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Held at the Neue Hofburg, Vienna,
on Friday, 26 September 1980 at 10.15 a.m.

President: Mr. HAUNSCHILD (Federal Republic of Germany)
later: Mr. HAMAMOTO (Japan)

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*/ A provisional version of this document was issued on 20 October 1980.

**/ GC(XXIV)/637.

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

EXAMINATION OF DELEGATES' CREDENTIALS (GC(XXIV)/638)

1. The PRESIDENT drew the attention of the General Conference to document GC(XXIV)/638 containing the report by the General Committee on the examination of delegates' credentials. Pursuant to Rule 28 of the Rules of Procedure, the report stated that the General Committee had met as a Credentials Committee on Thursday, 25 September. An account of the way in which the General Committee had approached its task and of the opinions expressed during the discussion was given in paragraphs 1-13 of the document. The last paragraph included a draft resolution which the General Committee recommended the General Conference to adopt.
2. The resolution set out in paragraph 14 of document GC(XXIV)/638 was adopted.

GENERAL DEBATE AND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1979 (GC(XXIV)/627) (resumed)

3. Mr. DHARMAWARDENA (Sri Lanka) observed that his delegation was once more attending a session of the General Conference cognizant of the importance of nuclear energy in the last quarter of the twentieth century. The major problems facing the General Conference concerned the depletion of traditional sources of energy and the need to use nuclear technology to develop, for instance, agriculture, hydrology, industry and medicine, which were the most important activities as far as his country was concerned.
4. His Government's foremost concerns were food and public health, followed by the development of the economy in order to create employment. In order to achieve its objectives, his country was in need of the active co-operation and assistance of the Agency and friendly countries. In recent years, Sri Lanka had increased its participation in the Agency's activities; several seminars, courses and meetings had been held there, and an important IAEA symposium on food preservation was to take place in Sri Lanka towards the end of 1980.
5. Nuclear proliferation was of two types, one serving peaceful purposes and the other purposes of domination. It went without saying that Sri Lanka was among those countries which used nuclear power for peaceful purposes. His Government had, therefore, not only signed and ratified the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) but had also outlawed any activity that might lead to a nuclear explosion. Infringement of that law carried a 20-year prison sentence.
6. Although safeguards were useful in some cases, they should not obstruct the development of nuclear programmes by imposing superfluous conditions or by diverting funds which were needed for development.

7. The importance of nuclear energy for a country like Sri Lanka, which had no oil coal or gas, could not be overstated. At present, his country relied on hydroelectric power stations which were subject to the vagaries of the weather. Preparations therefore had to be made for the introduction of alternative sources of energy, especially in view of the increasing rate of growth of demand for electricity.

8. Mr. AL-KABBANI (Saudi Arabia) said that the annual report showed an encouraging trend in the use of nuclear power. The oil-producing and -exporting countries were just as interested in nuclear power as the main consumers. By making greater use of nuclear power, the industrialized countries would undoubtedly allow the oil-producing countries to economize their reserves.

9. His country attached great importance to safety and wholeheartedly supported the Agency's activities in that field. The nuclear industry could not afford another accident like the one at Three Mile Island without suffering very serious consequences. Any delay in the commissioning of a nuclear power plant would have a disastrous long-term effect on the energy situation.

10. Safety matters could not be discussed without mentioning safeguards. As had been stated by the Director General, the Agency's safeguards system could be effective only if it were universally applied. Drawing the Conference's attention to paragraphs 31 and 32 of the annual report, his delegation wished to stress that Saudi Arabia was ready to sign and ratify NPT if, in accordance with Resolution 34/77 of the General Assembly of the United Nations, all countries in the Middle East agreed to place their nuclear activities under Agency safeguards. Detailed information regarding the implementation of the resolutions quoted in those two paragraphs should be included in the next annual report.

11. Two other urgent matters should be considered by the General Conference at its present session. The first was the amendment of Article VI.A.2 of the Statute. The Board had still not submitted useful observations to the General Conference. His delegation very much regretted such a delay in rendering justice to the areas of Africa and the Middle East and South Asia.

12. The other important matter was the financing of technical assistance. A satisfactory solution had to be found since the developing countries regarded that question as one of principle. If technical assistance was one of the Agency's major functions, and of that there could be no doubt, it should be treated

accordingly and funded from the Regular Budget. Saudi Arabia attached great importance to that activity and would continue to contribute more than its due share.

13. He wished to conclude by recalling the statement he had made at the previous regular session of the General Conference, drawing attention to Resolution 33/71 A of the General Assembly of the United Nations concerning the transfer of nuclear equipment or fissionable material or technology to a certain country. He noted with regret from document GC(XXIV)/INF/191 that the Agency had provided that country with direct assistance worth more than US \$120 000 in 1979.

14. Mr. CABALLERO (Cuba) expressed his country's concern at the non-peaceful nuclear activities of countries such as South Africa and Israel. It was because of that concern that Cuba supported United Nations General Assembly Resolutions 34/89, 34/76 and parts A, E and O of Resolution 34/93, which condemned the nuclear policies of Israel and South Africa and requested the Secretary-General to report to the 35th and 36th sessions of the General Assembly on the status of nuclear armament in Israel and on the plans and capacity of South Africa in the nuclear field. It was no secret to anybody that Israel and South Africa were receiving help and co-operation in the matter from certain developed countries of the West. That being so, how could one reconcile the repeated assurances of those Western countries regarding their adherence to the nuclear non-proliferation regime and that veiled co-operation in the nuclear field with Israel and South Africa?

15. As for nuclear weapons, mankind was likewise concerned about the need for concluding the SALT II agreement on the limitation of strategic weapons. Deep concern was also caused by the plans to deploy new medium-range nuclear weapons in Western Europe and by the fresh aggressive steps taken in the Caribbean Sea, in the Persian Gulf and in the Indian Ocean involving nuclear-weapon carriers and areas containing military bases where they could find shelter. The foregoing facts once more showed that before a fair balance could be established between the transfer of nuclear technology and international safeguards it was first necessary to put an end to the military uses of nuclear energy. In that context, Cuba considered that, for the application of NPT to be more effective, mutual trust between the suppliers and the recipients of nuclear technology must be developed and strengthened. Genuine progress in that sphere required the exercise of political will, persistent efforts and specific measures. Cuba, for its part, had recently concluded with the Agency agreements on the application of safeguards to the Juragua nuclear power plant and to the reactor of the

Cuban Nuclear Research Institute, and was willing to contribute its utmost to the creation and propagation of a climate conducive to international co-operation.

16. Following the sixth summit conference of non-aligned countries in Havana, the first regular meeting of non-aligned co-ordinating countries on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy had been held in Buenos Aires. Various sectors of co-operation in the nuclear field had been identified or explored and an ad hoc committee established with a view to carrying on the work between the group's meetings. There had also been an exchange of views on the non-aligned countries' stand in international bodies and meetings dealing with nuclear matters.

17. Cuba was making modest but steady progress in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and had recently concluded with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics a co-operation agreement on the expansion of the Nuclear Research Institute, which would have facilities for technical support activities relating to the nuclear power plant now under construction, for national production of radioisotopes and labelled compounds and for basic research. Also, Cuba was continuing to implement sizable training programmes to meet the needs of nuclear power development. At the same time, it was offering to other countries belonging to the non-aligned group its modest possibilities of co-operation appropriate to its level of nuclear development.

18. As for the financing of technical assistance, he noted that the number and worth of technical assistance projects which were technically sound but could not be fully financed was tending to grow. The figures - 61 projects amounting to more than US \$2.5 million - were revealing. Therefore, Cuba could not but endorse the proposal requesting the Board of Governors to make a fresh study of the question of financing technical assistance and to submit a report on all possible effective means of providing such financing. In that context, the Agency should pay particular attention to its least developed Member States. Furthermore, he reiterated that his country could not approve any initiative purporting to make the provision of technical assistance by the Agency conditional on adherence by the recipient country to a certain international treaty. Cuba was moreover in favour of striking a fair balance between the financing of safeguards and that of technical assistance.

19. Cuba considered that Member States should have adequate geographical representation in the various bodies and activities of the Agency.

20. Lastly, his country duly appreciated the Agency's contribution to international co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy. It would continue to play its part in reconciling the regulation of international transfers of nuclear technology with the need to meet the energy requirements of a large part of mankind.

21. Mr. HABASHI (Sudan) said that the world energy crisis which had been mounting over the preceding few years was already having retarding effects on the economic and social development of many Third World countries, the whole of whose export earnings was hardly sufficient to pay for their essential imports of fossil fuels. The threat which that trend posed to the very existence of such countries was evident. Sudan shared the Director General's view that to survive the world needed every advanced form of energy technology, including nuclear energy. In that respect, the Agency had a significant role to play, which demanded the full support of all Member States. Sudan was pledging its full support for the Agency's present and future activities in that direction.

22. Unfortunately, in the endeavours aimed at overcoming the energy crisis, and in all other problems of the present time, the developing countries, especially the African countries, were relegated to the role of consumers instead of being regarded as full partners. They felt frustrated because their level of development, in which they had not had any say until some 20 years ago, was such that they needed massive technical assistance to develop their natural and human resources. Only a fraction of Africa's potential had been tapped to date. The peaceful applications of nuclear energy would certainly help the development of agriculture and industry and the protection of the environment. However, the capacities of the African countries were quite limited in the sense that it was difficult for them to obtain equipment and to maintain what they had. The technical assistance which they received to alleviate those problems was not always put to the best use because of a lack of co-ordination, the responsibility for which lay not only with the countries themselves but also with those who provided the assistance, including the international agencies. Since the Agency's technical assistance, limited as it was, was financed from voluntary contributions, a well-planned programme could not be prepared. The developing countries had

for years been advocating in vain the inclusion of technical assistance in the Regular Budget. They did not intend to be discouraged and would continue to appeal to the other Member States to show their goodwill in solving that problem.

23. Another cause of frustration was that the developing countries, and in particular the African countries, were unfairly under-represented in the Board of Governors. Every time the issue was raised at the General Conference, it was referred to the Board, which was requested to give the matter further consideration and to report back to the following session of the Conference. He had learnt with regret from the Director General's note (GC(XXIV)/632/Add.1) that the Board had merely transmitted to the General Conference the records of its debate on the item. The African countries did not intend to yield on that issue either, which it was high time to resolve.

24. Mr. PAPADOPOULOS (Cyprus) said that, in adopting the Agency's Statute, Member States had undertaken a commitment to increase the contribution of nuclear energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world. At a time when the international economy was passing through a crisis, the importance of attaining those aims - particularly that of enlarging the contribution of nuclear energy to international economic life - was all the greater. The Venice Summit had declared only recently that the role of nuclear energy had to be increased if world energy needs were to be met.

25. In his statement, the Director General had sounded very pessimistic in referring to the paradox of hostility to nuclear energy at a time when oil consumption was so high that it threatened to exhaust reserves within a few decades and when the rising price of oil was causing grave imbalance in the world economy. However, Governments were increasingly aware that energy policies should be directed at reducing dependence on oil and had taken measures in that direction. At an international level, the World Energy Conference had affirmed the need to use nuclear energy in order to reduce oil consumption. The Agency thus had an essential role to play in restoring confidence in nuclear power, disseminating objective information and stabilizing the world nuclear supply system.

26. Through its technical assistance programme, the Agency had already accomplished a great deal in an area of high priority. While welcoming the target of US \$13 million for voluntary contributions in 1981 and the indicative planning figures of US \$16 million and US \$19 million for 1982 and 1983 respectively, his Government believed that much remained to be done to satisfy the needs of the developing countries.

27. The Agency's safeguards system was the only way of allowing access to nuclear techniques and at the same time preventing nuclear weapons proliferation. The safeguards implementation report for 1979 stated that no diversion of significant quantities of safeguarded material had been detected, and that was very encouraging. The Three Mile Island accident had demonstrated that existing nuclear power plant safety standards had to be improved at an international level. The Agency was very active in that field, as was witnessed by the International Conference on Current Nuclear Power Plant Safety Issues to be held in Stockholm in October. Another welcome development was the recent decision of the Board of Governors to establish the Committee on Assurances of Supply, open to all Member States. It was to be hoped that the supply mechanisms devised by that Committee would correspond to the needs of the developing countries.

28. The Second NPT Review Conference in Geneva had been disappointing in that it had proved impossible to adopt a final declaration but some positive aspects had also emerged, particularly the widespread support for NPT and the appeal to countries which had not yet signed the Treaty to do so. His Government had emphasized the urgency of universal acceptance of the Treaty because it was aware of the serious threat posed by proliferation and because it wished to see an end to the arms race, which had by now assumed such proportions that it threatened the very existence of mankind. The need to conclude a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty should not be forgotten either; that was all the more justified now because verification methods had been greatly improved and because it would help to make NPT universally acceptable. Further, the participants at the Review Conference had recognized the important role played by the Agency in applying the safeguards provided for by NPT. His country, along with others, had expressed its confidence in the Agency's safeguards programme, which should be further strengthened.

29. In an interdependent world where each country was both donor and recipient, it was dangerous to believe that immediate individual interests justified policies which disregarded that interdependence. The international community should use the instrument at its disposal, the Agency, and should strengthen its prestige through co-operation and understanding so as to make it a means of ensuring the safety, peace and prosperity of all.

30. Mr. RODRIGUEZ VELIS (Chile) said that his country's election to the Board of Governors at the last session of the General Conference had enabled it to work more closely with the Agency.

31. Uranium prospecting activities carried out in Chile with the help of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) had revealed 34 favourable regions in which more detailed studies had already begun. His Government had decided to suspend activities relating to the nuclear power project until 1985, but the Chilean Nuclear Energy Commission was keeping up to date the technical information necessary to take a decision at that time. He thanked the UNDP for the assistance it had provided since 1977 in connection with that project. With respect to physical metallurgy and pyrometallurgy, the necessary basic laboratory equipment had been installed. Experiments on the calcination of concentrates carried out in temporary facilities had produced 98% pure uranium trioxide, which was almost the theoretical maximum. Regulations had been drawn up on radiological protection, the transport of nuclear materials and the licensing and physical protection of facilities. Furthermore, measurements of pollution levels over the whole national territory had revealed no abnormalities. As was usual, inspections had taken place of equipment and radiation sources belonging to users not affiliated to the Commission.

32. Excellent results had been obtained in the use of radiation to preserve foodstuffs and sterilize surgical equipment. Two meetings with experts from various countries in the region had taken place, one on radiotherapy, organized with the help of the United States National Cancer Institute, and the other on nuclear medicine, organized with the help of the University of California. Chilean experts had presented twenty original papers to various congresses and seminars. They had also worked with the institutes of other countries - particularly universities - on research and experimental projects.

33. His Government thanked the Agency for its valuable co-operation, particularly in uranium prospecting, manpower training and the provision of expert services and equipment; it also supported the Agency's non-proliferation, safeguards and technical assistance activities.

34. He hoped that resources would in future be distributed more justly between technical assistance and safeguards. Once again, delegations had debated the financing of technical assistance in the Board of Governors: on the one hand, the developing countries were fighting to secure equitable targets, while on the other, the main donor countries opposed any real increase in those targets. It seemed as though one group was asking but giving nothing, while the other gave and received nothing in return. In reality, however, all countries participated in technical assistance in accordance with their means and all benefited from it: some because they could thus partially finance certain projects and others because they could see new outlets opening up for their technology. His delegation felt that the indicative planning figures would not satisfy requests for technical assistance, as the increase in the target, although seemingly high, in fact represented no growth in technical assistance in real terms. Nonetheless, the technical assistance provided by the Agency, especially in the form of expert services and fellowships, was of enormous value to the developing countries, who greatly appreciated it.

35. He welcomed the creation of the Committee on Assurances of Supply (CAS). In allowing developing countries access to the most modern techniques and equipment under fair conditions and under arrangements in which both suppliers and buyers had confidence, the Committee would do much to reduce the gap separating those countries from the developed ones. He was sure that the Committee would put to good use all the information gathered during the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation (INFCE).

36. His country would in 1981 again put its material and human resources at the disposal of Member States, acting as host to training courses and study tours aimed particularly at nationals of other developing countries. It had begun in 1980 to make a special contribution in the form of fellowships for trainees from the least developed countries in the region to study nuclear techniques. Finally, he thanked those countries which had given their support to the Chilean programme.

37. Mr. KOREF (Panama) said that the Agency had given Panama valuable help for the utilization of nuclear energy in medicine and agriculture and the study of its energy needs. A mission sent by the Agency for that purpose had recommended that the Government concentrate on developing all its water-power resources for the generation of electricity, indicating that Panama could give itself until the year 2000 to build up the infrastructure and train the personnel necessary for the construction of nuclear plants.

38. Like other delegations, the Panama delegation was extremely concerned about the failure of various recent international meetings to reach a consensus or agreement on questions of great importance. One notable example was the Second Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the outcome of which could have dramatic consequences for the whole world. It was to be hoped that "the spirit of Vienna" would enable the outstanding issues to be resolved. The key problem, and one which was more urgent than ever, was that of reducing nuclear weapons and transferring nuclear techniques to the developing countries lacking adequate national energy resources; it was also necessary to guarantee those countries sufficient financial aid on favourable terms for the construction and operation of nuclear plants. The countries in question had considerable debts, the servicing of which could mean economic ruin. Panama had been able to count on fraternal aid from Venezuela with respect to oil imports, but not all countries were in such a fortunate position.

39. The Board of Governors had finally reached a consensus on the financing of technical assistance for the years ahead. Nonetheless, it was still necessary to improve on the system of annual negotiations, especially as assistance to the developing countries, one of the Agency's main functions, met an urgent need for those countries which were potentially very important markets for the industrialized countries. The Panama delegation welcomed the fact that countries possessing safeguarded nuclear facilities were prepared to pay most of the costs of applying safeguards, but felt that those countries should also pay all the administrative costs.

40. Panama had taken part in the discussions which had led to the formulation of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, as it wanted all nuclear material passing through the Panama Canal to be fully protected. It accordingly requested all countries involved in the transport of such materials to sign the Convention.

41. Mr. PAK HYENG GYU (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) felt that in 1979 the Agency had satisfactorily performed its task of increasing the contribution made by atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity. Despite certain difficulties, the development of nuclear energy had progressed throughout the world during the past year. The Agency had contributed to that progress, notably through the measures it was taking to ensure the safety of nuclear plants and nuclear fuel cycle facilities. The Agency's work with respect to the utilization of isotopes and radiation was also helping to promote the use of nuclear techniques in the developing countries. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea fully supported the Agency's scientific and technical activities.

42. Under the Statute, technical assistance constituted the Agency's main activity. It was deplorable that some countries were attempting to turn accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons into a pre-condition for receiving technical assistance from the Agency. Such an attitude was contrary to the spirit of the Agency's Statute, in particular Article III.C thereof. Over the past few years the resources made available for technical assistance had increased but they were still insufficient. It was necessary, therefore, to support all measures aimed at giving better guarantees of resources for the technical assistance programme. The delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea approved the target of US \$13 million set for the Technical Assistance Fund for 1981 and announced that its Government would pay its contribution.

43. The construction of socialism in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was accompanied by scientific research work on the peaceful uses of atomic energy. Similarly, broad utilization of nuclear techniques in industry, agriculture, medicine and other fields was to serve as a basis for the country's nuclear power industry. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea was able to draw on abundant coal and hydroelectric power resources. In 1984 electricity production should reach 56-60 thousand million kWh and coal production 70-80 million tonnes. However, rapid economic growth meant that it was necessary to harness new energy sources, the most important of which was nuclear energy. Consequently, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was concentrating on training specialists in that area.

44. The people of Korea were all hoping fervently for an end to the tension on the Korean peninsula and the re-unification of a country which had been divided for over 35 years. Five years had already passed since the United Nations General Assembly at its 30th session had adopted a Resolution under which all foreign armies were to withdraw from South Korea. However, the United States had not only failed to withdraw from the peninsula, but had actually increased its military potential, and its nuclear stockpiles, in particular. The potential of its nuclear stockpiles in South Korea was one thousand times greater than the equivalent of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs. The new leaders of the South, brought to power at the instigation of the United States of America, continued to stir up antagonism between the North and the South. The resulting aggravation of tension on the Korean peninsula was endangering peace not only in Korea, but throughout Asia and the entire world. In conclusion, he once again stated that the United States of America must withdraw its armed forces, with their nuclear weapons, from South Korea in accordance with the Resolution of the United Nations General Assembly.

45. Mr. SHIN (Republic of Korea) declared that the insulting remarks made by the delegate of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea concerning his country were groundless. Such political remarks were particularly out of place in the Agency, which was a technical organization set up to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

46. Mr. KIRK (United States of America) also rejected the accusations levelled by the delegate of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which were totally unjustified and particularly out of place in the Agency.

47. Mr. SITZLACK (German Democratic Republic) recalled that, since the last session of the General Conference, the two most important events in the nuclear field had been the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation and the Second Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. INFCE had shown that regional nuclear fuel cycle centres could help to guarantee the supply of nuclear materials and equipment and also that of fuel cycle services. The newly formed Committee on Assurances of Supply would also be seeking ways of promoting the development of co-operation with respect to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and of strengthening non-proliferation controls. The delegation of the German Democratic Republic was prepared to take an active part in the work of that Committee.

48. While the Second NPT Review Conference had brought to light differences of opinion on certain points, it had also shown that NPT had, in the course of a decade, become a reality of international life which was especially important as it could make a positive contribution towards enhancing peace and security. Far from hampering the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, universal accession to NPT would create conditions which were far more conducive to the development of international scientific and technical co-operation and the provision of assistance to developing countries. The Review Conference had felt that the Agency had admirably performed its task of ensuring that certain provisions of NPT were implemented, and it had recognized that the Agency's role had evolved as the amounts of nuclear material and the complexity of facilities subject to safeguards increased. The German Democratic Republic considered that placing all the nuclear activities of non-nuclear-weapon States under safeguards would strengthen confidence and help foster international co-operation. On the other hand, it shared the views of many delegations regarding collaboration in the nuclear field with the racist régimes of South Africa and Israel.

49. Turning to the documents submitted annually to the General Conference, the delegation of the German Democratic Republic felt that the activities foreseen in the programme for 1981-86 under the headings of technical assistance, safeguards and nuclear safety were well balanced.

50. Regarding nuclear safety, during the past year the Agency had taken all necessary measures and, in particular, had co-operated closely with a great many Member States in its Nuclear Safety Standards Programme and on the question of waste management and disposal. As the World Energy Conference had emphasized, it was essential to find a solution to the problems presented by the production of nuclear power. And nuclear power was of paramount importance, particularly for the German Democratic Republic, which planned to increase its installed capacity in close collaboration with the Soviet Union and other member countries of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance. The conclusion, under the auspices of the Agency, of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, which the German Democratic Republic had signed, was an important step towards increased safety and security.

51. Concerning safeguards, the German Democratic Republic was pleased that no anomalies indicating the diversion of a significant amount of safeguarded nuclear material had been detected in 1979. The Safeguards Implementation Report for 1979 noted the improvements made to the system, but the goal of inspections had not yet been attained to the extent required, especially in certain major facilities. The measures to be taken were largely dependent on the Agency's Member States, which should try to collaborate even more closely with the Agency than they had in the past. The German Democratic Republic considered it its duty to fulfil all its obligations under the safeguards agreement it had concluded with the Agency, and would continue to lend its full support to the Agency's work.

52. The German Democratic Republic also attached very great importance to the technical assistance programme and would be increasing its voluntary contribution to the Technical Assistance Fund to 325 000 marks in 1981. For that programme to be effective, it was not enough that the Agency should have adequate funds; it was also essential that the administrative and organizational problems presented by technical assistance should be resolved, and that depended on the Agency as much as on the donor and recipient countries. Technical assistance should be adapted to the true needs of the countries receiving it. It should be borne in mind that the Agency was providing assistance not only under its technical assistance programme: the thrust of all its technical activities went in that direction. In that regard, he stressed the value of the International Nuclear Information System (INIS), which benefited all Member States and showed how the problem of disseminating information could be tackled economically and effectively.

53. For 23 years, the Agency had successfully been working to reconcile its two essential functions of promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and applying controls to prevent those applications from being diverted for military purposes. Since nuclear energy was assuming ever greater importance, it was vital that all Member States should co-operate to create a climate of mutual trust in which the uses of nuclear energy could be developed for the benefit of all, and particularly the developing countries, in conditions which prevented any diversion for military purposes. That climate of peace and trust could only be created if States strove harder to achieve détente and strengthen peace. The international community should therefore oppose the arms race, which was intensified by the development of new nuclear weapons and strategies. In that connection, he cited the appeal made by the Heads of Government of the Warsaw Pact Member States, who

had declared themselves in favour of ratifying the SALT II agreements and swiftly concluding negotiations on a general and complete prohibition of nuclear weapon tests, on the prohibition of radiological weapons and on the guarantees to be accorded to non-nuclear-weapon States. It was also important to begin negotiations with a view to ending the manufacture of nuclear weapons, gradually reducing stockpiles and prohibiting the development of weapons of mass destruction.

54. The Government of the German Democratic Republic was convinced that through such measures it would be possible to strengthen peace, freedom, national independence and social progress in the 1980s, in accordance with the aspirations of the whole of mankind.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS (GC(XXIV)/628, 636)

55. The PRESIDENT reminded the Conference that 11 Members had to be elected to the Board from the geographic areas specified in paragraph 2 of document GC(XXIV)/636 to ensure that the Board was constituted in accordance with Article VI.A of the Statute.

56. At the invitation of the President, a member of the Mexican delegation and a member of the Swiss delegation acted as tellers.

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

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.

