



International Atomic Energy Agency

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TWENTY-SIXTH REGULAR SESSION: 20-24 SEPTEMBER 1982

RECORD OF THE TWO HUNDRED AND THIRTY-EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Neue Hofburg, Vienna  
on Monday, 20 September 1982, at 10 a.m.

Temporary President: Mr. XUTO (Thailand)  
President: Mr. SIAZON (Philippines)

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\*\*/ GC(XXVI)/662.

The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document  
GC(XXVI)/208/Rev.4.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT declared the twenty-sixth regular session of the General Conference open.
2. In accordance with Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure he invited the delegates to observe one minute of silence dedicated to prayer or meditation  
All present rose and stood in silence for a minute.
3. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT welcomed the delegates, observers, representatives of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, representatives of other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and in particular the Foreign Minister and the Minister for Science and Research of Austria. He expressed his confidence that the present session which marked the Agency's twenty-fifth anniversary, would be significant in helping to set the tone for the following quarter century in the activities of the Agency.
4. He wished to convey his gratitude to the Government of Austria for once again making available the Hofburg Palace. He was deeply appreciative of the tributes paid to his country and to him personally on the occasion of his election as President of the General Conference at its twenty-fifth regular session.

ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT

5. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT invited nominations for the office of President of the Conference.
6. Mr. YAMATO (Japan), speaking on behalf of the Far East regional group, said that he had great pleasure in proposing Mr. Siazon, delegate of the Philippines, as President of the twenty-sixth regular session of the General Conference. Mr. Siazon had been associated with the Agency for a long time, and his experience and expert knowledge made him eminently suitable for the office of President. He had every confidence that the Conference would successfully complete its business under Mr. Siazon's guidance.
7. Mr. ROSENZWEIG-DIAZ (Mexico), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, seconded the nomination of Mr. Siazon.

8. Mr. DAVIS (United States of America), on behalf of the North America regional group, Mr. KEBLUSEK (Czechoslovakia), on behalf of the Eastern Europe regional group, Mr. THABAUT (France), on behalf of the Western Europe regional group, and Mr. GEORGE (Australia), on behalf of the South East Asia and the Pacific regional group, supported the nomination.

9. Mr. Siazon (Philippines) was elected President of the General Conference for its twenty-sixth regular session by acclamation.

10. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT, congratulating Mr. Siazon on his election, said that his excellent qualifications for the office would certainly benefit the work of the Conference.

Mr. Siazon (Philippines) took the Chair.

11. The PRESIDENT thanked the delegates for electing him as President of the General Conference and expressed his appreciation to the delegate of Japan for his kind words and to the delegates of Mexico, the United States, Czechoslovakia, France and Australia for their support. In conducting the affairs of the Conference he would be guided by the example of Mr. Xuto, who had presided over the preceding session with consummate skill and distinction.
12. The current session of the General Conference marked the completion of the first quarter century in the life of the Agency, characterized by successful promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and by the elaboration and implementation of an effective international safeguards system.
13. The promotional activities of the Agency had facilitated the transfer to developing countries of nuclear technology, which had become vital for the solution of diverse problems related to health, food and agriculture. In the energy sector, as a result of the Agency's assistance, nine developing countries had, at the end of 1981, 34 nuclear power reactors in operation or under construction with a total capacity of 21 GW(e). Despite the prevailing economic and other difficulties associated with the introduction of nuclear power, it was expected that by the turn of the century, 15-20 developing countries would have nuclear power programmes.

14. At the end of 1981, the Agency had been responsible for the implementation of safeguards agreements with 87 States, and had been actually applying safeguards in 51 States, i.e. to at least 844 nuclear facilities. Over the past few years the number of inspected facilities had grown by more than 50% and, thanks to greater resources and increased capabilities of the Agency, inspection work had expanded by 25% in 1981 alone. The number of inspectors had risen from 36 in 1972 to about 200 in 1982. New equipment had now become available for routine inspection; computerization had reduced the time and improved the quality of safeguards data processing. Lastly, the Agency's training programmes for inspectors had been significantly extended. Sovereign Governments, including those of nuclear-weapon States, had accepted international verification of large and sensitive facilities in their territories.

15. The Agency's success over the past 25 years was cause for some satisfaction. It was clear, however, that the future could not be assured without renewed international efforts to find common approaches to current and future problems.

16. Public perception of nuclear power had changed from the unquestioning confidence of the past to the critical attitude of today. There had in fact been steady erosion of public confidence, arising from concern about reactor safety and nuclear waste disposal and from the fear that civilian nuclear facilities might be misused for the production of nuclear weapons.

17. One way of assuaging public concern might be the elaboration of international safety standards to be incorporated in international agreements. Internationally binding standards had already been included in the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and in the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (London Dumping Convention). Moreover, the Convention on the Law of the Sea emphasized the role of international standards in national legislation and called for the inclusion in special international instruments of specific provisions dealing with particular sources of pollution.

18. International standards would facilitate public acceptance of nuclear power, especially among developing countries, because of the assurance that nuclear power plants and waste disposal systems would be constructed and operated in accordance with standards adopted by States on the advice of the most eminent international experts in their respective fields. International standards would also ensure that exporters provided equipment and spare parts produced in accordance with internationally established specifications. In addition to simplifying licensing procedures, international standards would, to a certain extent, lead to standardization of components and plant design, and perhaps to higher availability factors for nuclear power plants, thereby improving the economic competitiveness of nuclear power.

19. Establishment of waste disposal systems beside reprocessing plants might offer one solution to the nuclear waste problem. That concept had been regarded as a viable option during the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation (INFCE), and deserved further international consideration, particularly in the light of difficulties with waste disposal experienced by countries with small nuclear power programmes. Provision of waste disposal services on a commercial basis by some countries having the necessary facilities should perhaps be studied more seriously within the framework of the Agency.

20. There should be continuing reassessment of the Agency's role in order to enhance its ability to meet the growing public concern about nuclear safety. As to the handling of radioactive wastes, the Agency should prepare and publish authoritative standards to keep the public better informed. And the Agency should also develop a programme to stress more forcefully the environmental benefits of nuclear power with a view to the possible formation of a coalition of nuclear power advocates with environmentalists.

21. Protest activities against the dumping of radioactive wastes in the ocean had recently become more violent. In future, some changes in the London Dumping Convention would have to be made in order to allay the growing public concern. The Agency could perhaps be given the responsibility of verifying

the environmental assessments prepared by national authorities before permits for dumping operations were granted. In addition, international observation by regional bodies and the Agency should be a requirement for all dumping operations.

22. The failure of the 1980 NPT Review Conference and the inability of the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Disarmament to reach a consensus indicated that all was still not well in the efforts of the international community to limit the spread of nuclear weapons and that the regime which had been built up was as yet a fragile one. Decisive steps by the major Powers towards nuclear disarmament, a comprehensive test ban treaty and a cut-off in the production of special fissionable material for weapons purposes would do much to strengthen the dedication of States to non-proliferation and to attract new adherents to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

23. The Agency's safeguards system was a vital element in the non-proliferation regime and its continued development and universal acceptance were objectives to be pursued earnestly by the international community. The value of the system lay in the capacity it provided for independent judgements as to whether nuclear materials, equipment and technology were being used for non-peaceful purposes. The Agency's safeguards functions would therefore become meaningless as soon as its ability to carry out independent verification was impaired.

24. Many States had accepted the non-proliferation regime on the condition that they would have full access to the materials, equipment and technology necessary for their development. Today it was worth recalling that basic bargain.

25. For many States, guaranteed access to fuel cycle services was an essential part of energy security, and thus a matter of national survival. In their quest for energy security, States would, if necessary, try to develop an indigenous nuclear fuel cycle capability, which could become a shortcut to nuclear proliferation.

26. The best approach would be to pursue the basic trade-off involved in NPT. A guarantee of full access to nuclear material, equipment and technology under the Treaty should be exchanged for an undertaking, also under the Treaty, to accept safeguards on all nuclear activities. The absence of guaranteed access to fuel cycle services even for States which had accepted full-scope safeguards was an encouragement to others to accept only facility-specific safeguards and to negotiate for access to fuel cycle services on an ad-hoc basis. On the other hand, reluctance to accept full-scope safeguards lent support to the rationale underlying the policy of restricted access to nuclear material, equipment and technology. A successful non-proliferation regime required that, while States must accept full-scope safeguards, they must also have guaranteed supplies of nuclear material, equipment and technology.

27. The Committee on Assurances of Supply (CAS) was currently engaged in a lively dialogue on unhampered access to fuel cycle services and on non-proliferation. It was hoped that the work of CAS and the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy would lead to a generally accepted set of rules for international trade and co-operation in the nuclear field, and that, while such a dialogue was in progress, no further abrupt and unilateral changes in supply policies would be made. Moreover, the Agency was in a position, by expanding its technical assistance and co-operation programme, to help those developing countries which were planning to start or had already embarked on nuclear power programmes.

28. During the Conference it was planned to hold a seminar on technical co-operation in order to enable Member States to provide better guidance to the Board on future policies and procedures for the Agency's technical co-operation programme. He strongly urged delegations to participate in that seminar and to share their experience with a view to improving one of the principal activities of the Agency.

29. Proper emphasis on the essential link between a country's technical assistance requests and its national development objectives would greatly enhance the effectiveness of the Agency's technical co-operation programme. That approach would rightly favour multi-year projects which were more integrated and more easily geared to co-ordinated objectives. Its success would depend, however, to a large extent, on the availability of a sufficient level of multi-year resources for implementation of projects.

30. Member States in Asia and the Pacific had for the past ten years enjoyed the benefits of regional co-operation. At present, 13 Member States of the Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (RCA) were engaged in eight joint programmes in different sectors of nuclear science and technology. The Agency should support the establishment of similar collaborative arrangements in other regions. Regional projects were not only more cost-effective because of their higher multiplier effects; they also promoted personal contacts and created mutual confidence among scientists in the region. They provided the necessary basis for regional arrangements which could become corner-stones for international nuclear co-operation.

31. The success of the Agency during the past 25 years had been due to the dedication to the cause of international co-operation, even during some very difficult periods in its history, of many persons and in particular the former Directors General Mr. Sterling Cole and Dr. Sigvard Eklund. He was sure that the Conference would join him in acknowledging their outstanding contributions.

32. In conclusion, he expressed confidence that, given the customary good will and spirit of co-operation among delegates, the Conference would successfully complete its long programme of work.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

33. The PRESIDENT recalled that, under Rules 34 and 40 of its Rules of Procedure, the General Conference had to elect, on proposals of the President, eight Vice-Presidents, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole and five additional members of the General Committee. He proposed that the provisions of Rule 40 relating to the election of the additional members of the General Committee be suspended and that instead a total of six additional members be elected.

34. Following consultations which had been held between representatives of the eight geographical areas, he proposed that the delegates of the following Member States be elected as Vice-Presidents of the General Conference: Chile, the Federal Republic of Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, Morocco, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America.

35. He further proposed Mr. Copithorne, the delegate of Canada, as Chairman of the Committee of the Whole and the delegates of the following States as additional members of the General Committee: Bolivia, France, the German Democratic Republic, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Zambia.

36. The General Conference accepted the President's proposals.

37. The General Committee was thus duly appointed.

#### OPENING STATEMENTS

38. The PRESIDENT said that he wished to extend, on behalf of all, a warm welcome to the Federal President of Austria, Dr. Rudolf Kirchschläger, and to thank him for honouring the Conference with his presence at the opening meeting of the session. He invited Dr. Kirchschläger to address the General Conference.

39. Dr. KIRCHSCHLÄGER said that it was twenty-five years since the Agency had been founded and had chosen Vienna as its Headquarters. It was a pleasure and a privilege for him to congratulate the Agency on its jubilee, both personally and on behalf of the Republic of Austria.

40. He was grateful for the fact that the Agency had chosen Vienna as the site of its Headquarters and had become part of the international and scientific life of Austria. As a result of its experience in co-operative work with the Agency, Austria had taken the decision to make use of its neutrality, its history and its present realities to become, as it were, a central meeting place in the world. There had been a direct path between the first session of the General Conference in 1957 and the recent opening of the Vienna International Centre, and the Agency had contributed greatly to that progression.

41. Quite apart from its functions as host country, Austria was grateful, as a Member State, that the Agency had so effectively fulfilled all the objectives stated in Article II of its Statute - "to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world". It had also, insofar as sovereign States had allowed it to do so, helped to ensure through the exercise of its supervision and control functions that atomic energy would not be used for military purposes. It was not the Agency's fault that arms limitation or disarmament had not yet become effective and that the fear of nuclear weapons had had psychological consequences for the peaceful uses of atomic energy. The Agency had, to the extent made possible to it, carried out its safeguards activities with exceptional competence. For that work and for the rest of its programme it had earned international trust and respect in a measure far above the average. The good reputation of the Agency was founded on the high professional quality and competence of all its staff.

42. An international organization contributing to peace, health and prosperity must have an influence on very many branches of life. In the case of the Agency, that influence had grown from year to year. The basis for an even greater strengthening of the Agency in the future had been laid. It was to be hoped that the sovereign Member States would make that possible.

43. The PRESIDENT thanked Dr. Kirchschräger for his inspiring and thought-provoking words. He wished to take the opportunity to convey, through the Federal President, the deep gratitude of all associated with the Conference to

the Austrian people for the hospitality and co-operation that those working in or for the Agency had enjoyed over the past quarter of a century. He also wanted to express his appreciation of the valuable contribution to the Agency's activities made by Austrian members of the staff.

44. Mr. MOWAFFAK ALLAF, the representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, said he wished to convey a message to the General Conference from the Secretary-General, Mr. Perez de Cuellar.

45. As the Agency completed twenty-five years of its existence and activity, it was entitled not only to congratulations but also to gratitude from the world community for fulfilling a unique responsibility. The Agency had the two-fold task of promoting the use of nuclear energy for human betterment and of ensuring that such use did not serve any military purpose. The nature of that task corresponded to the inherently dual potential of modern technology, which could enhance and enrich human life and also bring about death and destruction on a scale never before imagined.

46. Much international attention had recently been devoted to safeguards. The Agency had done pioneering work in that field. Some of the technology which had been developed and the extensive experience gained in the elaboration of the safeguards system, the negotiation of agreements and the application of the measures involved could well be of use in evolving and implementing verification measures appropriate to other agreements for the limitation of various weapons of mass destruction.

47. However, while the safeguards system was undoubtedly an important element in the effort to prevent the spread of military nuclear capability, it remained only one measure among several that were required. The Agency's safeguards were, therefore, to be seen in the relatively limited context of their purpose and application and, in his recent statements, the Director General had drawn attention to that inherent limitation. The great value of safeguards was as a means of establishing and increasing the confidence among nations which was fundamental to international security.

48. It was to be noted that some progress had been made with respect to an international plutonium storage scheme and that the Committee on Assurances of Supply was evolving proposals which could contribute to the work of the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy. Important benefits could result from a realistic discussion of the uses of nuclear energy for economic, social and scientific purposes and the Agency was in a position to supply essential data for such a discussion.

49. Excellent co-operation existed between the United Nations and the Agency. He expressed his deep appreciation of the Agency's efforts and conveyed to the General Conference his best wishes for success in the challenging task entrusted to it.

50. Mr. DAVIS (United States of America) read to the General Conference the following message from the President of the United States, Mr. Ronald Reagan:

"The people of the United States join me in extending sincere congratulations on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

"The International Atomic Energy Agency has established an exemplary record of outstanding performance as an international organization and has played a critical role in expanding the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and peaceful nuclear research throughout the world. The United States continues to consider the International Atomic Energy Agency and its programmes of highest priority. Its safeguards programme is a vital element in preventing the further spread of nuclear explosives.

"I congratulate you and the staff members of the Secretariat who have all contributed to the International Atomic Energy Agency's success. With best wishes for your success in meeting the challenges ahead."

51. Mr. MOROZOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) read to the General Conference the following message from the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party and President of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Soviet Union, Mr. Leonid Brezhnev:

"I wish to send my cordial greetings to the participants in the twenty-sixth regular session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

"Over the twenty-five years of its existence, this authoritative international organization has achieved substantial successes. The IAEA's many-faceted activity aimed at preventing the spread of nuclear weapons over our planet and at erecting a reliable barrier against the acquisition of this most dangerous weapon of mass destruction by those who would wish to use it as a threat, has won the broadest possible recognition.

"To achieve the aim of limiting the nuclear arms race, the fullest possible consolidation of the non-proliferation regime has been and remains a priority objective. It also constitutes an indispensable prerequisite for broad-based international co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

"The IAEA has been doing extensive work to promote the use of the energy of the atom for the socio-economic development of States and for increasing prosperity. The role of the Agency in developing nuclear power has been expanding. Today the IAEA is the recognized international body for co-ordinating the efforts of States in the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

"At a time when the danger of nuclear war is increasing, the Agency's activity is acquiring a special meaning and significance. The Soviet people are convinced that the Agency can and must make a still greater contribution towards the removal of the threat of a nuclear catastrophe. Everything possible should be done to ensure that atomic energy - a very great achievement of the human mind - should serve the interests of peace alone and never become a means of destroying life on Earth.

"Being one of the sponsors behind the creation of the IAEA, the Soviet Union has always actively supported and will continue to support the Agency's work aimed at achieving those noble objectives.

"I wish the participants in this session of the General Conference success in their work and I express the hope that its results will promote mutual understanding and co-operation."

52. Mr. SITZLACK (German Democratic Republic) said he wished to convey a message from Mr. Honecker, the General Secretary of the Central Committee and Chairman of the Council of State of the German Democratic Republic.

53. The Agency was celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary in an international situation of extreme complexity where the danger of nuclear war had increased. There was nothing more important than the task of securing peace through effective action to end the arms race, and the Agency had an important role to

play in strengthening international security and co-operation. Its commitment to the goal of non-proliferation and its activities in safeguarding the peaceful uses of atomic energy deserved deep appreciation. The German Democratic Republic supported efforts aimed at universal acceptance of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. It attached particularly great importance to the Agency's technical co-operation programme and would continue to support it fully.

54. Mr. ALWAN (Iraq) said that he wished to transmit a message to the General Conference from the President of his country, Mr. Saddam Hussein.

55. The Agency's twenty-fifth anniversary was an appropriate occasion for Iraq to express its appreciation of the Agency's efforts to promote the development of the peaceful uses of atomic energy in accordance with the principles of its Statute.

56. In pursuance of its inalienable right to technological development and economic, social and cultural progress, Iraq had established scientific plans to achieve the best possible development and exploitation of its resources. In that context it had naturally sought alternative sources of energy to replace the fossil fuel resources which were gradually being depleted, and the only feasible technology available at the present time for that purpose appeared to be nuclear power. Iraq had therefore set about acquiring the infrastructure and technology needed for building up a nuclear capability, and, in proof of its exclusively peaceful intentions, had ratified NPT and concluded a safeguards agreement with the Agency under which all its nuclear activities had been subject to IAEA safeguards since 1973. Iraq had fully complied with its obligations, as was borne out by the Agency's annual report and by the confidence shown by a large number of countries advanced in nuclear technology, including France, Italy, India, Brazil, Romania and the USSR, which had co-operated with Iraq in its nuclear activities.

57. However, Iraq's major nuclear facility had been subject to premeditated Zionist aggression unprecedented in history, which had been aimed both at the existing international regime of non-proliferation and at the rights and efforts of the Iraqi people. That act of aggression constituted a gross violation of international law and of the Charter of the United Nations.

58. Nevertheless, it was to be hoped that the deliberations and decisions at the present regular session of the General Conference, in the twenty-fifth year of the Agency's existence, would be crowned with success and would foster the transfer of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes in the interests of justice, progress and prosperity.

59. Mr. EILAM (Israel) read out a letter from the Prime Minister of his country, Mr. Menachem Begin, congratulating the IAEA on its twenty-fifth anniversary and on its excellent performance in the complex fields of its responsibility. Israel continued to have confidence in the Agency's safeguards system and in its ability to promote the principles embodied in its Statute.

60. Mr. XUTO (Thailand) said that he wished to convey a message to the General Conference from the Prime Minister of his country, General Prem Tinsulanonda, congratulating the IAEA on behalf of the Government and people of Thailand and extending their best wishes for the future activities of the Agency. Thailand had been an active Member of the Agency since its establishment in 1957 and continued to support its contribution to the important problem of the utilization of atomic energy for world peace and the prosperity of mankind.

61. Mr. BEN REDJEB (Tunisia), speaking on a point of order, suggested that the Conference should devote a period of silence to the memory of the innocent victims who had died during the recent events in Beirut.

62. The PRESIDENT invited the delegates to observe one minute of silence in honour of the victims of those events.

All present rose and stood in silence for one minute.

#### APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE AGENCY (GC(XXVI)/663)

63. The PRESIDENT pointed out that the General Conference had before it document GC(XXVI)/663, referring to an application for membership of the Agency by Namibia, represented by the United Nations Council for Namibia, and containing a recommendation by the Board of Governors and a draft resolution. He invited delegates to comment on that application.

64. Mr. SHASH (Egypt), speaking on behalf of the countries of the African group, supported the request by Namibia, represented by the United Nations Council for Namibia, to be admitted to the Agency as a Member. The United Nations and the International Court of Justice considered the occupation of Namibia by South Africa an illegal act, and after a long struggle for national independence and freedom Namibia had at last become a member of a number of organizations, including the World Health Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Labour Organisation; Namibia had also been represented at a number of international conferences. The General Assembly of the United Nations had requested the Agency to accept full participation by Namibia, represented by the United Nations Council for Namibia. The Board of Governors had received that request favourably and had confirmed that Namibia was capable of carrying out the obligations of membership of the Agency and of acting in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and of the Agency's Statute. He therefore proposed that the General Conference accept Namibia, represented by the United Nations Council for Namibia, as a new Member of the Agency.

65. Mr. DI BIASE (Uruguay), speaking on behalf of the Latin American group, Mr. NYEMETS (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic), speaking on behalf of the Eastern European group, and Mr. AL-KABBANI (Saudi Arabia), speaking on behalf of the Middle East and South Asia group, supported the proposal that Namibia, represented by the United Nations Council for Namibia, should be accepted as a Member of the Agency.

66. Mr. KELLY (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the Governments of Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, made the following statement:

"Our Governments have been pursuing efforts since 1977 to end the conflict over Namibia and to bring the territory to independence through free and fair elections supervised by the United Nations. Through all that period it has been our aim to remove by negotiations the obstacles preventing implementation of Security Council resolutions 385 and 435.

"These negotiations have been difficult, and progress has often seemed painfully slow. But recent consultations between The Five and the parties involved have brought us to a point where agreement on all but a small number of issues is complete. We all share a desire to move rapidly to implementation of the settlement proposals endorsed by Security Council resolution 435.

"In this climate it would be deeply regrettable if any action were taken on Namibia in the international context which could upset the delicate compromises that have been reached in these negotiations, and so put at risk the process which we and all the international community hope will bring Namibia to independence in 1983.

"When the Board of Governors voted in June this year on the proposal to admit Namibia, represented by the United Nations Council for Namibia, to membership of the Agency, it was pointed out on behalf of The Five that Namibia does not satisfy the criteria for statehood required for IAEA membership. Our Governments have not changed their view that to admit a territory to membership before it has become a sovereign independent State would be contrary to the Agency's Statute.

"Although our Governments will welcome the membership of Namibia when it becomes an independent State, for the foregoing reasons our Governments' reservations against the proposal before the Conference must stand."

67. Mr. YAMATO (Japan) said that his delegation had reserved its position and abstained from voting when the Board of Governors, during its meetings in June 1982, had taken the decision referred to in document GC(XXVI)/663, and had explained its reasons for doing so at that time; his delegation's position on that question remained unchanged. Also, he said that the Government of Japan firmly supported the early independence of Namibia.

68. The PRESIDENT took it that the General Conference wished to adopt the draft resolution contained in document GC(XXVI)/663.

69. It was so agreed.

70. The PRESIDENT invited the representative of the United Nations Council for Namibia to take the floor.

71. Mr. STARCEVIC (United Nations Council for Namibia) thanked the General Conference for following the recommendation of the Board of Governors and admitting Namibia, represented by the United Nations Council for Namibia,

to membership of the Agency. As the legal administering authority for Namibia until independence, the Council was acting strictly in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and was determined fully to honour the obligations of membership of the Agency.

72. The admission of Namibia to the Agency was a significant event both for the suffering people of occupied Namibia and for the Agency and its activities and goals. As the world's fifth-largest producer of uranium oxide, Namibia deserved to be heard in the Agency. The uranium and other resources were one of the principal reasons for the continued illegal occupation of Namibia by the apartheid régime of South Africa. In violation of the Charter and relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and of the Council's Decree No. 1 for the protection of the natural resources of Namibia, South Africa continued to exploit Namibian uranium in collusion with companies from several other countries. South Africa was known thereby to have acquired the capability to produce nuclear weapons, which posed a severe threat to peace and security in southern Africa, and to have contributed to the proliferation of nuclear weapons in several other countries.

73. South Africa had been a Member of the Agency since its establishment in spite of those activities, which had never been subject to any effective restrictions or control. The Council for Namibia would therefore join those Members that opposed any steps or decisions which might lead to the strengthening of South Africa's nuclear weapons capability or its uranium extraction technology. The Council intended to participate in the consideration of all questions with which the Agency was concerned, but its prime responsibility would remain the protection of the rights and interests of the people of Namibia and the promotion of early independence of the Territory. As a Member of the Agency the Council would denounce and oppose the illegal exploitation of Namibian uranium and other natural resources by South Africa and seek the assistance of all the mechanisms, expertise and information offered by the Agency to end the occupation and exploitation of Namibia. The Council

was convinced, therefore, that its admission to membership of the Agency would contribute both to the promotion of the goals and principles of the Agency and to the advancement of the cause of a free and independent Namibia.

74. Mr. NIMPUNO (Indonesia), speaking on behalf of the countries of South East Asia and the Pacific, welcomed Namibia as the 111th Member of the Agency and expressed confidence in Namibia's willingness and ability to play an active part in strengthening the IAEA and pursuing its goal to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy for the wellbeing of the human race.

The meeting rose at 12 noon.