation and fuel-switching programmes should be promoted on an international scale.

47. Nuclear energy had been reported to be an extremely safe and clean power source; nevertheless, after the Three Mile Island incident a fresh demand had arisen for safety standards to be maintained and improved. The protection of man and his environment should be a prime consideration in all projects. The use of nuclear power should not be expanded unless the safety problems were mastered satisfactorily.

48. The United Arab Emirates reiterated its full support and continued co-operation to enable the Agency to implement the tasks entrusted to it. The Agency had an important role to play in the international development of the peaceful uses of atomic energy - an objective to which the developing countries attached the highest priority in the endeavour to raise the living standards of their people.

49. In conclusion, the United Arab Emirates wished to take the opportunity to express its sincere gratitude to the Government and the people of India for the facilities they had provided and the warm hospitality they had shown.

50. Mr. KAYUMBO (United Republic of Tanzania) said he wished to thank the Government of India for hosting the present General Conference and for the warm hospitality accorded to those attending it.

51. The past year had been marked by many important events and developments in the field of nuclear energy, among which were the Three Mile Island nuclear accident in the United States and the convening of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD) in Vienna. The efforts of the Secretariat and the initiative it had shown in connection with the nuclear power plant accident in the USA, together with the Agency's contribution to UNCSTD, were highly appreciated.

52. His delegation's views on the strengthening of the Agency's role and its programmes in nuclear safety activities were well known and had been clearly expressed in the Board of Governors in June 1979. The Director General's efforts to supplement the Agency's 1979/80 nuclear safety programme by voluntary contributions, together with the findings of the relevant meeting of experts convened in May 1979, had Tanzania's full support.

53. When Tanzania had originally decided in 1975 to join the Agency, the country did not have the requisite manpower or institutional framework to handle nuclear energy matters. Hence membership of the Agency had been prompted by a genuine desire to gain from the benefits of nuclear energy for the development of the Tanzanian people. His Government was grateful for assistance from the Agency in short-term training courses in immunoassay techniques, as well as in soil fertility and soil moisture regime studies, and it had also benefited from short-term consultancies to assist in the creation of a radiation protection service unit and establishment of a nuclear medicine facility for diagnostics and treatment. In addition, IAEA experts had visited Tanzania for periods of three to six months to advise on the teaching of nuclear physics at the University of Dar-es-Salaam. Under a bilateral agreement Tanzania was embarking on an extensive uranium exploration programme and it would continue to look to the Agency for guidance and assistance.

54. The Agency's programme for 1979-1984 and budget for 1980 clearly reflected the Agency's activities and commitments in accordance with the Statute. The programme and budget for 1979 showed an increase in expenditure, which was unavoidable in a decade of escalating costs; hence the Director General's modest but genuine effort to reduce the prevailing imbalance in funding between the safeguards programme and other Agency programmes, in particular the technical assistance and training programme, was commendable. His delegation endorsed the Board's recommendation for a budget modification requiring an additional assessment of \$3.9 million to offset the decline in value of the United States dollar against the Austrian schilling.

55. It was a matter of concern, however, that, despite repeated appeals by developing countries for greater emphasis to be given to the technical assistance programme through the allocation of more funds from the Regular Budget, the Agency had not done so. Thus, in the budget for 1980 only \$3 197 000 had been allocated to the technical assistance and training programme. Conversely, the safeguards programme had been allocated \$19 396 000 - the largest increase, compared with the adjusted programme cost estimate for 1979. He therefore joined other delegations in urging the Agency once again to make greater efforts to restore the balance between the budgetary allocations for the safeguards and technical assistance programmes.

56. With regard to non-proliferation, in 1979, ten years after NPT had come into being, its achievement was the fact that there had not been a nuclear war, yet the potential for such a war had increased tremendously. The ardent advocates of NPT had used every opportunity to insist that non-nuclear States should not acquire or use nuclear technology for non-peaceful purposes, while they themselves were increasingly engaged in an arms race.

57. It was true that since the Treaty had been formulated the world had been fortunate enough to have responsible Governments among the super-Powers which had not waged a nuclear war. But there was no guarantee that such would continue indefinitely in view of the spiralling arms race. Hence adherence to NPT held no advantage to non-nuclear-weapon countries like Tanzania. Moreover, the existence of nuclear weapons in some States led almost inevitably to their development in others.

58. It was therefore clear that the future of NPT was heavily shrouded in uncertainties. While the Director General's assertion that the Agency safeguards programme was the only guarantee against the spread of nuclear weapons was true, the programme was at the same time hampered by the presence of a number of drawbacks. For example, the auditing system was inadequate in that a State violating its commitments would have to be remarkably inept to be caught through auditing errors. When a material was converted to and from gaseous, liquid and solid states, as was necessary in the fuel cycle, losses and inaccuracies were inevitable, and what might be termed the "bomb-sized gaps" were not covered by the existing safeguards systems.

59. A second drawback was that coups, revolutions and other dramatic changes in governments often resulted in the invalidation of agreements made by the previous leaders.

60. A third weakness of the NPT safeguards programme was that the Agency had no authority to take any action against a country violating the regulations, but could only make the fact public. Indeed, most countries considered that occasional inspections impinged upon their sovereignty and few, if any, would ever allow an international team to confiscate diverted weapons-grade materials.

61. Moreover, selling hardware necessarily implied selling knowledge. Sales of nuclear hardware were subject to safeguards, but duplicate facilities by the receiving country were not subject to inspection.

62. To sum up, NPT, like the other six multinational treaties for arms control, suffered from the same pitfall of serving the interests of a few countries, rather than the majority of the world community. It was hoped that those issues would be brought to the attention of the second NPT Review Conference to be held in 1980 so that the weaknesses could be minimized or removed.

63. With regard to the proposal for the amendment of Article VI.A.2 of the Statute with a view to increasing the representation of Africa and of the Middle East and South Asia on the Board, discussion of which had been going on for two years, his delegation wished to reiterate its support for the principle of equitable geographical representation on the Board of Governors, and believed that increased representation of those two regions would ensure greater involvement by them in the Agency's activities in view of their increased importance: the one as a supplier of nuclear raw material, and the other the major source of fossil fuel and potential importer of nuclear technology. It was earnestly to be hoped that the matter would be resolved amicably and without delay.

64. Mr. CASTRO DIAZ (Cuba) said that since the preceding session of the General Conference many developments had taken place on the international scene which affected the Agency's mission of promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The Agency had made considerable efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. Some recent events confirmed that those efforts must be intensified. Particular mention might be made of the rumour about the detection in the territory of South Africa of a possible nuclear explosion, which constituted a danger to the peoples who were fighting against colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism and apartheid in southern Africa. The Cuban delegation was deeply concerned at the danger involved in the possession of nuclear weapons by an aggressive, militarist and racist regime with expansionist aspirations.

65. Cuba warmly welcomed the agreement on the limitation of strategic weapons between the United States and the Soviet Union and urged its full ratification. The spirit of détente which made the agreement possible should be extended to the other regions where it was necessary to put an end to displays of force, threats and provocations, especially in the Caribbean, the Persian Gulf, the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia, by imperialism and its new allies.

66. The complexity and the amount of resources needed for nuclear development called for international collaboration in the case of countries poor in natural energy resources. The Director General had rightly pointed out that developing countries needed more and more power to meet their growing needs; using or not using atomic energy was not an issue for them.

67. The Cuban delegation therefore supported the Member States which advocated an increase in the resources allocated for financing nuclear programmes in underdeveloped countries. It was wrong to assume that producing nuclear weapons was the height of aspiration of any country which proposed to assimilate and expand the various uses of nuclear energy for its development.

68. Only a rational and planned use of the available scarce resources in poorer countries would justify the huge investment required by nuclear programmes.

69. In his speech at the twenty-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly, the chairman of the movement of non-aligned countries, Dr. Fidel Castro, had pointed out that it was an illusion to think that the problems of the world could be resolved by nuclear weapons. Bombs could kill the hungry, the sick, the ignorant but not hunger, sickness and ignorance, nor could they suppress the just revolt of the peoples; besides, in a holocaust the rich, too, would die, who had more to lose in this world. Dr. Castro had called for the abandonment of weapons and urged tackling the most pressing problems in a civilized manner. That was the most sacred duty of all States and essential for human survival.

70. The objectives of Cuba's economic development for the period up to the year 2000 called for a substantial increase in its power generating capacity. The shortage of conventional fuels also made it imperative for Cuba to plan for nuclear power to meet its own needs.

71. Preparatory work was being done in the central southern part of Cuba for the construction of the country's first nuclear power station and the corresponding safeguards agreement was being worked out with the Agency. The Cuban Nuclear Research Centre was undergoing modernization and work on the application of nuclear techniques was being expanded with special importance being given to radiological protection, nuclear safety and the training of personnel.

72. The Cuban Government had decided to modify the functions of the Atomic Energy Commission and to set up a Secretariat for nuclear affairs under the Council of Ministers.

73. Cuba had always paid special attention to the technical assistance activities of the Agency, through which it had received both equipment and advice. Though Cuba was prepared to contribute to a voluntary fund it believed that other methods of making contributions, such as the provision of experts, should be studied.

74. Together with other peace-loving countries, Cuba would continue to work towards the use of atomic energy for the good and the economic development of mankind rather than its impoverishment or destruction.

75. Mr. ALLOTEY (Ghana) said that the gratitude of his delegation went to the Government and people of India for their warm hospitality and for the excellent arrangements which had been made for the General Conference. He also commended the Director General for his opening address and thanked the Secretariat and the supporting staff for their dedication.

76. The current session would go down in history for its impressive achievements, including the rejection of the credentials of the South African delegation. Ghana wanted to record its appreciation of the support given to the Group of 77 by other countries in not allowing the delegation of the illegal and obnoxious apartheid regime to attend.

77. Ghana shared the concern of other countries at the alarming rate of increase in the 1980 budget and hoped that it would be an exception and that the Secretariat would strive to maintain a policy of minimum growth in future budgets. It ought still to be possible, without impairing the basic efficiency of the Agency, to make further economies, especially in the areas of travel, administrative services, operational costs and safeguards.

78. Ghana's position in respect of the funding of technical assistance was well known. The promotional functions of the Agency were suffering at the expense of the regulatory activities. Ghana believed that the time had come for a comprehensive review of the situation and considered that technical assistance should in the future be funded from assured and predictable sources. If the multi-year and multi-purpose projects being funded by the Agency were to have any meaningful impact on the recipient countries, the funds available for technical assistance would have to be substantially increased.

79. The Ghana delegation associated itself with all the statements made by the delegates from the Group of 77 on the need for the Board of Governors to give further consideration to the amendment of Article VI.A.2 of the Statute and to submit its observations to the twenty-fourth regular session of the General Conference.

80. The Government of Ghana believed that the International Centre for Theoretical Physics at Trieste was a shining example of international co-operation which had helped to break down the feeling of isolation experienced by scientists from developing countries. It was therefore with great pleasure that it had learnt of the award of the Nobel Prize in Physics to Professor Abdus Salam, and it wished to extend to him its warmest congratulations.

81. Ghana also wished to announce that it was prepared to offer its Nuclear Centre as a regional training centre for scientists in Africa. The Centre already had facilities for courses leading up to the master's degree level in the medical, biological and agricultural applications of radioactive isotopes, radiochemistry and physics.

82. Ghana's faith in the work of the Agency was reflected in its continuous and active support. It was to be hoped that the Agency would go from strength to strength in its task of bringing the benefits of the peaceful uses of the atom to all mankind.

83. Mr. SODNOM (Mongolia) thanked the Government and people of India for their warm welcome.

84. The present session of the General Conference was taking place at a time when the main trends in international relations remained the strengthening of détente, peaceful coexistence and international co-operation. Significant events had occurred in the last year which had a direct bearing on the goals of the IAEA, in particular the conclusion of the second Soviet-American Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT II) in Vienna during the month of June. That Treaty represented a real contribution to world peace, reducing as it did the danger of nuclear war, and it also paved the way for further strengthening of the non-proliferation regime and the gradual elimination of all nuclear arms. It was of the utmost importance that the Treaty should enter into force as soon as possible.

85. His delegation was honoured to declare its full support for the historical initiative announced by the Soviet Union on 6 October in Berlin - an initiative aimed at preventing the escalation of the nuclear arms race, and one which had opened up the prospect of the adoption of real disarmament measures in the future. All peace-loving States welcomed the decision of the Soviet Union to withdraw, in the course of one year, 20 000 troops, 1000 tanks and other military equipment from the German Democratic Republic, as well as its

willingness to cut the number of medium-range rockets deployed in the western part of the Soviet Union, provided that no further American rockets with nuclear warheads were stationed in Western Europe. The historic significance of the Soviet move stood out starkly in the light of the plans of militarist circles in the United States of America and in other NATO States to do just that. His delegation firmly believed that the IAEA could play a large part in achieving the aims of the Soviet initiative.

86. Looking to the future, his delegation attached great importance to the second conference convened to review the operation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, scheduled for August 1980, since strengthening of the non-proliferation regime was one of the most urgent tasks facing the world. The irresponsible actions of some States, such as South Africa, created a real danger of horizontal proliferation, and two nuclear Powers as well as a number of "near-nuclear" States were still outside the non-proliferation regime. One of the Powers, namely China, was in fact continuing to carry out nuclear tests in the atmosphere.

87. His delegation recognized and supported the role of the Agency in strengthening the non-proliferation regime through the application of reliable safeguards, and called on all Member States which had not yet done so to conclude safeguards agreements with the Agency as soon as possible.

88. The Mongolian delegation welcomed the successful formulation, under the auspices of the IAEA, of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material.

89. His delegation had carefully studied the annual report for 1978. Also, it found that the well-thought-out programme for 1979-1984 contained everything that was necessary and realistic to enable the Agency to carry out the tasks it faced. With respect to the Regular Budget for 1980, his delegation felt that, while the main programmes should not be cut, the situation should be kept constantly under review with a view to paring unproductive expenditure and realizing every possible economy.

90. The Agency deserved special commendation for its nuclear energy information services, the success of the International Nuclear Information System (INIS) being indicated by the large increase in the number of countries participating in the system.

91. The technical assistance provided by the Agency was of great importance to nuclear research programmes in developing countries, which it helped in tackling their economic problems. His delegation supported the Agency's activities in that field and extended its thanks for the assistance Mongolia had received.

92. His Government also attached great importance to the Agency's programmes on environmental protection and the applications of radioisotopes. It was gratifying to note that Agency programmes on the protection of the environment were being carried out in Mongolia and that work had begun on the use of gamma sources for irradiating various agricultural products. Training was also being carried out at the establishments in question. His Government greatly appreciated the work of the Agency in all those fields and hoped it would assist in implementing future programmes involving the use of nuclear energy.

93. Finally, his delegation supported the increase in the target for voluntary contributions to \$10.5 million.

94. Mr. VASQUEZ FLORES (Chile), after thanking the Government of India for its most generous hospitality and for the excellent facilities made available to the Conference, said that he would proceed to a brief account of the progress of nuclear affairs in his country.

95. The eleventh meeting of the Inter-American Nuclear Energy Commission had been held in Santiago from 2 to 7 July 1979, and among the international organizations represented he was pleased to note that the IAEA, represented by the Deputy Director General of the Department of Technical Assistance and Publications, had played a particularly prominent role.

96. The meeting had been viewed as extremely valuable from the standpoint of the peaceful development of nuclear energy in the region and had contributed substantially to the implementation of bilateral and regional co-operation agreements.

97. The Inter-American Nuclear Energy Commission likewise hoped that the technical assistance offered by the Agency could be given concrete form in the very near future.

98. At bilateral level, Chile and Paraguay had agreed on a plan of action for co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy, involving nuclear medicine, isotope hydrology and uranium prospecting.

99. In July 1979 a co-operation agreement on the peaceful uses of atomic energy had been signed with Uruguay, and the first stage in its implementation had been reached with the visit of the Uruguayan Minister of Industry and Energy to Chile.

100. Turning to technical progress achieved, he was pleased to announce that Chile had commissioned the multi-purpose irradiation plant at the "Lo Aguirre" Nuclear Centre, which was providing valuable services to the national economy. The plant had been constructed on the basis of a design jointly prepared by engineers from the Chilean Nuclear Energy Commission and the Spanish Nuclear Energy Board. The research reactor at the "Lo Aguirre" Nuclear Centre was due to come on to power shortly, under the relevant agreement between the above-mentioned two bodies.

101. At regional level, it had been of considerable importance to Chile to have been the organizing country for the first course on uranium prospecting techniques held in Latin America, which had been attended by participants from ten countries in the region.

102. In nuclear medicine the Medical Radiation Institute had successfully continued its studies on perfecting techniques for the application of radiation in many branches of health protection; important working groups composed of specialists from Argentina, Bolivia, the United States and Uruguay had met. In July 1979 the first computer in Chile to be used for processing nuclear medicine imaging data had been commissioned.

103. Chile wished to confirm its steadfast support for the Agency's activities in the fields of non-proliferation, safeguards and technical assistance. However, it hoped that in the near future it would be possible to achieve a better balance in the distribution of funds intended for technical assistance and for safeguards.

104. Conscious of its responsibilities in the field of international co-operation, Chile desired to reiterate to the Agency its preparedness to place at the disposal of Member States the use of its material and human resources. His country was offering a modest number of fellowships for trainees from other developing countries.

105. During the past year Chile had been happy to act as host to the Agency's Director General, who had expressed gratification at the progress achieved in nuclear affairs since his last visit in 1971.

106. In conclusion he said that his Government had expressly instructed him to acknowledge the loyal support and co-operation which Chile had received from friendly countries such as Argentina and Brazil.

107. Mr. ZIMBA (Zambia) said his delegation was gratified to note that the People's Republic of Angola had been given observer status at that session. It would naturally have been much happier if Angola had been sitting as a full member of the Agency, and he urged not only Angola but also other sovereign States in Zambia's part of the world, namely Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Lesotho and Swaziland, and indeed all remaining independent States in the region, to become members at their earliest opportunity. Zambia strongly believed that part of those countries' immediate development needs could be met through peaceful applications of atomic energy in such fields as agriculture, medicine, water resources and further exploration for energy resources. His delegation further hoped that all the liberation movements in Southern Africa would also be accorded observer status at future sessions since, as representatives of the oppressed masses, they were the governments of tomorrow.

108. Zambia cherished her membership of the Agency and would continue to support the Agency's Statute insofar as it reflected the legitimate needs and aspirations of the majority of the Agency's Members. He wished to pay tribute to the wise and able administration of the Agency by the Director General and his staff, who could count on Zambia's support in that most difficult task.

109. During 1978 Zambia had received assistance from the Agency in agriculture, medicine, training and raw materials prospection. It was grateful for that assistance, especially since it represented a slight improvement on the assistance received the previous year, but it still felt that, in absolute terms, the assistance provided could have been greater and more effective. While Zambia appreciated the problems associated with the recruitment of experts for certain projects, it found it difficult to believe that the same could be the case with regard to the provision of equipment for approved projects. Expert services, provided out of phase with equipment for a given project, tended to diminish the effectiveness of such assistance and his delegation hoped that

steps would be taken to eliminate that problem in the future. With regard to the revised Guiding Principles and General Operating Rules to Govern the Provision of Technical Assistance by the Agency, his delegation remained opposed to the clause making the provision of technical assistance dependent upon accession to NPT and acceptance of safeguards, because it believed that to be a discriminatory practice which would not help to solve the problem of nuclear proliferation.

110. In Zambia's view, the manner in which the technical assistance programme was funded was bad. Zambia believed that, for the programme to have the maximum impact in the many developing Member States, it should be substantially funded from the Regular Budget. His delegation supported initiatives aimed at realizing that goal.

111. Zambia was fortunate in having adequate hydroelectric resources, and that state of affairs would obtain for quite some time to come, although there might be a need for other sources of energy, including nuclear energy, by the turn of the century. Zambia's present efforts in the nuclear field, therefore, were mostly confined to the application of nuclear techniques in food and agriculture, life sciences and the training of manpower for both present and future needs.

112. Over the past ten years, extensive exploration activity had resulted in the discovery of radioactive mineral ores in the country. Although Zambia did not have any immediate use for uranium, it had decided to exploit the country's uranium resources to help alleviate the energy shortage in the rest of the world. It believed that that decision would help promote international understanding and interdependence.

113. His delegation maintained that the existing representation formula for the Board of Governors was grossly unfair to the regions of Africa and of the Middle East and South Asia and reiterated its firm support for the original proposal to amend Article VI.A.2 of the Statute so as to give those regions three and two more seats respectively. His delegation noted with dismay that the Board of Governors had made little or no progress in finding a fair and just solution to that problem since the previous regular session in Vienna. However, it remained hopeful that the Board would continue to consider the issue until a just solution was reached in the not too distant future.

114. The idea of nuclear explosive devices of whatever description being introduced in the African region had had a most disquieting influence on that continent and, he believed, the rest of the world. Recently it had been reported that a nuclear explosion had been detected over an area covering most of the central and southern parts of the continent, including the Republic of Zambia. That was the second time in about two years that there had been talk about explosion of a nuclear device in that region. As much as one would like to dismiss the adage that there was no smoke without fire, the circumstances of the whole affair indicated that one could not. His delegation deplored the extremely callous manner in which member countries in the region most concerned had been informed about the recent explosion by those who had detected the event.

115. That fact, coupled with the dead silence from those who should have explained the explosion at the Conference, which was the right and proper forum for discussing nuclear matters, clearly showed the eagerness with which the culprit was sheltered by the same people who professed to lead the fight against the proliferation of nuclear weapons. He asked why there should be such duplicity. His delegation condemned all those countries which had directly or indirectly assisted in building the culprit's capability to a level where it could detonate a nuclear device.

116. His country had always stated that it was not in the best interest of the human race to condone, let alone encourage, the vile system of apartheid or indeed to be seen to shield the apartheid regime from universal condemnation. At the twenty-second regular session in Vienna the Zambian delegation had made the following statement in that regard: "We have cautioned against actions that give the apartheid regime a semblance of international respectability. The Agency's association with South Africa in the field of nuclear science and technology only benefits a minority section of that country's population. We find hardly any justification for collaboration between this Agency and the apartheid regime which has consistently flouted all accepted norms of human decency, unless there be a change in that country for the betterment of the majority and a return to decent human values." His delegation had further stated: "The Agency could play its part in helping to bring about this change. As a first step, my delegation would like to know how many of the South African nationals employed in the Agency are drawn from the country's indigenous majority of the population. If none, as we strongly believe the situation to be, we request the Secretariat to institute immediate measures which will ensure that further recruitment from that country represents broad-based selection covering the various ethnic groups."

117. Hitherto Zambia had not had any definitive response from the Secretariat. During the discussion on the General Committee's report on credentials, the Secretariat had come swiftly to the support of South Africa. Amongst other things, the Conference had been told that South Africa was in fact considering signing NPT some time in 1981 or 1982, the cloud of suspicion over the recent nuclear explosion notwithstanding. His delegation found that double standard approach to the handling of the NPT issue in relation to South Africa most disturbing and regarded the whole train of events as a deliberate effort to protect the apartheid regime.

118. Despite all that, Zambia would be contributing its full assessed share to the General Fund for 1980 in demonstration of its commitment to the Agency's activities, especially the technical assistance programme.

119. Mr. DHARMAWARDANA (Sri Lanka) said that Sri Lanka's atomic energy programme had originally started with the invitation of a mission from the Agency to come and assist Sri Lanka in formulating an atomic energy programme. As a result, the first step had been taken in 1961, with the setting up of the Radioisotope Centre. In 1969, the Atomic Energy Authority had been established under the guidance of the Agency.

120. In utilizing the limited resources available for the country's atomic energy programmes, Sri Lanka had concentrated on areas of relevance for its development and for the welfare of its people. The most important development programme at present was the Mahaveli project, which involved the diversion of the longest river in the country into the dry zone in the central and northern regions. It was aimed at making Sri Lanka self-sufficient in food and supplying hydroelectric power sufficient for at least another 12 years.

121. A number of problems associated with it, such as the measurement of flow rates and the measurement of seepage of water through dams and irrigation channels, had required nuclear techniques for their solution, and the Agency was now supporting some of those investigations.

122. In the area of nuclear agriculture the main effort was focused on fertilizer uptake studies, aimed at eventual replacement of imported fertilizers by local apatite.

123. Coastal erosion and the silting up of fishery harbours were problems causing concern. A project to study the sediment movement patterns in the coastal area was being implemented with UNDP and Agency support. There had also been a feasibility study for food preservation by irradiation with assistance from the Agency. On the basis of that study it was intended to set up a multi-purpose pilot facility for food preservation, vulcanization of rubber and sterilization by irradiation. The use of nuclear techniques in medicine was another area earmarked for further expansion.

124. To meet its electricity needs Sri Lanka was almost totally dependent on hydroelectric power resources. The electricity demand had risen in 1978 by 20%. There were no resources of oil, coal or gas, but no decision had yet been taken as to what other type of energy would be developed in the 1990s, when the hydro resources were no longer sufficient.

125. With the assistance of the Agency, a uranium and thorium prospecting project was now under way, and a small number of persons were being trained in nuclear power planning.

126. The present era was one in which co-operation between the countries in Asia and the Pacific was very important, and it was essential for those countries to pool their resources and exploit the peaceful potential of nuclear energy in an effort to improve the quality of life. Sri Lanka therefore supported the Agency's Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (RCA) programmes.

127. Sri Lanka had already hosted three Agency training courses, one Agency symposium and two Agency workshops. In 1980 it would be hosting the joint IAEA/FAO International Symposium on Combination Processes in Food Preservation. Sri Lanka, furthermore, would also be willing to be the host country for a permanent Agency activity, such as a regional centre.

128. Sri Lanka was engaged in a determined development programme and would not hesitate to use any technique, whether simple or sophisticated, to promote the development effort. Atomic energy was one of the essential tools for rapid elimination of poverty and human suffering in developing countries. Hence, his delegation whole-heartedly supported the Agency's programmes aimed at the utilization of peaceful nuclear techniques for the benefit of mankind.

The meeting rose at 12.52 p.m.

