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RECORD OF THE TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FOURTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Neue Hofburg, Vienna,
on Thursday, 25 September 1980, at 10.15 a.m.

President: Mr. HAUNSCHILD (Federal Republic of Germany)
later: Mr. MOROZOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)
and
Mr. MADEMBA SY (Senegal)

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**/ GC(XXIV)/637.

The composition of delegations attending the session is given in documents GC(XXIV)/INF/193/Rev.3, INF/193/Rev.3/Mod.1 and INF/193/Rev.3/Mod.2.

GENERAL DEBATE AND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1979 (continued)

1. Mr. HOESS (Austria) said that the Director General's statement and the courageous and realistic assessment he had made of the world energy situation demonstrated once again the problems with which all countries were confronted and which they could not solve except by co-operation. One of the Agency's most important functions was the provision of technical assistance with a view to promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The Austrian Government therefore welcomed the fact that a figure of \$13 million had been chosen as the target for voluntary contributions to the Technical Assistance Fund for 1981 and that it had been possible to fix indicative figures for 1982 and 1983. Subject to the approval of Parliament, the Austrian Government would make a contribution of \$93 600, representing an increase of \$22 200 or 30% over the previous year.
2. As far as Austria was concerned, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the Agency's safeguards system were two of the three principal international instruments for preventing the spread of nuclear weapons, and support for an effective non-proliferation regime was and would continue to be one of the key elements of Austrian foreign policy. Unfortunately, the third of the instruments mentioned, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, had not yet been signed. The Austrian Government urged the parties concerned to continue negotiations with a view to a speedy conclusion of the Treaty, and it remained convinced that, despite present tensions, the basis for negotiations between the big nuclear Powers must be preserved and, if necessary, restored. In that regard, it welcomed the desire of the parties to continue with the SALT negotiations.
3. At the Second Review Conference of the Parties to NPT it had not been possible to reach a consensus on the final act. That was to be regretted, but the broad measure of consensus obtained on the matters examined by Committee II, which had shown that there were many points of agreement regarding the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and safeguards, should not be forgotten. In addition, it was most reassuring that the participants had again expressed their support for NPT and reaffirmed the need to strengthen the Agency's promotional and regulatory

- activities. The Austrian Government was therefore happy that the initiative taken at New Delhi by the Director General, which it had supported, had led to the establishment of the Committee on Assurances of Supply (CAS), which had been a political consequence of the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation (INFCE). The questions which the Committee had to concern itself with were so important that the Austrian delegation urged all States to co-operate fully within the Committee in order to find specific and rapid solutions. The assurance of access to resources required for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy called for a broad consensus, which was essential if an improved non-proliferation regime was to be accepted. The importance of full-scope safeguards should again be emphasized. In addition, with regard to non-proliferation, he wished to mention the signing in Vienna on 26 October 1979 of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPNM), which marked a decisive step towards an international regime and which hopefully would result in the elaboration of common standards for utilization, storage and transport of nuclear materials for domestic purposes.
4. With regard to the Agency's nuclear safety activities, the Austrian Government fully supported the opinion expressed by the delegate of the Netherlands concerning the need to find practical solutions for the disposal of radioactive wastes. That was a question of great political importance in countries in which public opinion was particularly vigilant and, for the future development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in a large number of industrialized countries, it might be essential to find a solution for that problem which was understood and accepted by the majority of the population. The Austrian Government welcomed the fact that the proposal put forward by the Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs to study the effects of the use of nuclear power beyond the frontiers of each country had been favourably received and was to be discussed at the International Conference on Current Nuclear Power Plant Safety Issues to be held in Stockholm in October. The purpose of the Austrian proposal in question was not to hinder the development of nuclear programmes in other countries but, on the contrary, to start a process in which international guidelines were drawn up on the basis of currently accepted safety criteria.

5. Mr. OSMAN (Egypt) noted that the twenty-fourth session of the General Conference was being held at a time when the use of nuclear power was going through a critical phase. The Agency was meeting its responsibilities regarding the promotion of nuclear power for electricity generation, but it could not cope alone with the difficulties ahead and needed the full support of all countries. In that connection, the Egyptian delegation thanked the Director General for his work at the head of the Agency and for his statement at the opening meeting, which had been most informative and provided a realistic analysis of the energy situation and of the central role of nuclear power. It should be pointed out, in particular, that, despite a zero-growth budget, the programme for 1981 was well balanced and effective and that an appropriate role had been assigned to nuclear safety, waste disposal and environmental aspects.
6. Since the closing of the twenty-third regular session of the General Conference, certain important events had taken place which had had consequences in the nuclear field and implications for the Agency's activities. The first of those events had been the holding in Munich two weeks earlier of the World Energy Conference, which had been attended by over 5000 participants and had pointed out the inadequacy of oil and other fossil fuel resources for future needs. Nuclear power as an economical and viable source of energy production had been shown to represent the only solution for the energy crisis in the short term.
7. The second event had been the holding in Geneva in August of the Second Review Conference of the Parties to NPT, which had unfortunately not provided solutions to the important questions of non-proliferation and of the assurances of supply of nuclear materials, technology and services. The Egyptian delegation, which had always supported the objectives of NPT and international efforts aimed at preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons, was convinced that non-proliferation was a political problem and not a technical one. Non-proliferation of nuclear weapons required action on a world-wide scale involving the adoption of various measures, and the Egyptian delegation believed that all efforts

- aimed at the denuclearization of certain zones should be encouraged. Together with other countries, Egypt had taken the necessary initiatives with a view to the declaration of the regions of Africa and of the Middle East as denuclearized zones, and it was gratifying to note that those efforts had been favourably received by the General Assembly of the United Nations and by other international and regional bodies. Unfortunately, the attitude of certain countries in those two regions, which evidently had nuclear ambitions in the military sphere, had prevented the application of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly. In addition, those ambitions were an obstacle to the ratification of NPT by Egypt. For the Treaty to be an instrument which would make it possible effectively to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, it was necessary to encourage all countries to abide by its objectives and to take substantive measures to complement it by an effective international non-proliferation regime. Such measures would correct the imbalance between the obligations and the responsibilities of nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon States, which was the cause of the disappointing results of the Review Conference.
8. The Egyptian delegation noted with satisfaction that the Agency was paying considerable attention to the question of assurances of supply, and it welcomed the decision of the Board of Governors to set up a committee open to all Member States for the purpose of studying the question. The Egyptian delegation considered that the same emphasis should be accorded to assurances of supply as to non-proliferation.
9. On the subject of the amendment of Article VI.A.2 of the Statute with a view to giving appropriate representation on the Board to the areas of Africa and of the Middle East and South Asia, the Egyptian delegation urged the General Conference to adopt a resolution which would put an end to an injustice which had prevailed for a long time.
10. The Agency's technical assistance programme was one of its most important activities from the point of view of developing countries. For that reason the Egyptian delegation had associated itself with other delegations in proposing that the technical assistance programme be financed from the Regular Budget in order to ensure stability and regularity, which would enable the Agency to make long-term plans in response to the needs of developing countries. The

Egyptian delegation noted with satisfaction that the Board had decided to establish the target for voluntary contributions for 1981 at \$13 million and to recommend \$16 million and \$19 million as indicative planning figures for 1982 and 1983 respectively. However, those sums remained much below the amounts which would be required for the projects needed by developing countries.

Mr. Morozov (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) took the Chair.

11. Mr. GHEZAL (Tunisia) said that the requirements of economic and social development in both the industrialized and the developing countries made the utilization of nuclear power as urgent as it was necessary, in view of the progressive exhaustion of the sources of energy currently used and the uncertainty and limitations of the available alternatives. However, the peaceful uses of nuclear energy continued to be subject to various ecological, technical, economic or political obstacles.

12. In his statement, the Director General had summed up the evolution of nuclear programmes throughout the world and had shown that there was a slowing-down in the implementation of those programmes in many industrialized countries and a continually increasing gap between industrialized and developing countries in the realm of expertise in and utilization of nuclear technology. In that connection, disapproval should continue to be expressed about capricious desires to monopolize knowledge and tendencies to keep discoveries secret. It was, therefore, important to redouble efforts to reduce the gulf between those who had access to technical information and those who did not, and to begin a genuine dialogue between partners imbued with good faith and mutual understanding. In the interests of the whole international community, developing countries must be able to acquire, master and use the technology essential for their development and progress.

13. The Tunisian delegation was convinced that the Agency should provide the framework for such a process, and the Committee on Assurances of Supply established by the Board of Governors had the task of making a valuable contribution to that end. It should also consider the possibility of setting up, under the auspices of the Agency, an international technology centre which would make it possible to respond to the pressing needs of Third-World countries.

14. With regard to the Agency's budget, which now showed zero growth, the Tunisian delegation wished once again to condemn the imbalance in the distribution of funds between the Agency's two main statutory activities, a situation which was thoroughly harmful to technical assistance. It associated itself with the consensus obtained in the Board of Governors on the targets for voluntary contributions for 1981, 1982 and 1983, but stressed their contingent nature and continued to believe that the Agency's technical assistance programme should be funded from the Regular Budget.

15. The Tunisian Government, which was becoming increasingly interested in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, was drawing up for the period up to the year 2000 an energy development plan under which renewable sources of energy were to play an increasing part and the use of nuclear power was being seriously envisaged. In addition, two projects were being carried out in Tunisia under the Agency's regular programme of technical assistance. As a country bordering on the Sahara, Tunisia set great store by the contribution of nuclear energy to solving the serious and complex problem of desertification.

16. The Tunisian delegation was disappointed at the negative response which continued to be given to the legitimate request for equitable representation on the Board of Governors for the areas of Africa and of the Middle East and South Asia. The amendment of Article VI.A.2 proposed since 1977 by the countries of those two areas was in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Statute, in which the principle of equitable representation of the various areas was enshrined. Moreover, the Tunisian delegation had occasion yet again to regret the fact that member countries of the Group of 77 as a whole were under-represented in the Secretariat, and the presence of their nationals continued to be an exception, especially in the higher ranks. The time had come for the Agency and the Secretariat to make, in the spirit and in the structure of the Agency, the changes required by equity and by a concern to render the Agency increasingly democratic.

17. Mr. NGUYEN MANH CAM (Viet Nam) observed that on the threshold of the 1980s his country hoped that common efforts would contribute to the maintenance of a lasting peace, to safeguarding the independence and security of peoples and to the happiness of mankind. In the struggle of peoples for a more decent life the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy constituted an essential factor both at present and for the future.

18. The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam supported co-operation and mutual aid between countries on the basis of equality. It was logical to expect that the advanced countries, as well as the Agency, should assist the developing countries in securing rapid access to the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy. In a number of the Agency's areas of activity, such as technical assistance, fellowships and training, preferential treatment should be accorded to developing countries, especially those which had just established a programme for the peaceful uses of atomic energy. In that connection his country welcomed the co-operation programme of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance.

19. Viet Nam was striving to remove the severe after-effects of war, and was currently devoting its energies to peaceful construction. Its efforts were aimed at realizing the peaceful application of atomic energy in agriculture and public health and at intensifying the training of personnel. At that initial stage of peaceful nuclear applications, Viet Nam had received assistance from the Agency, the Soviet Union and other socialist countries and also from a number of other friendly States.

20. The Vietnamese people aspired to a real and lasting peace, and was determined to preserve its independence and freedom; hence its desire to see a peaceful and stable South-East Asia where genuine co-operation between all countries could be established. It was from that standpoint that Viet Nam endorsed the initiative taken by the Soviet Union and other peace-loving countries to promote peace, international détente and general disarmament, for it was necessary to strive to ensure détente, security and the independence and sovereignty of peoples by contributing to the establishment of conditions conducive to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

21. Mr. BARUFCU (Turkey) emphasized that most of the industrialized and developing countries which did not possess sufficient local energy resources had been facing severe economic problems since the oil crisis of 1974. Nevertheless there had been stagnation and even a decrease in orders for nuclear power plants over the preceding three or four years in several developed and some developing countries because of increased activity by anti-nuclear pressure groups and

uncertainties regarding the long-term supply of nuclear materials. However, in view of the fresh increases in the prices of oil and other fossil fuels, nuclear energy generation had re-emerged as one of the reliable alternatives to meet energy requirements until the year 2000.

22. Since Turkey had limited conventional energy resources, nuclear energy would play an increasing role in electricity generation from 1990 onwards. The first power plant, 660 MW(e), which was scheduled to go into operation in 1987, would constitute an important milestone in the introduction of nuclear power in Turkey. Feasibility and siting studies for further nuclear power plants had already started. In that connection it should be mentioned that two institutes, dealing with the application of nuclear techniques in veterinary science and in agriculture, had been established with the technical assistance provided by the Agency.

23. Countries had to have freedom of choice regarding each stage of the nuclear fuel cycle, and should not be constrained by unilateral decisions taken by one State or a group of States. Such restrictions would be in conflict with the Agency's Statute and with NPT. Although the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy meant that applications should not be directed towards nuclear weapon production, that requirement should not hinder the execution of civil nuclear programmes. That was why the rules for the provision of nuclear material, equipment, technology and nuclear fuel cycle services should be evolved on the basis of a consensus, with the participation of all countries which had nuclear research and development programmes. The International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation (INFCE) represented an exemplary approach in that respect, and so did the objectives of the Committee on Assurances of Supply, which had been set up by the Board of Governors in June 1980. The conclusions and achievements of INFCE and the Committee would be of the utmost importance for the future programmes of all countries, particularly for those of the Third World. For example, the establishment of an international fuel bank, an international technology centre and an emergency safety network would be of great benefit.

24. Turkey had become a party to NPT on 17 April 1980, and had already taken steps towards negotiating a safeguards agreement with the Agency under the Treaty. In addition, it intended to establish a national system of nuclear material accounting and control. It had benefited from the Agency's technical assistance

in that respect. All nuclear activities in Turkey had been subject to inspections by the Agency even before the country's accession to NPT.

25. The Turkish delegation noted with satisfaction that the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material had been opened for signature, and would make every effort to sign it at an early date. It hoped that the Agency would be able to provide the necessary assistance in the establishment of national physical protection systems in the developing countries.

26. At the Second NPT Review Conference held in Geneva in August and September 1980 the discussions on the application of Article III, relating to safeguards, and Article IV, dealing with the promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, had revealed certain differences of opinion. Likewise, the process of rapid and deliberate transition to nuclear power generation, which was of vital importance for the developing countries, was beset with difficulties. That proved that the establishment of a system based on consensus regarding the peaceful application of nuclear energy, with the active participation of all countries which had nuclear programmes, would be the only means of achieving a more satisfactory development of international nuclear relations. It went without saying that the creation of an atmosphere of mutual trust was a sine qua non for such an understanding.

27. In conclusion, he stressed the importance of the technical assistance provided by the Agency, and pointed out that his country had raised its voluntary contribution. Turkey was also pleased to host scientific meetings organized by the Agency and would continue to do so, since that was one of the ways of supporting the Agency's activities. For example, in the current year it was hosting an Agency seminar on the utilization of research reactors and neutron generators for developing countries, and it would organize other scientific meetings in 1981 and 1982.

28. Mr. SMALL (New Zealand) said that the annual report had once again demonstrated the progress made by the Agency in promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and in preventing the dangers of proliferation of nuclear weapons. It was of vital concern to all countries that the link between the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Agency's Safeguards System should be preserved.

29. However, on the subject of nuclear arms control, the annual report painted an excessively optimistic picture of what had been achieved during the past year. In that connection his Government deeply regretted the disappointing outcome of the Second NPT Review Conference, especially where arms control and disarmament were concerned. The New Zealand Minister of Foreign Affairs had considered that the Conference had given a warning to the nuclear-weapon States, and particularly the two super-Powers, that they must reduce their nuclear arsenals and negotiate other important measures of nuclear arms control if NPT was to retain its full significance. His delegation also noted the slow progress of the trilateral negotiations on a complete nuclear test ban and the non-ratification of the SALT II Treaty. All those negative elements had coincided with an increase in world tensions due to the Afghanistan and Kampuchea crises. During the preceding year the Pacific region had not remained free from the nuclear shadow. The New Zealand Government therefore considered that new decisions should be taken on nuclear disarmament and that the Agency should play a role in that field. A comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty had not yet taken shape and his country wished once again to call for the conclusion of such a treaty.

30. As to positive achievements, the Director General had cited the increase in the volume of technical assistance and in the number of safeguards agreements, the continuation of the efforts which had led to the conclusion in 1980 of the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation and the finalization of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. The last two were outstanding achievements, and his Government hoped to sign the Convention in the near future. In the matter of practical application of atomic energy for peaceful purposes, New Zealand, like other countries, had been affected by the events of the preceding few years and had consequently begun developing a new energy policy. Thus, the production of electrical energy had been reviewed in the context of energy possibilities and some significant decisions had been taken. Although three or four years earlier the generation of electricity by nuclear means had been

included in the country's power plan covering the following fifteen years, the nuclear option had been deleted from current planning. Instead, New Zealand was making a determined effort to utilize resources such as natural gas, coal, water power and geothermal energy. Nevertheless, that did not mean that New Zealand had turned its back on nuclear energy. It was only being guided by the recommendations of a commission of inquiry which had advised the Government to defer any decisions on the subject for the time being.

31. The foregoing developments had not diminished his country's interest in the Agency's work. For example, as a producer of meat and agricultural commodities, New Zealand was greatly interested in the radiation preservation of various foodstuffs and hoped that the Codex Alimentarius would be amended so that several irradiated foods could be accepted for general consumption. It was pursuing its programme on the use of radioisotopes in industry and maintaining its interest in uranium ore prospecting. Work was also continuing in the area of nuclear medicine, and the activities of the National Radiation Laboratory now extended to monitoring radioactivity in the atmosphere, not only over New Zealand but also over the neighbouring Pacific islands.

32. In conclusion he affirmed that, even if New Zealand was not directly involved in all activities of the Agency, it would continue to take a close interest in the Agency's work.

33. Mr. ADENIJI (Nigeria) said that meeting energy needs had become one of the crucial problems of mankind. The problem was most serious for developing countries, which, whether or not they were oil producers, would be forced more and more to turn to other energy sources as oil reserves were depleted. However, those countries best placed to change the present situation seemed uninterested in that other proven energy source - nuclear energy. The energy situation was no longer as secure as it had been when the Agency was established, and nuclear power could not remain a prerogative of the rich countries. Although they might deny themselves nuclear power at the instigation of defenders of the environment and politicians, the rich countries could and must not prevent the developing countries from using it, provided the necessary safeguards were applied.

34. In the past year Nigeria had undertaken a review of its energy programme, particularly as regards electricity generation, and had stepped up its uranium prospecting effort. For that reason his country looked to the Agency for the assistance needed in training personnel and acquiring technical and scientific knowledge; it was grateful to the Agency for the assistance and co-operation rendered in the past.

35. If they were to meet the expectations of Member States, the promotional and regulatory activities of the Agency should be financed from the Regular Budget. That would help impart consistency, continuity and predictability to the Agency's programmes. It was thus alarming to note that the technical assistance budget for 1981 showed zero growth while the funds allotted to the financing of safeguards were increasing. The Nigerian Government had already demonstrated its commitment to international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy by making a contribution distinctly greater than its calculated share to the Technical Assistance Fund in 1980, and it intended to do the same in 1981.

36. Of course the Agency's safeguards activities were necessary, and the Agency should continue to play an important part in that field. However, the Second NPT Review Conference had brought out a regrettable polarization with regard to the dual objective of the Treaty: to prevent proliferation of nuclear weapons on the one hand and to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy on the other. Moreover, any objective analysis of the application of NPT must take into account the development of the international situation, i.e. that the number of nuclear-weapon States should not increase and that those which had renounced nuclear weapons had the right to be free of the spectre of a nuclear holocaust. Furthermore, in order to be effective NPT should cover not only horizontal but also vertical proliferation; the regulatory role of the Agency in that respect should not hamper its promotional role. The Nigerian delegation wished to draw the attention of the General Conference to the attempt on the part of South Africa to destabilize the African continent by acquiring nuclear weapons through the collaboration of certain countries and in flagrant disregard of the Agency's safeguards. The fact that that country had exploded a nuclear device in 1979 gave rise to doubts about the Agency's ability to prevent the diversion of nuclear materials to military purposes in South Africa. His delegation appealed to all Members of the Agency to cease immediately all nuclear co-operation with South Africa and to prevent their trans-national companies from utilizing the uranium resources of Namibia. If the apartheid régime would not respect international standards and obligations it must be totally isolated, as it had been during the twenty-third regular session of the General Conference.

37. Regarding the amendment of Article VI.A.2 of the Statute, his delegation recalled that Nigeria had proposed to the Board of Governors that three additional seats should be given to Africa and two to the Middle East and South Asia, as those two areas were clearly under-represented on the Board. Since the situation had not changed his delegation was repeating its request before the General Conference in the hope that greater credibility would be given to the principle of sovereign equality of all Member States proclaimed in Article IV of the Statute.

38. Mr. DALKHSUREN (Mongolia), recalling the great objectives of the Agency's work, stressed the importance of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and of international co-operation in that field at the present time. Numerous delegations had spoken before him on the subject of the Second NPT Review Conference; the questions discussed by that Conference did indeed have a direct connection with the Agency's activities. In the Mongolian delegation's view the principal result of the Conference had been to confirm the value of NPT. The exchanges of opinion which had taken place would make it possible to strengthen the non-proliferation regime and should promote international co-operation in the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

39. The Review Conference had attached great importance to examining suitable measures for ending the arms race. Unfortunately, a large number of initiatives and proposals originating from the socialist countries remained unrealized. While the Mongolian delegation shared the concern expressed during the Conference at the current situation, it also shared the positive appraisal of the Agency's activities, especially as regards safeguards.

40. The development of nuclear power was accompanied by a considerable increase in world-wide exchanges of nuclear material and equipment. Great importance must be attached in that connection to the work which had led to the drafting of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. His delegation was convinced that the ratification procedure for that Convention would soon be completed in his country.

41. Mongolia supported the Agency's programmes on the establishment of international and regional fuel cycle centres and international plutonium and spent fuel storage centres. Such centres should not only facilitate effective control by the Agency, but should also accelerate the development of nuclear power, especially in countries with a low industrial potential.

42. Concerning the annual report for 1979, his delegation was pleased with the results obtained by the Agency in the fields of nuclear power, nuclear safety, environmental protection, safeguards and the International Nuclear Information System. The technical assistance provided by the Agency in 1979 was particularly deserving of praise. The total funds available for that purpose had been \$17.5 million, which represented an increase of 17% over the previous year. A certain number of Agency projects were being carried out in Mongolia; some related to the development of nuclear science and technology, others to the applications of isotopes and radiation in scientific research, geology, medicine and agriculture. The Mongolian delegation was particularly grateful to the Agency for its assistance in the establishment of a national nuclear analysis laboratory in Mongolia.

43. His delegation approved of the target of \$13 million fixed for voluntary contributions, and his Government was prepared to pay its share.

Mr. Mademba Sy (Senegal) took the Chair.

44. Mr. CHAGULA (United Republic of Tanzania) said that he was happy to recommend that the General Conference adopt the annual report for 1979. Regarding INFCE, the Tanzanian delegation welcomed the fact that the Board of Governors had set up the Committee on Assurances of Supply. It proposed that the Agency organize a series of regional and sub-regional seminars to acquaint the developing countries with the most important results of INFCE. That should be done, as far as possible, in collaboration with national research councils, universities and other appropriate institutions. Such a programme would lay a firm foundation for the Agency's technical assistance to the developing countries, particularly the least developed among them.

45. As regards the "Matters of Interest to the Agency discussed by the General Assembly of the United Nations", there was one omission in particular which seemed significant: there was no reference to General Assembly Resolution 34/92 C which, in particular, requested all the specialized agencies and other organizations and conferences within the United Nations system to grant full membership to the United Nations Council for Namibia, so that it might participate in that capacity as the Administering Authority for Namibia in the work of those agencies, organizations and conferences. The Tanzanian delegation hoped that the Secretariat

was already taking the necessary steps to enable the United Nations Council for Namibia to participate as a full member of the Agency.

46. Regarding the Agency's programme for 1981-86 and its budget for 1981, he supported in general the proposals they contained, but reserved the right to make more detailed comments in the Committee of the Whole. The Tanzanian delegation was particularly pleased that new Secretariat Divisions had been established for the nuclear fuel cycle, nuclear power and nuclear safety. As a result of that reorganization the Agency would be able to respond more effectively to the developing countries' needs in those areas. The Tanzanian delegation also felt that the Agency's programme for 1981-86 should strike a fair balance between the amounts earmarked for safeguards and for technical assistance. That was the spirit in which it approved the target of \$13 million for voluntary contributions to the Technical Assistance Fund for 1981. Subject to those reservations it supported the adoption of the draft resolutions on the Agency's Regular Budget, Technical Assistance Fund and Working Capital Fund for 1981, contained in Annex VI to document GC(XXIV)/630.

47. Regarding the financing of technical assistance, the Tanzanian Government still strongly maintained that, in order to know what resources could be counted on for technical assistance and to be sure that the latter was accorded the same status as safeguards, the technical assistance programme should be financed from the Regular Budget as soon as possible. Since the Board of Governors had failed to reach a consensus on that matter, the General Conference should find a satisfactory solution to prevent many technically sound projects being left unimplemented for lack of resources, a situation which recurred annually. In response to the recommendation made by the Board of Governors, the Tanzanian Government was pledging a voluntary contribution of \$1300 to the Technical Assistance Fund for 1981.

48. Turning to the question of the amendment of Article VI.A.2 of the Statute, he pointed out that the representation on the Board of the areas "Africa" and "Middle East and South Asia" was only about 22%, while that of the other areas ranged from 32 to 38%. That meant that, while the Member States in the other areas had only six years to wait before obtaining a seat on the Board, the Member States of Africa and of the Middle East and South Asia had to wait as long as nine years. That was a flagrant violation of the principle of equitable representation on the Board of Governors. The General Conference should therefore urge the Board to resolve that question without further delay.

49. Concerning NPT, Tanzania had not signed it because it considered it more harmful than useful to the world's disarmament efforts. In the first place it was failing to achieve any abatement of the nuclear arms race and did not affect those few members of the "club" of countries which monopolized nuclear weapons. Secondly, it created a false sense of satisfaction and complacency, which in turn led to a slackening of efforts to attain disarmament; meanwhile the problem was growing more serious each year. Thirdly, it violated the sovereignty of Member States, since it made assistance from the Agency conditional upon signing NPT, contrary to Articles II and III of the Agency's Statute. Six years after the First NPT Review Conference the nuclear-weapon States had made no progress whatsoever towards achieving disarmament. Furthermore, the Second Review Conference had shown that double standards were being applied with regard to the implementation of the Treaty, depending on whether or not the States party to it possessed nuclear weapons. The nuclear-weapon States had continued to violate Articles VI and I of the Treaty by carrying on the arms race. The fact that the United States of America had only recently agreed to have its peaceful nuclear facilities placed under Agency safeguards was also symptomatic.

50. Mr. NORAMLY (Malaysia) said that, on the opening day of the General Conference, an agreement had been concluded between Malaysia, the Agency and the United States of America for the supply to Malaysia of a TRIGA Mark II research reactor and its fuel. The reactor would be operated by the Tun Ismail Atomic Research Centre (PUSPATI) some 32 kilometres from Kuala Lumpur. Delivery of the fuel was scheduled for October 1981, and the reactor would be used for training purposes and for the production of radioisotopes.

51. Malaysia was basically an agricultural country and had embarked on a modest nuclear programme. Apart from agriculture, his country also gave priority to the medical and industrial applications of atomic energy. It sought the co-operation of the industrialized countries in order to obtain research and training facilities. His delegation wished to thank both the Agency and the Governments of Australia, Austria, Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines and the United States of America for their assistance in the PUSPATI project.

52. Although its nuclear programme was modest in scale, his country had encountered great difficulties in obtaining training facilities and had had to contend with very stringent conditions set by the exporting countries. The industrialized countries should facilitate the transfer of nuclear techniques to the developing countries for the benefit of mankind and in order to foster a closer understanding between the Agency's Member States.

53. His delegation welcomed the establishment of the Committee on Assurances of Supply, which should bring substantial benefits to the developing countries.

54. With regard to the Agency's programme and budget (GC(XXIV)/630), he was concerned to note that the indicative planning figures for voluntary contributions did not reflect the real needs of technical assistance, even though the targets had been increased and despite the generous additional contributions paid by certain Member States. As stated by the Director General, it had been possible to implement only one third of the technically sound projects for which no funds had been initially available. In order to solve that problem, the Agency should undertake a more ambitious programme modelled on the Regional Co-operative Agreement (RCA). The Department of Research and Isotopes had done some excellent work in promoting the UNDP funding of RCA projects concerning the industrial applications of radiation and radioisotopes.

55. It was interesting to note that, although the Agency had problems in financing technical assistance, the same did not apply to safeguards. Any imbalance between the promotional and the regulatory aspects of the Agency's activities was detrimental to the Agency's statutory objectives. Those countries which were in a position to help the Agency restore that balance should do so.

56. The failure of the Second NPT Review Conference gave cause for alarm. The agreements which had been reached in certain areas should nonetheless be fully implemented, and the outstanding differences should not obstruct future co-operation. It had also been recognized that excessively strict regulation was detrimental to the transfer of technology and that the indiscriminate application of safeguards would have resulted in economic losses.

57. Mr. ELLAM (Israel) declared that his country valued the Agency's assistance to its Member States, particularly its efforts in the field of information, the environment, safety, quality assurance and physical security. He hoped that the Agency would play an increasingly active role in promoting nuclear activities and initiating public discussions on the many controversial aspects of nuclear energy. Much had still to be said and done to allay doubts and misplaced fears, and to provide objective information to the public.

58. A greater effort should be made to induce the leading industrialized countries to devote more thought and resources to adapting existing power reactors to the conditions prevailing in the developing countries. The Agency had taken a wise decision in convening an advisory group on the interaction of grid characteristics with the design performance of nuclear power plants. The Agency should also devote more attention to the definition of criteria for underground nuclear power plants, which constituted an important option and a possible solution to site selection and environmental safety problems. Greater efforts should also be made to solve problems relating to the construction and safe operation of nuclear power plants situated far from the sea or from adequate water resources. Technology allowing a nuclear power plant to be constructed where it was really needed, and not just where it could be built, had still to be developed. His country was facing a real and pressing problem in that connection, since it already used its water resources to the full: the same would probably be true for other countries, even those with more plentiful water resources.

59. Although Israel was a developing country with limited resources, his Government was ready to continue its tradition of co-operation with other developing countries through the Agency.

60. Mr. MUSSO (Uruguay) stated that his Government, conscious of the need felt by all modern States to use nuclear technology, had in April 1980 approved the general outlines of the country's nuclear policy and had instructed the National Atomic Energy Commission to draw up a national nuclear programme. With the co-operation of the Agency, the Inter-American Nuclear Energy Commission (IANEC)

and the national commissions of Argentina, Brazil and Chile, the Uruguayan Atomic Energy Commission was continuing to implement its plans to use radioisotopes in medicine, agriculture and industry. His country's interest in the other potential uses of nuclear energy had led it to host, in May 1980, the Conference on Small and Medium Nuclear Power Reactors for Energy Generation and Industrial Applications, attended by 150 participants from 17 countries.

61. Convinced as it was of the need to strengthen regional nuclear co-operation and of the role that the Agency could, and should, play as a catalyst in that process, his Government was pleased to note that the Regional Co-operation Agreement for Latin America was taking shape. That Agreement would allow better use to be made of the region's resources and of those provided by international bodies. In that connection, mention should be made of the regional non-destructive test project in which the countries from the region were collaborating, together with the Agency, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Inter-American Nuclear Energy Commission of OAS (IANEC).

62. The developing countries should constantly strive to make use of modern technology, including of course nuclear technology, in their energy production systems. His country welcomed the Agency's efforts in that direction but was concerned at the financial constraints which prevented the Agency from carrying out many of its technical assistance projects. Uruguay approved the target figure for voluntary contributions to the Technical Assistance Fund for 1981 and the recommended figures for 1982 and 1983. As in the past, Uruguay would make a voluntary contribution.

63. Mr. AL-ESKANGI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) recalled that, at the previous session of the General Conference, his delegation had warned that the energy crisis could be expected to continue and had stressed that the Agency and its advanced Member States should make use of nuclear power, which constituted one of the main sources of energy production both now and in the future.

64. Since then little had been done to develop nuclear energy to the greatest possible extent. A much more vigorous technological effort was required in order to construct safer, more economical and more reliable nuclear power stations.

65. He wished to refer in particular to the nuclear power needs of the developing countries and to the serious problems they faced owing to their lack of know-how,

their financial difficulties and their shortage of technical and scientific manpower. That was especially true for all stages of the fuel cycle, uranium prospecting, technical training and the development of nuclear industries. It was amazing to note that the developed countries had already used and were still using the resources of certain developing countries to the full, for instance, those of the oil-producing countries. However, there was no return in the shape of real assistance in the development of nuclear technology where it was needed. The Agency should make serious efforts in that direction.

66. Another important issue concerned the commitment of Member States regarding the implementation of NPT and safeguards. His country had met its obligations by signing a safeguards agreement in accordance with Articles III.1 and III.4 of NPT. It had thus demonstrated its goodwill in seeking to realize "atoms for peace" and to implement its programme for the development of peaceful applications of nuclear energy. His country had already urged others to sign NPT and to apply the corresponding safeguards. Countries which had not signed NPT were creating a very dangerous situation by posing a regional nuclear threat. South Africa and Israel were obvious examples of countries which caused the terror of nuclear weapons to reign throughout the world. Those countries had committed illegal acts by, for example, stealing uranium from other States. The Agency and its Member States should take a firm stand on that vital issue and face up to their responsibilities before it was too late.

67. The Libyan programme for the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear power was still proceeding according to plan. Like any other country with a nuclear programme, his country was in urgent need of uranium and had intensified prospecting operations in the vast Libyan deserts. Since the results were encouraging, the survey work would be extended. Furthermore, as soon as the nuclear programme had moved forward, efforts would be made to develop laboratory techniques for uranium processing as a first stage in the establishment of the nuclear fuel cycle.

68. Nevertheless, the main effort was still focused on the completion of the Nuclear Research Centre at Tajura. Some facilities, like the two neutron generators, were almost complete and were ready for testing prior to commissioning. The 10-MW research reactor would undergo trials in a few months' time. All the other laboratories, including the Tokamak thermonuclear research facility, would be operational by the end of 1981.

69. Equipment was of no use without the appropriate technical manpower, and training was therefore proceeding in parallel with the development of nuclear facilities. A large proportion of the university-trained scientific staff had now returned home to take up their duties. Major efforts were, however, still required, and his Government hoped that the Agency would take additional steps through its technical assistance programmes to ensure that the necessary staff was available to run the country's nuclear laboratories.

70. Mr. KOLYCHAN (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) observed that the recent deterioration in the international situation made the struggle for world peace even more important. The policy of peace and détente followed by the socialist countries had been demonstrated at the last meeting of the Consultative Political Commission of the Warsaw Pact States. At a meeting of parliamentary representatives of those States held in Minsk in June 1980, Mr. Brezhnev had declared that the considerable resources expended on the arms race should be devoted to peaceful purposes. The Agency's activities should, indeed, promote that cause.

71. The annual report for 1979 illustrated the Agency's major contribution to the development of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy. His delegation approved the report and the accounts for 1979. Among the positive points to emerge from the report, he would mention the conclusion of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the completion of INFCE, which had highlighted the importance of non-proliferation, the Agency's safeguards activities and plutonium storage projects. Within the necessary financial constraints, the Agency should continue to focus its attention on key activities and, first and

foremost, on nuclear technology and the associated problems of safety and non-proliferation. The Agency's activities were running more and more in that direction. The Agency had responded to the worsening energy supply situation by arranging conferences and meetings and by supporting INFCE. Similarly, the Three Mile Island accident had prompted the Agency to extend its activities in the field of nuclear power plant safety. His delegation was satisfied with the results from the "Nuclear power and reactors" and the "Nuclear safety and environmental protection" programmes. It was also satisfied with the effectiveness of safeguards, which were an essential branch of the Agency's activities; the participants at the Second NPT Review Conference had concluded that safeguards were one of the main weapons in the fight against proliferation.

72. The participants at the Review Conference had unanimously recognized the need for an agreement on a total and general nuclear test ban, and he wished to recall the Soviet proposals to halt the production of nuclear weapons, strengthen the guarantees given to non-nuclear States and respect nuclear-free zones. Most speakers had emphasized the merits of the SALT II agreement, which should be promptly ratified and supplemented by further negotiations. At the same time, the participants had expressed their concern at the increasing number of facilities in non-nuclear-weapon States which were not under safeguards but which could produce material for use in the manufacture of nuclear weapons. Israel and South Africa had thus acquired the capability to produce such weapons.

73. Assistance granted by the Agency to developing Member States had increased by 16.5% in 1979, and there were favourable trends in the distribution of expenditure together with a net reduction of the surplus in non-convertible currency. Technical assistance should continue to be funded by voluntary contributions since financing from the Regular Budget would be contrary to the principles laid down in the Statute and would hamper efforts to improve the effectiveness of the programme. His delegation approved the increased target for technical assistance contributions and was able to announce that his Government would increase its contribution for 1981 to 40 000 roubles in national currency.

74. Byelorussia approved the Agency's programme for 1981-1986 and the draft budget for 1981, together with the preliminary estimates for 1982 and 1983, which latter provided a welcome overall view of trends in expenditure. He was pleased to note that a zero growth budget was proposed for 1981. The increases which were necessary, affecting the "Nuclear safety and environmental protection" and "Safeguards" programmes and accompanied by increases in expenditure on technical assistance and training, seemed minimal in view of the demands which the Agency had to face in those key areas. Likewise, the increased expenditure on safeguards, which was estimated at \$3 million per year, appeared minimal in the light of the expected increase in the number of inspections and in the number and range of installations under safeguards.

75. The Agency's programme for 1981-86 made rather vague reference to plans relating to reactors for the co-generation of heat and electricity or the generation of low-grade heat alone. That aspect of the programme was, nevertheless, of great interest to countries with highly centralized district heating systems. His own country was preparing to build a reactor for the co-generation of heat and electricity in the city of Minsk. Since such plants had to be located near cities, the Agency's nuclear safety programme should be extended somewhat.

76. The development of the Agency's activities in the field of fast reactors met with his delegation's approval, since the intensive use of such reactors currently offered the only long-term solution to the energy supply problem. Accordingly, his country was undertaking a complex programme of research and experiments with a view to using N_2O_4 as coolant in gas-cooled fast neutron reactors. The feasibility of that type of reactor was confirmed by the design work for the BRIG-300 360-MW power-plant project, by investigations into gas dynamics and heat exchange and by corrosion testing of materials exposed to N_2O_4 . That work was continuing in conjunction with the other Republics of the USSR, Poland, Hungary and Bulgaria.

77. Byelorussia was making greater and greater use of radiation and isotopes. The medical applications ranged from diagnostic work to the treatment of oncological diseases and sterilization of pharmaceuticals and instruments. Irradiation processes were being investigated for use in extending the storage life of fodder

and other agricultural products. The sensitivity to radiation and the mutability of major crop plants was also being studied, together with the phenomena associated with mineral nutrition of plants. Lastly, radiosterilization was being used in the manufacture of bacterial fertilizers.

78. Many institutes were carrying out fundamental research both in nuclear physics and into radiocatalytic and radiochemical processes for producing new materials. His country was participating in the Agency's international programme on the evaluation of nuclear data on the actinides, and was also undertaking theoretical studies of the interaction of high-energy nucleons and nuclei with other nuclei and matter.

The meeting rose at 1.5 p.m.

