



International Atomic Energy Agency

GENERAL CONFERENCE

GC(XXVI)/OR.243
May 1983*

GENERAL Distr.
ENGLISH

TWENTY-SIXTH REGULAR SESSION: 20-24 SEPTEMBER 1982

RECORD OF THE TWO HUNDRED AND FORTY-THIRD PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Neue Hofburg, Vienna,
on Thursday, 23 September 1982, at 10.15 a.m.

President: Mr. SIAZON (Philippines)
later: Mr. YAMATO (Japan)

CONTENTS

<u>Item of the agenda**</u>	<u>Paragraphs</u>
7 General debate and annual report for 1981 (continued)	1 - 130
Statements by the delegates of:	
Panama	1 - 12
Algeria	13 - 23
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	24 - 36
Nigeria	37 - 49
Israel	50 - 62
Liechtenstein	63 - 67
Sri Lanka	68 - 74
United Republic of Tanzania	75 - 80
Egypt	81 - 91
Morocco	92 - 99
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	100 - 111
Turkey	112 - 121
Malaysia	122 - 130

*/ A provisional version of this document was issued on 4 October 1982.

**/ GC(XXVI)/674.

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

GENERAL DEBATE AND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1981 (GC(XXVI)/664 and Corr.1) (continued)

1. Mr. KOREF (Panama) took pleasure in welcoming the valiant people of Namibia to membership of the Agency. Namibia would doubtless offer valuable services to the Agency and also acquire, through its membership, information of value to the Namibian homeland.
2. The present occasion offered a good opportunity to congratulate the Agency's Secretariat and in particular its very able Director General on the excellent work carried out over the past year in the two main areas of the Agency's activity, technical co-operation and safeguards, as well as in research and many other fields. Nor should the achievements of 1981 under the guidance of the Director General Emeritus, Sigvard Eklund - described succinctly yet in adequate detail in document GC(XXVI)/664 - be forgotten.
3. Panama was fortunately still endowed with large hydroelectric energy reserves. Its interest in technical co-operation therefore lay mainly in the fields of agriculture and medicine, and it was very grateful for the assistance granted in 1982 and that planned for 1983. Research of some importance was being done by Panama on the usefulness of induced mutations in bananas, sugar cane and other plants: the results could well prove valuable, not only for Panama and its neighbours but also for other sugar- and banana-growing regions which required disease-resistant plants and enhanced production. It was to be hoped that a donor prepared to finance that important research could be found.
4. Technical co-operation with developing countries was exceptionally important, not just as direct aid but as a means of enabling them to produce more and better products for export as well as for domestic use. It was wrong to consider technical co-operation as a form of charity: indeed, it was vital to the industrialized countries themselves as a means of opening up new markets for their sophisticated products. The developing countries represented the only possibility for such new markets, but they needed adequate revenues from their own exports to finance imports from the industrialized countries. In his

- opinion the serious economic crisis the world was passing through was due largely to the fact that markets in the developed countries were simply saturated with products which were being sold in many instances at less than cost price. In saying all that, he merely wished to emphasize that the money invested in technical assistance by donor countries was money well invested.
5. Great progress had clearly been made in the application of safeguards. More countries had placed their nuclear facilities under safeguards in 1982, and it was to be hoped that many others, including the nuclear-weapon States, would do so in the near future. The time might be drawing near when the Agency would be able to satisfy all inspection requirements. That was an important goal, and it was also to be hoped that some countries where difficulties still impeded adequate inspection work would co-operate to the full with the Agency.
 6. The Director General had referred to the broad sentiment in favour of nuclear disarmament, adding that the Agency, with its experience in the application of safeguards, could provide technical assistance at least on a regional basis. One possibility lay in the creation of new nuclear-free zones on the model of Latin America, where the Treaty of Tlatelolco was working so well. He understood that such a scheme was under discussion for the Middle East: in that connection the Agency could perhaps serve as a forum for discussion and help to bring about a generally acceptable solution to one of the serious problems likely to confront the Conference.
 7. As the Director General had said, the Agency, though it should promote nuclear power, was not a public relations agency. Quite true; nevertheless, in Panama's opinion, it could and should provide more information to the general public on the reliability of nuclear power plants, especially in view of the striking fact that the nearly 300 power plants in operation had never caused a fatal accident. There might seem to be an abundance of fossil fuels at the moment, but everyone knew that their reserves were limited and that atomic energy would eventually be essential.

8. The Agency was promoting the design of advanced reactors, including breeders, and at the same time was giving some attention to the small, economic reactors required by developing countries. Fusion reactors were something for the relatively distant future, but the Agency's programme in plasma physics and nuclear fusion deserved commendation.
9. Panama was pleased by the good atmosphere that prevailed in the meetings of CAS and had good hope that in the not too distant future the Committee would be able to bring its work to a successful issue.
10. The technical co-operation evaluation unit which was to take up its work in 1983 would doubtless help to make the operations of the Agency more efficient. Also, the Agency's new policies in relation to the use of experts and the training of technicians, the supply of equipment and the utilization of Secretariat staff for short missions were welcome developments, the last-mentioned policy being of special importance in the view of the Panamanian delegation.
11. The Director General's efforts to comply with resolution GC(XXV)/RES/386 concerning the recruitment of nationals of developing countries gave reason for satisfaction. That policy should be continued, for no post ought to be considered the exclusive preserve of any one Member State or group of States.
12. In conclusion, Panama wished to congratulate the Agency on its 25th anniversary and thank all members of the Secretariat, past and present, for the excellent services they had rendered to the cause of atomic energy and hence to mankind.
13. Mr. CHERIF (Algeria) said that the achievements of nuclear technology had naturally prompted Algeria, like other countries, to prepare to introduce that new form of energy into its own national energy scheme. Eager to pursue its economic development and to guarantee adequate energy resources for the future, Algeria considered that the time had really come to launch a programme for the development of replacement energy sources which could take over from the old familiar ones; for the latter, as everyone knew, would be exhausted in the foreseeable future just at the time when demand was growing at an ever faster rate.

14. With that concern in mind, Algeria had established a Commission for New Energy Sources in January last, hoping to gain effective control in good time over the long-term energy future of the country. The creation of that Commission coincided, it would be noted, with the 25th anniversary of the Agency. Thus only a quarter of a century after the founding of the IAEA, Algeria had established a body capable of making the necessary preparations to launch a nuclear power programme. Efforts in the realm of scientific research and training had of course been made before, but nuclear energy nevertheless remained something new, as the name of the Commission implied; furthermore, the Commission's sphere of competence extended not only to nuclear energy but also to other sources: wind, biomass, and solar and geothermal energy.
15. Algeria welcomed the admission of Namibia as a new Member of the Agency, which marked a further victory in the Namibian people's struggle for independence and national sovereignty. For half a century the Namibians had been living under the brutal oppression of South Africa's racist régime, experiencing the barbarian policy of apartheid and witnessing the shameless theft of the country's resources by the occupation authorities and the multinational companies. By accepting Namibia as a Member, the Agency was recognizing the legitimacy of the Namibian people's struggle and pledging to support the United Nations' efforts to accelerate the decolonization of Namibian territory.
16. In that context, his delegation wished to stress its strong disapproval of the presence of South Africa in Agency working groups or those with which the Agency was associated, such as the joint IAEA/OECD working group on uranium resources. South Africa could derive great advantages from its membership of the IAEA, advantages which enabled it to develop its uranium industry - based partly on Namibian uranium to which it had no right at all - and to expand its already enormous nuclear military programme. Such collaboration was in flagrant violation of decisions taken by the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Agency's own Board of Governors, which in June 1981 had forbidden South Africa to take part in the work of the Committee on Assurances of Supply (CAS).

17. The Conference was being held shortly after one of the largest massacres of civilian population in modern history. Strengthened by the unconditional political and military support it received from the largest technological power in the West, Israel had undertaken in the Lebanon - with the cowardice and savagery on which its whole existence was founded - to compass the genocide of the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples, an act which had filled the international community with indignation and horror.

18. At its previous session the General Conference had adopted resolution GC(XXV)/RES/381, by which it proposed to suspend Israel from the rights and privileges of membership if it did not comply with the provisions of Security Council resolution 487. A year later it was not hard to see that, far from complying, Israel had replied to the international community with a further challenge and additional contempt for the most elementary rules of international law. The Algerian delegation felt that the time had come for a firm reply by the IAEA to a Member which had had the effrontery to damage the organization's credibility and ruin the safeguards system. That reply could be nothing less than an unequivocal condemnation of Zionist expansionism and an immediate rejection of Israel, which was totally insensible to all the virtues and values for which the Agency stood.

19. For some years the Board of Governors and the General Conference had been considering, continuously but with no noteworthy progress, the question of equitable geographical representation on the Board. The previous year the Conference had adopted a resolution asking the Board to study the matter and recommend an amendment that could be submitted to the Conference at its twenty-sixth session, with a view to granting more equitable representation to the areas of Africa and the Middle East and South Asia, which were notoriously under-represented on the Board.

20. His delegation much regretted the confession of failure in which the intensive consultations of the Chairman of the Board on that subject had ended. It was now more urgent than ever that an end should be put to the present inequity of the Board's composition. If the present impasse persisted, his delegation would be compelled, along with others, to seek a thoroughgoing revision of the basic criteria governing membership of the Board.

21. Algeria had noted with satisfaction the steps the Director General had taken to increase the recruitment of nationals of developing countries for posts at all levels in the Secretariat, including senior posts, in order gradually to correct the present imbalance. The Director General should be given every encouragement to strive for complete implementation of resolution GC(XXV)/RES/386, and in particular to create a climate in which candidates from the countries of the third world could be guaranteed access to all posts within the Secretariat.

22. The financing of technical assistance was another important subject before the Conference. His delegation could only regret the very modest volume of technical assistance being offered at present and hoped that it could be brought in line with the growing needs of third-world countries. The inadequacy of technical assistance at present reflected the lack of proportion between the Agency's main activities: safeguards on the one hand, which Algeria held to be necessary, and the promotional activities. Algeria continued to believe that technical assistance should be financed from the Regular Budget on the basis of assured and predictable resources.

23. He felt confident that all the decisions taken in the course of the present session would help to improve the operations of the Agency and fulfil the hopes placed in the organization at the time of its creation. It was his hope that the Agency's 25th anniversary would mark a new departure favouring the utilization of nuclear science and technology by all peoples in the interests of their development.

24. Mr. KOLYCHAN (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the last quarter of a century had been a historically important period for nuclear power. The Agency's many years of successful work had won international recognition and it had become a highly respected international centre for the co-ordination of co-operation among countries in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The Agency had received due recognition for the concrete results it had achieved in reviewing and disseminating information on world experience and

knowledge of the most important aspects of nuclear energy, in particular the fuel cycle, nuclear power plant technology and operation, safety and environmental protection problems and the use of radiation in agriculture, medicine and so on. International conferences conducted by the Agency, especially the successful Conference on Nuclear Power Experience held the previous week in Vienna, had made a significant contribution to modern science and engineering practices.

25. His delegation broadly supported the work the Agency had carried out in 1981 in the safeguards, technical assistance, nuclear power, nuclear safety, environmental protection and other fields.

26. The use of nuclear energy for military purposes represented a terrible threat to all nations. The strengthening of the nuclear non-proliferation regime was therefore an important element in the preservation of peace. The application by the Agency of effective international safeguards served the interests of all countries, nuclear and non-nuclear, developed and developing. As had been stated by Mr. Brezhnev in his message to the participants in the twenty-sixth session of the General Conference, the fullest possible consolidation of the non-proliferation regime was an essential factor in limiting the nuclear arms race, and was also an indispensable prerequisite for broad-based international co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy. The serious worsening of the international situation as a result of the return to the arms race on an unprecedented scale by certain nations was a matter of grave concern. In stark contrast to that blatantly militaristic trend, the Soviet Union and the Socialist countries had presented a reasonable and constructive policy aimed at implementing practicable measures to limit armaments, and nuclear missiles in particular. The importance of the new peace initiatives of the Soviet Union could scarcely be exaggerated: they included the establishment of a step-by-step programme of nuclear disarmament, an undertaking not to be the first to use nuclear weapons and a draft declaration on the prevention of nuclear disaster at the thirty-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly.

27. He noted with satisfaction the effective and reliable manner in which the Agency's safeguards programme had been implemented. The success achieved in spite of the increasing number of inspections to be performed and volume of data to be processed was due to untiring efforts to improve the methodological and technical means of obtaining and processing information, the standardization of procedures, the development of the International Safeguards Information System and the use of computers at all levels.

28. With the Agency's assistance, an ever-increasing number of countries were establishing and developing their own nuclear infrastructure. The Departments of Nuclear Energy and Safety and of Research and Isotopes had contributed particularly to that effort. His delegation had always recognized the importance to the developing countries and their economies of the Secretariat's work in the provision of technical assistance. The Byelorussian delegation supported the practice of using indicative planning figures for a three-year period and had no objection to the recommendations for the period 1984-86. The Government of the Republic had decided to increase its voluntary contribution to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund to 60 000 roubles in national currency, a figure which was higher than its calculated share. The success of the technical co-operation programme had demonstrated that voluntary contributions were a reliable as well as a constantly increasing source for the financing of that activity.

29. Byelorussia had drawn up a programme for the construction of nuclear plants for heat and electricity production. Construction work had already begun on the Minsk nuclear district heating plant, which would consist of two units equipped with WWER-1000 reactors. It was planned in the coming five years to increase capacity for supplying heat to industrial centres by building primarily nuclear heat production plants but also dual-purpose nuclear heat and power plants.

30. Since the only real technical and economically viable solution to the problem of long-term energy resources was nuclear power generated from fast reactors, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic had developed the scientific and

technical basis required for the use of dissociated N_4O_2 as a coolant and working medium in nuclear power plants equipped with fast gas-cooled reactors. Problems relating to reactor design, fuel elements, turbines, pumps, heat exchangers and auxiliary systems had been successfully overcome. Design work and tests were under way on 300-MW(e) industrial prototype plants using a new coolant. A number of CMEA countries were participating in that work.

31. His delegation fully supported the Agency's work on, and a certain expansion of, programmes dealing with research into the technical and economic aspects of nuclear power, the collection, analysis and dissemination of information on nuclear sources of low-temperature heat, improvements in nuclear power technology and advanced power reactor technology.

32. His delegation approved the Agency's nuclear safety activities. Having examined the programme proposed for the coming years, it felt that more attention should be given to questions concerning the safety of advanced types of reactor for heat production and fast reactors, and that the development of more sophisticated safeguards approaches for converter and breeder reactors should be accelerated.

33. Research had demonstrated the theoretical possibility of the practical application of controlled nuclear fusion. That technology held out the prospect of solving once and for all the problem of energy supplies and environmental protection. However, the design and technological development of thermonuclear reactor components and the system as a whole required the investment of considerable scientific, technical and material resources. All possible support should be given to the Agency's efforts in implementing the INTOR project.

34. The International Nuclear Information System (INIS) was one of the Agency's major achievements. The steady improvement in methods for processing and compiling the latest data had enabled scientific and technical information to be made readily available to all Agency Member States. His delegation also welcomed the work on the evaluation, compilation and analysis of nuclear data and their exchange as well as the planned programme for reviewing the evaluated nuclear data files and publishing up-to-date reference literature.

35. Work was in progress in many Byelorussian scientific and research establishments in practically all branches of modern science. That work included fundamental and applied research on nuclear physics and nuclear power, low-temperature plasma physics, solid state physics and semi-conductors, optics, electronics, radiobiology, radiation chemistry, physiology, genetics and cytology. Irradiation units were widely used in medical science, in agriculture, for the purpose of producing new and modified technical and construction materials and for producing fertilizers.

36. In conclusion, his delegation wished to congratulate Namibia on its admission to membership of the Agency and wished it every success for its independent economic and social development.

37. Mr. DOSUNMU (Nigeria) said that, on behalf of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, he extended warm congratulations to the Agency on its 25th anniversary and wished it continued success in its efforts to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

38. The crowded agenda before them demonstrated the urgency of the issues and challenges currently confronting the Agency. The General Conference was taking place at a time when the economic situation in the world was characterized by high interest rates, recession, unemployment and general political tension and strife. To compound that gloomy outlook, it had been reported at the Salzburg seminar on non-proliferation^{1/} that the number of nuclear explosive devices had increased to the awe-inspiring total of about 15 000. In terms of explosive power that meant approximately 20 000 million tons of TNT - 1.6 million times stronger than the bomb dropped over Hiroshima. The whole world had thus become virtual hostages of the nuclear Super-Powers. In the light of those developments, it was essential that the Agency should live up to public expectations about the fulfilment of its mandates.

39. The work accomplished at the Conference on Nuclear Power Experience was to be welcomed. Governments, especially those from developing countries, would find the presentations and conclusions of that Conference a virtual gold mine of

^{1/} Seminar on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Regime, sponsored by the Austrian Ministry for External Affairs and held from 2 to 7 August 1982.

vital information. With regard to the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, Member States should be urged to be more flexible at the preparatory stage so that the high hopes that were held for the Conference could be achieved. The Conference would be political in nature in the sense that it would afford an opportunity for representatives of the participating Governments to consider carefully what political steps should be adopted towards the establishment of a reliable and solid basis for development of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. While exploring the possibilities of promoting that co-operation, the Conference would also consider the danger of further proliferation of nuclear weapons and take appropriate action in line with its mandate.

40. The Nigerian delegation had taken due note of the detailed and impressive opening statement made by the Director General. His submission would serve as food for thought and should be considered further at the national level and in future sessions of the Board. The statement was further testimony of the breath of fresh air, the purposefulness, responsiveness and openness which had marked the work of the Agency since Dr. Blix had taken office.

41. Nigeria, at its present stage of development, had an enormously energy-thirsty economy. Indeed, the demands for energy were so high that the inability to keep pace had become the major constraint on development. Of course, Nigeria did have a plentiful supply of fossil fuels, including coal and gas, but they were finite in nature. Nigeria was therefore forced to consider very seriously the nuclear option in its overall energy development strategy. It had, however, exercised a great deal of caution, because of certain problems that the Director General had mentioned in his presentation relating to the capital-intensive nature of nuclear energy facilities, safety, reliability and waste disposal. Nigeria therefore wholeheartedly welcomed the proposals and ideas which had been put forward for international co-operation in the reporting of all forms of nuclear accidents and mutual assistance in the event of accidents and emergencies. Honest and comprehensive reporting would help build up the inventory of knowledge necessary for appropriate measures to be devised.

42. Nigeria noted with pleasure the measures which had already been taken in connection with the problem of nuclear waste disposal. Its concern about that issue did not derive from the fact that Nigeria or most of the developing world produced any nuclear waste, but because they did not want to see a situation where the world's ocean beds and other areas of economic interest to developing nations would become polluted. Priority attention should be given to the subject by the Agency.

43. The Nigerian delegation fully endorsed the fact that safeguards continued to attract the priority attention of the Agency. All nations and peoples must be protected from the possibility of irresponsible misuse of nuclear material. The vast explosive arsenal now at the disposal of the nuclear Powers was enough to give serious cause for concern. Nigeria therefore very strongly supported all actions by the Agency aimed at effectively guaranteeing the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. However, whilst the developing and non-nuclear nations of the world applauded the existing safeguards measures, it was their sincere hope that nuclear Powers would soon see the wisdom of ceasing to accumulate those fearful weapons of mass destruction. The Agency should, within the limits of its mandate, attempt to make a serious contribution to the difficult task of extending safeguards to ensure there was no further expansion of the existing nuclear explosive stock.

44. Even though Nigeria was cautious in its approach to nuclear power, it could not afford to be left too far behind. Meanwhile, it would continue to draw on the resources of the Agency and make use of nuclear technology in the fields of agriculture, health, manpower development and research.

45. The Nigerian delegation had already placed on record its strong condemnation of the Israeli military attack on the Iraqi reactor. Safeguards was a primary function of the Agency and no country would arrogate to itself the right to make decisions and take actions that infringed on the sovereignty of other law-abiding nations. A number of delegations had continued to draw attention to the need for appropriate action on United Nations resolution 35/146 A and B of 12 December 1980 and hoped that the necessary decisions would be reached at the present session of the General Conference.

46. The South African régime had persistently refused to conclude adequate and comprehensive safeguards agreements with the IAEA. Certain prominent Members had continued, regrettably, to provide help with the establishment of a pilot enrichment plant in South Africa.

47. Many countries felt that certain Member States were pursuing double standards and had allowed their companies to deal with the notorious South African régime in sensitive nuclear materials. At the appropriate time, Nigeria hoped, in concert with other peace-loving nations in the Agency, to propose further action that would prevent South Africa from reaping the benefits of membership whilst it continued to be an international outlaw and refused to respect basic human rights.

48. One of the unresolved issues before the General Conference was the question of representation on the Board of Governors. No progress had been made in six years towards redressing the obvious injustice that existed. Nigeria therefore called on the Conference to put an end to the circuitous practice that had been adopted for many years in relation to the amendment of Article VI.A.2 of the Statute. Member States, and especially the developed ones, which had persistently expressed their opposition to any increase or alteration in membership structure should consider changing their attitude because the political climate that had existed at the foundation of the Agency had drastically altered. It should not be impossible to devise a compromise which would not only meet the patently just demands of the developing countries but also dispel the fears of those who had expressed reservations.

49. Nigeria was satisfied with the pioneering work of the Agency in the first 25 years of its existence. In confirmation of that fact, it had fully discharged all its financial obligations to the Agency and, in addition, had made the full pledge of US \$30 400 towards the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund for 1983. That had been done in the face of a serious decline in the nation's economic fortunes which had necessitated a major cut-back in Government programmes, and it was solid evidence of Nigeria's support.

50. Mr. EILAM (Israel) noted that during the general debate some delegations had stated their positions on the events in Lebanon. The delegation of Israel wished to point out that discussion of that matter in the General Conference or any other organ of the Agency was beyond the statutory competence of the Agency. The Government of Israel had clearly stated that it was not responsible for the latest events in Beirut and that it condemned any act of killing. The delegation of Israel would not be drawn into any further discussion of the subject.

51. The agenda before the Conference included various items on which Israel could make a modest contribution to the work of the Agency, but circumstances obliged him to confine his remarks to item 8. Resolution GC(XXV)/RES/381, adopted on 26 September 1981, addressed itself to a political matter beyond the Agency's mandate, and was incompatible with its Statute. The subject of the resolution was a matter of international peace and security which was primarily the responsibility of the Security Council of the United Nations.

52. To consider suspending Israel from the exercise of its privileges and rights of membership as defined in operative paragraph 3 of resolution GC(XXV)/RES/381 and in item 8 of the agenda before the Conference was a politically motivated démarche with no legal foundation in the Statute.

53. First, the IAEA Statute did not make membership of the IAEA conditional upon a State's agreement to place its nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards. To link the consideration of suspension with the question of safeguards outside the scope of and unrelated to the terms of a safeguards agreement between a Member State and the Agency would violate the Statute.

54. Second, the suspension of a State from the exercise of its privileges and rights of membership could only be considered by the General Conference in the light of Article XIX.B of the Statute, i.e., if a Member State had "persistently violated provisions of this Statute or of any agreement entered into by it pursuant to this Statute". The working relationship between the IAEA and Israel had always been highly satisfactory. Ever since it had become a Member of the Agency, Israel had always fulfilled all its obligations under the Statute and had extended, through the Agency, a helping hand to other developing countries in fields in which its own achievements were of value.

55. Third, to invoke Security Council resolution 487 as grounds for considering the suspension of Israel's privileges and rights of membership was both artificial and inconsistent with the Agency's relationship agreement with the United Nations.

56. Fourth, to consider suspension would also contradict the principle of sovereign equality of Member States, as spelled out in Article IV.C of the Statute, and would also violate the principle of universality.

57. In view of all those considerations, the potential consequences of action by the General Conference against Israel were grave. Disregard for the legal basis of the Agency on grounds of political expediency by a majority of Members would deprive the Agency of its ability to achieve its objectives and perform credibly its functions as laid down in the Statute. There was no greater damage to the international non-proliferation regime and to world peace than a politicized safeguards system.

58. As far as the Middle East was concerned, further damage would be inflicted on the tenuous progress towards the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in that region. It should be remembered that Iraq had already succeeded at the last session of the United Nations General Assembly in scuttling the consensus reached in 1980 on the Egyptian initiative.

59. The Government of Israel had taken in recent years a number of measures aimed at the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East, to be organized along the lines of the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

60. The latest initiative had found its expression in the statement made by the Prime Minister of Israel, Mr. Menachem Begin, in his address on 18 June 1982 to the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations. Mr. Begin had stated that Israel was prepared to negotiate and sign such a treaty with all its neighbours in the Middle East.

61. Suspension of Israel from membership of the Agency would discourage his country from putting its trust in the Agency's ability to discharge its global mission in the nuclear field. In any case, Israel could not possibly contemplate a state of affairs in which its rights and privileges were suspended, but the duties of membership were maintained.

62. To sum up, Israel strongly believed that the Agency should be allowed to maintain the unique position it had enjoyed ever since its inception. Agency staff should be allowed to discharge their duties loyally and effectively within the limits of the mandate defined by the international community. Israel therefore proposed that the 25th anniversary of the Agency as well as the 26th session of the General Conference should be remembered as milestones on the road to the implementation of the Agency's ideals, rather than as dates on which illegality had triumphed.

63. Mr. AUWAERTER (Liechtenstein) said that his country had become a Member of the International Atomic Energy Agency convinced that the Agency was able to realize its aim of accelerating and enlarging the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world and, by means of NPT and of its control functions, of avoiding the misuse of nuclear energy.

64. An adequate supply of energy was the basis of civilization. That applied to small States as well as to big ones. Civilization itself was only meaningful when it improved the quality of life of the people and thus contributed to peaceful co-existence.

65. Although such a small country, Liechtenstein had, by its industrial activity, attained world-wide significance. That success was due to the knowledge, ability and assiduity of its people, which with its sense of discipline had achieved true democracy.

66. His Government was more and more concerned about the growing tensions between States. Although the Agency had achieved considerable success, his country regretted that there were still States which had not joined the Agency, or which had not signed or ratified NPT. Furthermore, some States were not respecting the obligations into which they had entered.

67. It was therefore necessary for the IAEA and its Member States to exert every effort to respect the commitments they had undertaken and to find ways of ensuring their acceptance by all States.

Mr. Yamato, Vice-President, took the chair.

68. Mr. DHARMAWARDENA (Sri Lanka) said that the present year was a very special one for the Agency, which had now completed a quarter of a century of successful international co-operation in the field of nuclear energy. It was also a special year for the nuclear industry as a whole since it was the 50th anniversary of Chadwick's discovery of the neutron - a discovery that had made nuclear energy possible. In Sri Lanka itself, nuclear energy activities had come of age through the completion of 21 years of the Radioisotope Centre, a successfully functioning laboratory set up for the country's nuclear energy programme.

69. Sri Lanka had continued to make every effort towards development in spite of the global problems hampering the growth of developing countries; there had been significant improvements in agriculture and industry, as well as in earnings from exports and foreign investment. Although the potential contribution by nuclear energy to improving standards in everyday life was not really known with any degree of certainty in the third-world countries, the role that it could play in accelerating the progress of the developing countries at the present time had been made quite clear. It could contribute to the provision of adequate quantities of food, improved health care, the supply of water to arid zones, and basic industrial production at competitive costs.

70. If, however, there was to be a global balance on both the economic and political planes, it was essential for nuclear technologies to be made available to developing countries. Any financial, technical or political obstructions in the way of such transfer of technology to developing countries could only widen the gap between the more affluent and less affluent States. Anti-nuclear activities by uninformed groups in developing countries would produce much the same effect.

71. Sri Lanka had set up the Radioisotope Centre in Colombo in 1961 for the application of nuclear techniques in such areas as agriculture, industry and hydrology. A nuclear medicine unit had also been established ten years ago, and a second nuclear medicine unit was to be established in the near future to cope with a greater demand for nuclear techniques in medicine.

72. Sri Lanka was a non-aligned State actively working for world peace. The Sri Lankan National Atomic Energy Act proscribed any non-peaceful use of nuclear energy. He therefore supported all Agency activities aimed at preventing the use of nuclear energy for non-peaceful purposes.

73. Sri Lanka was not endowed with any energy resources other than hydro power, but even the capacity of such resources was limited, compared to the demand for electricity. As a result, a committee had been set up to study the suitability of introducing nuclear power reactors. That committee had recommended immediate action on manpower training and infrastructure development. As a result, the recommendations had been adopted and facilities had been created for training the requisite personnel, including university courses in the subject. It was hoped that the Agency would provide guidance and assistance in that venture.

74. His delegation was proud of the fact that Sri Lanka was one of the countries in the Asia and the Pacific region that had completed ten years of co-operation under the Regional Co-operative Agreement (RCA) and was gratified to see that another region was now forming a similar co-operative group. It was hoped that the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy to be held in 1983 would help to promote co-operation in nuclear activities between all countries, and that such would lead to a greater level of peace and understanding in the world.

75. Mr. MPANGALA (United Republic of Tanzania) said that he would begin his short statement by addressing himself to both the Agency's annual report for 1981 and the draft programme for 1983-88 and budget for 1983. In connection with the Agency's annual report for 1981, his delegation wished to congratulate the Secretariat for producing a report whose format and presentation was eminently clear and understandable. His Government continued to be favourably impressed by the range of the Agency's activities in the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes as detailed in the annual report. Thus, he had in general no difficulty in accepting the report. Tanzania was particularly anxious that in the Agency's programme an equitable balance should be struck between the annual rate of increase in the budget for safeguards and the rate of increase in that for technical assistance. His

delegation's acceptance of the target for voluntary contributions to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund should thus be viewed against that background. Subject to those observations and reservations he supported the adoption of the draft resolutions on the Regular Budget appropriations for 1983, the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund allocation for 1983 and the Working Capital Fund in 1983.

76. He now wished to address the question of financing technical assistance in the Agency, an issue of crucial importance to all developing countries and one which had been under discussion in the Board of Governors and the General Conference since 1973. Although the Board had arrived at a temporary compromise whereby the target for voluntary contributions to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund for 1982 was US \$16 million, with a figure of US \$19 million proposed for 1983, his Government still strongly maintained the view held by other developing countries that, in order to ensure the predictability of financial resources for technical assistance, and in order to give technical assistance the same status as safeguards in accordance with the Agency's Statute, the technical assistance programme should be financed from the Regular Budget.

77. He announced that his Government had pledged US \$1900 as its voluntary contribution to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund for 1983.

78. Turning to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, he remarked that, 13 years after NPT had come into being, the achievement was hardly more than the fact that there had been no nuclear war, whereas the potential for a nuclear war had increased tremendously. In that connection he reminded the Conference that Tanzania was not a party to NPT. It had always believed that NPT did more harm than good to the world's disarmament efforts. For one thing it did nothing to break the nuclear weapons monopoly of a few States. Secondly, it created a false sense of satisfaction and complacency and thus led to a slackening of the global striving towards disarmament. Thirdly, it struck at the sovereignty of Member States by linking the Agency's technical assistance to their being parties to the Treaty, although that was in fact contrary to Articles II and III of the Agency's Statute.

79. In conclusion, he wished to make some remarks on the technical assistance received from the Agency since Tanzania had joined the organization in 1975. When Tanzania had decided to join the Agency, it had not had the manpower or the institutional framework to handle nuclear energy matters. The decision to join had been prompted by a genuine desire to exploit the benefits of the peaceful applications of nuclear energy for the development of the Tanzanian people.

80. During 1980-82 the Government of Tanzania had received technical assistance from the Agency involving isotope laboratories, training courses for Tanzanian fellows, expert services and a hydrology project using tritium. His Government was indeed grateful to the Agency for that assistance.

81. Mr. SHASH (Egypt) said that his delegation had listened with great interest to the statement made by the Director General at the start of the session and had noted the various constructive proposals contained therein aimed at guiding and consolidating the activities of the Agency in various fields. His delegation wished to express its satisfaction at the use of Arabic at the General Conference for the first time, an event which coincided with the 25th anniversary of the Agency's establishment. That represented an opportunity for him to express his Government's feelings of pride at the fact that the Agency, during that relatively limited time span, had been able to make great progress in the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and the perfection of a system ensuring the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

82. However, those 25 years also gave grounds for pausing to consider what had actually occurred, and to judge to what extent hopes had already become reality, or would do so in the future. He recalled that Egypt had participated in the Conference on the Statute and had been one of the first countries to accept the Agency's founding instrument. Down the years Egypt had also contributed to and supported all the activities of the Agency, and he wished to take this opportunity to affirm that it would continue to do so. His Government had on 29 June 1982 officially notified the Agency that the necessary

constitutional measures had been taken to ratify its safeguards agreement with the Agency pursuant to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which Egypt had ratified in February 1981. That ratification had been the logical result of the support which Egypt had consistently lent to the creation of a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East. The strong consensus in favour of the relevant resolution adopted at the 35th session of the United Nations General Assembly showed the support which the concept enjoyed world-wide. However, the resolution would merely be an empty declaration of good intentions unless the Agency's General Conference made specific arrangements for its implementation.

83. Egypt continued to hope that its ratification of NPT would encourage the other States in the region which had not yet done so to follow suit, so as to consolidate peace and security in an area which was so important for the peace and security of the entire world. It was therefore logical that Egypt should strive for the universal acceptance of NPT, which called for all States, especially the nuclear-weapon States, to find ways and means of ending the nuclear arms race and of achieving complete disarmament under effective international control. The Agency now had valuable experience which could be placed at the disposal of NPT and could also be applied in the field of disarmament. Putting a stop to the nuclear arms race could help realize the objectives of the Agency in the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, since an end to the arms race would help counter the negative influence which the latter had on public opinion as far as nuclear power was concerned.

84. The vital role which the Agency had to play in the sphere of non-proliferation presupposed total confidence in the safeguards system, and for that reason one of the main duties of Member States was to respect the Statute, as otherwise the Agency would lose its effectiveness. That was why the Board of Governors

and the General Conference, at its 25th session, had condemned the barbaric aggression perpetrated against the Iraqi nuclear research centre. As a Member of the Agency and a party to NPT, Iraq had placed its nuclear facilities under Agency safeguards. The Security Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations had also condemned that act of aggression, which had aroused public opinion throughout the world.

85. The refusal by Israel to obey the terms of resolution GC(XXV)/RES/381 meant that the General Conference, at its present session, had to face up to its responsibilities and act in order to ensure respect for the provisions of the Statute and indeed respect for the Agency itself.

86. Egypt had developed an ambitious nuclear power programme aimed at bringing a number of nuclear power stations on stream by the year 2000. The total power available would be about 8000 MW(e), which would cover approximately 40% of the country's electricity requirements at that date. The Egyptian authorities had, in the course of the past year, concluded nuclear co-operation agreements with France, the United States of America, the Federal Republic of Germany, Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom and Sweden. In addition, preliminary steps had been taken for the construction of the first two power-generating units in the nuclear power programme under a co-operation agreement signed with France. The two units in question should be commissioned in 1991 and 1992 respectively. Based on the personnel cadres which already existed thanks to an interest in nuclear affairs going back to 1957, a scheme had recently been launched for training the scientific and technical staff required for

operating the stations to be erected under the ambitious nuclear power programme. The United States, France and the Federal Republic of Germany and the IAEA were participating in that training scheme.

87. Many developing countries were finding it necessary to have recourse to nuclear power in order to meet their energy requirements. That was why Egypt attached special importance to the Agency's work of providing technical assistance to developing countries, in order to assist them in promoting the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. In that connection his Government had been a supporter of resolution GC(XXV)/RES/388, which requested the Board of Governors to take the necessary measures in order to finance technical assistance from the Agency's Regular Budget or from comparably predictable and assured resources. The same resolution included a request for the Board of Governors to take appropriate steps so that technical assistance funds were increased in order to respond adequately to meet increasing financial requirements for the maximum possible number of technically sound projects and to enable progress in technical assistance to keep pace with the progress in other main activities of the Agency. His delegation regarded that resolution as a fundamental instrument whose full implementation over the years to come should be the aim of all Member States. Egypt therefore welcomed the consensus which had emerged from the informal consultations held in the Board over the past year and which evolved satisfactory indicative planning figures for the period 1984-86. That augured well for the further implementation of resolution GC(XXV)/RES/388. The indicative planning figures for the following three years represented of course the minimum requirement, but if they proved inadequate he was confident that adjustments could be made in the spirit of co-operation and good will which had marked the consultations to date.

88. Nuclear power called for extensive long-term investments and for the assured availability of fuel, equipment and services on a large scale. That was why Egypt had been among those States which had helped to promote the establishment of the Committee on Assurances of Supply (CAS) in June 1980. He was gratified to note the significant progress which had been made within the framework of CAS, and trusted that the work which had been entrusted to it would be completed as soon as possible.

89. The number of States Members of the Agency had now reached more than 110, after 25 years of steady growth. Nevertheless the necessary interregional balance had not been achieved, and there was still no adequate representation of all areas, his own area of Africa, for example, being grossly under-represented. His delegation therefore greatly regretted that the consultations in the Board of Governors during the past year with a view to implementing resolution GC(XXV)/RES/389 had not led to any positive results. It hoped that those consultations would be continued more energetically, and would lead to the addition of three seats for the area of Africa and two seats for the area of the Middle East and South Asia.

90. His Government welcomed the action taken by the Director General to implement resolution GC(XXV)/RES/386 on the subject of increasing the number of staff members recruited from developing countries, especially to the higher echelons of the Secretariat. Further measures in that direction were, however, required.

91. In conclusion, he wished to draw attention to the significance of the Conference on Nuclear Power Experience which had been held just before the present session, to the Round Table discussion on the Role of Nuclear Power in Overall Energy Planning which had been held on the first day of the session itself, and to the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy for Economic and Social Development to be held in Geneva in the late summer of 1983.

92. Mr. BADDOU (Morocco) said that there was hardly need to perorate on the vital importance of nuclear energy in all aspects of the economic and social life of today. In face of the inevitable diminution of natural energy sources, the constantly increasing demand in the world for energy, the energy crises following one upon the other in a more and more dramatic way, and the ever widening gap between the developed and developing countries, nuclear energy seemed the only hope and might perhaps be the only really satisfactory solution to the energy problem at a planetary level.

93. Nuclear techniques and the spheres of application of atomic energy had in fact made considerable progress in recent years, as was abundantly clear from the work of the International Conference on Nuclear Power Experience held the week before in Vienna. It had emerged from the statements of the experts at that meeting that nuclear energy had not only attained its maturity, but that it had become an economically competitive, technically feasible and safe energy source.

94. Nevertheless, paradoxical as it might seem, there had been a slow-down in the implementation of nuclear programmes in most of the developed countries, and with all the more reason, in the developing countries, too. Whereas that situation was undoubtedly due, on the one hand, to the unfavourable world economic situation as well as to certain doubts about the safety of nuclear power plants and the risks of nuclear proliferation, it had been brought about, on the other, by the high cost of operations, the delays involved in implementing projects and a lack of high-calibre personnel. Hence the importance of the Agency's mission, both in promotional terms and in terms of strengthening its safeguards system and encouraging non-proliferation, was manifestly clear. Efforts had, in fact, always been geared to that objective and it was gratifying to see that the number of Member States joining NPT had continued to rise and now amounted to 116.

95. There was need, however, to strive far harder if genuine non-proliferation was to be brought about. His delegation believed that there were certain conditions which would have to be met in order to improve the chances of reaching that goal; they were, first, vertical non-proliferation of nuclear weapons;

second, horizontal non-proliferation by means of the universality of NPT; third, complete security for non-nuclear-weapon States party to NPT; and fourth, immediate and specifically oriented assistance to those States in their peaceful applications of nuclear energy. In addition, non-nuclear-weapon States would have to have been given satisfactory and tangible guarantees of safety by nuclear-weapon States that were such as to assure their independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

96. Furthermore, his delegation believed that the creation of denuclearized zones constituted an additional approach that could be instrumental in achieving the aim in view. It had to be recalled in that connection that the resolution adopted on the denuclearization of the African continent by the United Nations would not be followed up for a long time to come unless the racist Government in Pretoria agreed to place its nuclear facilities under Agency safeguards. Similarly, there could not be denuclearized zones in the Middle East as long as Israel continued to refuse to join NPT.

97. The Agency's second basic function was to encourage the development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. He believed in that connection that efforts should be geared more to the technical co-operation programmes, with priority being given to the developing countries. To that end it was essential for resources earmarked for such activities to be appropriated from the Regular Budget so that the funding of technical assistance was not exposed to the risk of constant and unpredictable fluctuation in voluntary contributions.

98. Lastly, his delegation wished to refer to a particular problem, the implications of which were serious enough to jeopardize the Agency's very basis, namely the Israeli air attack in June 1981 on the Tamuz nuclear research centre in Iraq. At its twenty-fifth session the General Conference had resolutely condemned that act of violence in its resolution GC(XXV)/RES/381. It had been clearly recognized, in adopting the resolution, that the attack had not only been directed against the nuclear facilities of a Member State which was party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, but had also dealt a severe blow to the Agency's safeguards system. Israel, however, had not complied with that

resolution or with any others of a similar kind, which was perhaps not so surprising in view of the sad record of that country's violations of the United Nations Charter and the most elementary principles of human rights.

99. The Agency should take up that challenge, for its reputation and credibility were at stake. Rather than just verbal condemnation, it was time for the General Conference to adopt specific sanctions against Israel, which had failed to carry out its obligations as a Member State. In consideration of the United Nations Charter and pursuant to the provisions of resolution 487 of the United Nations Security Council, and the Conference's resolution GC(XXV)/RES/381, it was now the duty of all present to suspend Israel from the exercise of the privileges and rights of membership. Any hesitation or lenience in that matter would be in effect a dangerous precedent with incalculable implications for the Agency's future.

100. Mr. EL GHOUD (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said it was a pleasure to welcome Namibia as a new Member of the International Atomic Energy Agency. The people of Namibia had long suffered under racist colonialism, and one could only wish them all success for the future.

101. As the Agency celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary, Libya wished to offer its congratulations and express the hope that in future the Agency would continue to fulfil all its tasks and achieve even more success in furthering the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, so that developing countries could benefit on an equal basis from technical assistance. As a developing country, Libya was very grateful to the Agency for the technical assistance it had received. However, it felt that, overall, the distribution of assistance had not been entirely equitable; the technical assistance programme could profitably be revised in such a way as to provide developing countries with yet more effective assistance for their nuclear programmes, so that they could acquire a new source of energy contributing to economic prosperity for their peoples.

102. There were a number of very urgent problems that still had not been resolved. One was the amendment of Article VI.A.2 of the Statute: even though five years had passed since the presentation of the draft resolution for the amendment of that Article, co-sponsored by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and supported by a majority of developing countries, no progress had been achieved, the draft resolution was presented annually at the sessions of the General Conference without being adopted definitively. The amendment of Article VI.A.2 had thus not yet taken place, owing to the attitude of the developed countries, which refused to accept any change without presenting valid arguments other than depriving the developing countries of their right of adequate representation on the Board. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya considered it extremely important that the Conference should adopt an appropriate amendment at its present session.

103. The Libyan delegation supported the adoption of the necessary measures to enable technical assistance to be financed from the Regular Budget. Only then could the Agency effectively fulfil its commitments in technical assistance and co-operation on a larger scale than heretofore. Libya called on the developed States advanced in the nuclear field to increase their contributions to technical assistance and co-operation in order to make it possible for the Agency to meet the growing needs and requirements of developing countries.

104. Libya had launched a programme for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in medicine, agriculture, industry and power production. It was considering the introduction of a first nuclear power station, consisting of two units each with an output of 440 MW, and a desalination plant with a capacity of 80 000 m³/day. Studies on the radiation preservation of food were also making progress, within the framework of the country's Nuclear Research Centre, as was the production of radioisotopes to use in those areas, especially in the selection of appropriate fertilizers. It was to be hoped that the Agency would increase its assistance, and that Libya would also be able to benefit from the assistance of peace-loving countries. Not only the Agency but all friendly countries which had provided assistance, first and foremost the Soviet Union, had Libya's gratitude.

105. All States had an absolute right to develop their nuclear energy programmes. That inalienable right was enshrined in the Agency's Statute and also in the Non-Proliferation Treaty, both of which reaffirmed the absolute right of every Member State of the Agency to develop the economic, scientific and technical aspects of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy within the framework of the Agency's safeguards system. Despite such provisions of international statutes, charters and documents, the racist Zionist entity had launched a military aggression on the nuclear research facilities of a Member State - Iraq. Iraq was a party to NPT and had concluded safeguards agreements under that Treaty; that it had acted in conformity with its obligations under NPT was a fact demonstrated in the reports of the Agency and of its safeguards missions.

106. While reiterating its condemnation of the unqualifiable aggression perpetrated by the racist Zionist entity, his delegation wished to recall the resolution adopted at the previous session which, in one of its operative paragraphs, called for suspension of the membership of the Zionist entity if it did not comply with the relevant resolutions and place its nuclear facilities under safeguards. In fact, the Zionist entity had consistently spurned the resolutions of the United Nations and other international organizations, acting at the instigation and with the support of the United States of America, which was abusing its veto right in order to support the Zionist entity. So far the Zionist entity had refused to place its nuclear facilities under safeguards and had also refused to sign NPT, showing beyond any doubt that it was not qualified for membership of the Agency. Therefore, his delegation wished to call for implementation of the resolution adopted by the General Conference at its last session.

107. The criminal military aggression perpetrated by the military establishment of the racist Zionist entity could hardly be considered a surprise. That entity was the United States' instrument of intimidation and could not exist without assassination and destruction. The simplest proof of that could be found in its wanton massacre of the Arab Palestinian population and the Arab Lebanese population, which had resulted in the death and displacement of thousands of innocent children, women and elderly people and the destruction of a great number of buildings, institutions, hospitals, schools and other facilities. The Zionist entity, through those criminal acts, had reaffirmed its aggressiveness and its blind hatred based on racism, nazism and fascism.

108. The support of the United States, the supply by the United States of all technological and military means of destruction, had made it possible for the Zionist entity to implement the law of the jungle. It was that moral and technological assistance from the United States which had made it possible to annihilate all the efforts made by the International Atomic Energy Agency throughout its existence. And a new dimension of destructiveness was now possible, for, to quote a report in the "Economist" of 27 August 1981, "it is quite possible that Israel has more than 12 plutonium bombs and a number of neutron bombs as well". Probably most of the delegates present had come across a book called "Two minutes over Baghdad", written by three Zionist writers. On page 51 of "Two minutes over Baghdad" one read the statement that "Despite divergencies in the evaluation of the possibilities of Israel's nuclear capabilities, the latest US CIA report estimates that the number of operational warheads in the possession of Israel is almost 200 warheads".

109. All that clearly meant that the Agency and its Member States must stop all technical assistance to and co-operation with the Zionist and racist entity. That was a responsibility which had to be fulfilled if the Agency was to be preserved in its present form - if it was to apply the provisions of its Statute and carry out its objectives.

110. The present-day world suffered from various crises and serious conflicts and from the depredations of States which had recourse to armed aggression and believed only in force against people who were peace-loving. United States military aggression over Libya's territorial waters afforded additional proof of how the United States Administration felt. The United States had demonstrated, by such actions, that it aimed at preventing the progress of the Libyan Arab people.

111. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that the Agency would continue its valuable contribution to the welfare of mankind and succeed in attaining the objectives enshrined in its Statute.

112. Mr. BARUTÇU (Turkey), welcoming Namibia as a new Member of the Agency, expressed the hope that it would soon attain full independence and contribute actively to the work of the Agency with its considerable uranium resources.

113. The current session of the General Conference marked the silver jubilee of the Agency and had been preceded by the Conference on Nuclear Power Experience, which had provided an overview of the organization's activities and of the status of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the world.

114. Unfortunately, the picture which had emerged was not very encouraging.

115. The world energy problem was, on the whole, becoming more and more acute and, besides, there was a growing disparity in the availability of energy to the different regions of the world. It appeared that, by the year 2000, nuclear energy would be essential to fill the energy gap.

116. However, the present situation was paradoxical in that the human and technical resources built up over forty years of nuclear powerplant construction were being under-utilized and that scarcely one half of the total construction capacity in the industrialized countries was being used. That situation was closely linked with the public acceptance issue. In that

connection, the problems of reactor safety and waste management and disposal should be carefully and urgently studied by the industrialized countries. The Agency's efforts in those areas should be commended.

117. The problems faced by the developing countries were of a different nature. In addition to their lack of infrastructure and manpower, they encountered great economic problems in financing their nuclear power programmes. That had a restrictive effect on international nuclear trade and thus on the nuclear industry. The interaction of those various factors created a vicious circle. As production fell in the nuclear industry the costs rose, making it even costlier for the developing countries to carry out their programmes. It was time to add new dimensions to the technical co-operation and assistance activities of the Agency: the seminar on technical assistance being held during the present Conference session was a good occasion to explore the possibilities. A number of developing countries had reached the necessary level of infrastructure and manpower to build their own power reactors. He hoped that the Agency would play a more constructive role in that regard, bringing to life the relevant provisions of the Statute.

118. A vital aspect of the promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy was assurances of supply of fuel, equipment and technology. Non-proliferation and assurances of supply were interdependent. The creation of a climate of mutual confidence where countries could pursue the goals of economic and technological development without hindrance would provide the assurance of non-proliferation. It was of the utmost importance, therefore, that the Committee on Assurances of Supply should conduct its work fruitfully.

119. At its preceding session the General Conference had considered an unprecedented act of aggression by one Member State against the peaceful installations of another Member State. That act had undermined confidence in the Agency's safeguards system and continued to be a serious matter. His delegation noted with great regret that the resolution adopted by the General Conference on the subject had remained unobserved, and wished to emphasize that there should be no discrimination among Member States as to the fulfilment of obligations.

120. In so far as developments in Turkey were concerned, reorganization of the Turkish Atomic Energy Commission had been completed. It was a country with relatively rich energy resources. Its potential of hydraulic energy was estimated at 100 000 million and that of lignite resources at 60 000 million kilowatt-hours per annum. If Turkey could develop 80% of its hydraulic energy potential and all of its lignite resources potential by the year 2000, there would still be a gap of 40 000 million kilowatt-hours since the energy requirements for that period were expected to be 180 000 million kilowatt-hours. Nuclear energy was therefore essential. His country was persisting in its efforts to implement its nuclear power programme. A site had already been selected for a nuclear power plant and provision was being made for the necessary infrastructure and port facilities. The Turkish authorities were studying new offers for the nuclear power plant. At the same time, uranium exploration activities had been stepped up. According to the most recent data, the proven uranium resources amounted to 5000 tons. Following the completion of the yellow-cake pilot project, research on a laboratory scale was under way. In addition to the TR-1 and TRIGA Mark-II research reactors of the Technical University of Istanbul, a 5-MW TR-2 research reactor had become operational in 1982 at the Çekmece nuclear research centre of the Turkish Atomic Energy Commission.

121. In conclusion, he wished to express his appreciation for the contribution which the Agency had made to Turkey's nuclear power programme.

122. Mr. GHAZALI bin Hj. Abd. RAHMAN (Malaysia) congratulated the United Nations Council for Namibia on being admitted to membership of the Agency.

123. It was recognized in Malaysia that although science, and in particular nuclear science, was capable of offering the deepest insights into the nature of the universe, as well as great economic benefits, it was also capable of being misused for destructive purposes. Men had always faced mortal dangers, but there was a categorical difference between endangering the lives of one or more men and endangering the existence of life itself, between a threat to a nation and a threat to mankind, between the destruction of personal property and the destruction of the Earth. That was a moral problem which had never been faced by man before. Future generations would be threatened with alienation and illness of the spirit and loss of conscience and of the

sense of outrage at evil. A so-called "new morality" and a "new ethic" were arising, and faith in the democratic process was being eroded. There was also a decline in the acceptance of pluralism of race, culture and life styles.

124. There could be no doubt that NPT and the Agency's safeguards were vital to the non-proliferation regime and should be strengthened in every way possible. The Director General's proposal that the Agency's activities might be expanded to cover the area of disarmament was worthy of examination.

125. The unwarranted and unprovoked attack by Israel on the Iraqi nuclear research centre, a facility subject to safeguards, had grave implications for the Agency. The attack had been a flagrant violation of international laws and of all norms of international relations and constituted a serious blow to the Agency's safeguards regime, which was internationally accepted as the basis for NPT. The General Conference at its twenty-fifth regular session had adopted resolution GC(XXV)/RES/381 requesting Israel to comply with Security Council resolution 487 of 19 June 1981, but Israel had taken no notice. The General Conference had a moral obligation to ensure that its decision was respected by taking strong action against the party concerned.

126. The international situation with regard to the transfer of nuclear technology was very uncertain. An international consensus on trade in nuclear technology was being sought in the Committee on Assurances of Supply (CAS), but progress had been slow so far. Countries with small nuclear programmes needed guaranteed access to the whole range of fuel cycle services, including waste disposal, and the Agency should play a leading role in protecting the interests of developing countries in that area.

127. Malaysia had entered the nuclear age when its 1-MW TRIGA reactor had achieved criticality in June 1982. The reactor's potential was limited, but the technical know-how involved would now be domestically available and would provide an impetus for the introduction and utilization of nuclear science and technology.

128. The Agency had been instrumental in encouraging and assisting Member States to co-operate towards the efficient utilization of available resources in areas of common interest. The establishment of the Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (RCA) had been one of the most successful innovations in the attempt to spread the peaceful uses of atomic energy. Co-operation programmes and projects under RCA had covered a broad spectrum of technologies, including agriculture and food, medicine, environmental research and control, industrial applications, hydrology, instrumentation, and training. RCA had demonstrated the value of regional co-operation by a number of co-operation programmes and projects of importance to Member States and by regular meetings on technological needs and on the means of satisfying those needs on a regional basis.

129. The Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund also existed in order to promote co-operation between countries in the field of nuclear energy, and Malaysia was pleased to be able to pledge, for 1983, a voluntary contribution to that Fund amounting to US \$17 100.

130. In addition to scientific results and theories it was necessary to have a science policy to ensure that scientific progress brought as much good and as little harm as possible. The politics of nuclear science did not differ essentially from other types of politics, having its élites, its down-trodden, its alliances, bosses, loves, hates and vested interests. Mankind could not progress without nuclear science but, far from providing a sense of power, nuclear science emphasized man's weakness and futility, because the powers of ignorance and greed distorted nuclear science and led it astray.

The session rose at 1.6 p.m.

