



GC

International Atomic Energy Agency

GENERAL CONFERENCE

GC(XXVI)/OR.244
May 1983*

GENERAL Distr.
ENGLISH

TWENTY-SIXTH REGULAR SESSION: 20-24 SEPTEMBER 1982

RECORD OF THE TWO HUNDRED AND FORTY-FOURTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Neue Hofburg, Vienna,
on Thursday, 23 September 1982, at 3.5 p.m.

President: Mr. MOROZOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)
later: Mr. DAVIS (United States of America)

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*/ A provisional version of this document was issued on 15 October 1982.

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

1. Mr. LEE (Republic of Korea) extended a warm welcome to Namibia, represented by the United Nations Council for Namibia, which had just been approved for membership of the Agency.
2. On the occasion of the Agency's twenty-fifth anniversary his Government noted with satisfaction that the organization had played an important role in the promotion of the peaceful uses of atomic energy for economic and social development and that it had made a considerable effort to extend the system of safeguards with a view to preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons. He strongly urged the nuclear-weapon States to abide by Article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). His delegation was in favour of the Agency concerning itself with issues of long- and short-term importance such as spent fuel and radioactive waste management. As an instrument of international co-operation, the Agency should play a key role in that field.
3. Since the commissioning of its first nuclear powerplant, in April 1978, the Republic of Korea had gained considerable experience in the construction, operation and maintenance of reactors. Eight other nuclear power plants were under construction, and it was planned, as from the following year, to commission a new plant every year. The installed capacity would be further expanded, and was expected to reach about 30 GW(e) by the end of the century, accounting for 60% of the country's total electricity generation.
4. In order to improve reactor safety, his Government was studying the standardization of power plant components. In addition, the Atomic Energy Law had recently been amended to incorporate mandatory requirements for safety regulations at all stages of construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning. The Nuclear Safety Centre, recently established to assist the Government in its regulatory and licensing functions, would deal with safety analyses and evaluations, the preparation of safety codes and standards appropriate to the country's conditions, inspections and the auditing of major nuclear facilities, radiation protection and emergency preparedness, and the systematic dissemination of safety information. It believed that timely and effective assistance could be provided best under the regional co-operation scheme for emergency preparedness. In that regard, the Agency's role was vital.

5. His country was willing to share with other developing countries its experience in the solution of the difficult problems which arose in the course of planning and implementing nuclear programmes. The success of such programmes depended, to a large extent, on the timely availability of nuclear materials, technology and competent personnel. In that respect his Government fully supported the initiative taken by the Board of Governors in establishing the Committee on Assurances of Supply and by the Secretariat in organizing the Expert Group on International Plutonium Storage to foster an international commercial market, to assure supply and to manage the back-end of the fuel cycle. It was in favour of establishing internationally acceptable norms for nuclear trade and of full access to the essential technology on the basis of Agency safeguards and an international non-proliferation regime. It welcomed the positive steps taken by some suppliers, for example the announcement of the criteria for exercising the right of prior consent, which contributed to strengthening mutual confidence.
6. His country was an active proponent of an effective non-proliferation regime and had strongly supported the Agency's safeguards system. The non-proliferation objective could be achieved only through political means. The Agency was an effective and vital element in that regime. His Government was of the opinion that safeguards information should be strictly confidential and that only overall conclusions should be published.
7. The Government of the Republic of Korea, which was constructively participating in several regional projects under RCA, welcomed the Agency's efforts to provide assistance to an RCA project.
8. As regards the technical co-operation programme proposed in the draft budget for 1983, his delegation considered that the best method of obtaining fruitful results was to evaluate projects more stringently, to implement them more efficiently and to carry out post-project evaluations. The proposed 1983 target of US \$19 million for the Technical Assistance and Co-operation

Fund was reasonable even though it fell far short of requirements. The indicative planning figures for 1984, 1985 and 1986 on which a consensus had been reached in the Board would provide a sound and predictable basis for those years.

9. Furthermore, his delegation noted with satisfaction that the Director General had taken steps to recruit nationals from developing countries and hoped that those efforts would continue.

10. The Republic of Korea would continue to use nuclear energy as an alternative to oil and would expand its nuclear power programme through closer international co-operation, while observing the highest standards of nuclear safety.

11. Mr. PREVEDOURAKIS (Greece) congratulated Namibia, represented by the United Nations Council for Namibia, on its being approved for membership of the Agency.

12. It emerged from the International Conference on Nuclear Power Experience and the Director General's statement that the growth of nuclear power had slowed down significantly owing to energy conservation measures and the withering of public confidence, but that nuclear power accounted for about 10% of world electricity production and remained an essential factor in the diversification of energy resources in the future.

13. His country continued to depend largely on imported oil and attached great importance to the diversification of its energy sources. It had opted for the development, on a priority basis, of its domestic resources such as water power, lignite, geothermal energy, solar energy and wind energy in the short and medium term. Having deferred the nuclear option, Greece could take its time over training the manpower and developing the manufacturing capabilities required for a viable national programme. At the same time it hoped that the serious problems of escalating investments, longer lead times and higher costs of ensuring safety would be resolved satisfactorily.

14. The Agency's safeguards system encouraged greater public acceptance of nuclear energy and formed the essential basis of confidence-building measures, which could be expanded substantially through the work of the Committee on Assurances of Supply (CAS) and the Expert Group on International Plutonium Storage and through activities in the fields of nuclear safety and waste management. In that context he welcomed the publication of annual reviews of nuclear safety research results.

15. His delegation noted with satisfaction that the Agency had undertaken activities regarding mutual emergency assistance in the event of nuclear accidents and hoped that the advisory group appointed to study the matter would take into consideration all trans-frontier aspects of nuclear power.

16. Although CAS had made some progress, it had not yet found a formula combining the necessary assurances of supply with the appropriate non-proliferation guarantees. He hoped that the Committee would be able to arrive at concrete results before the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, taking into consideration that an effective safeguards system which did not hinder nuclear trade was essential for implementation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. As one of the first countries to have ratified the Treaty, Greece urged all States to do so and to accept full-scope safeguards. In that connection it welcomed the accession of Egypt and Viet Nam to NPT and the Soviet Union's invitation to the Agency to apply safeguards to some of its peaceful nuclear facilities. The Greek Government recognized, however, that it was difficult to prevent a country which had the political will to do so from switching from a peaceful to a military nuclear programme. Non-proliferation was clearly a political problem. In applying safeguards the Agency had not detected any anomaly which would have indicated diversion of a significant amount of safeguarded nuclear material. Nevertheless, as the Director General had quite rightly pointed out, in spite of all the technical refinements of the system, the Agency could not prevent anything but could only report.

17. Any action which undermined the credibility of the safeguards system was deplorable and must be condemned. The Israeli attack on the Iraqi nuclear research centre was one such action, which had been condemned immediately by the then Greek Government as an unacceptable violation of international law.

The present Greek Government regretted that Israel persisted in its aggressive policy and had not complied with Security Council resolution 487. The aggressor must be condemned in an exemplary manner, and moral, political and, as far as possible, material satisfaction should be given to the victims. The Agency must do its utmost within the framework of its Statute to restore its own credibility. In that sense resolution GC(XXV)/RES/381 was almost fully justified. It was to be hoped that the discussions on the subject would lead to a decision which would strike a balance between the need to apply sanctions and the desirability of maintaining the universal character of an international organization. However, brutal actions were not alone in undermining the credibility of the safeguards system. The problems arising out of the application of safeguards in certain Member States had a similar effect. It was to be hoped that early technical solutions would be found to those problems and that it would be possible to restore confidence.

18. However important the regulatory activities of the Agency were, they should not overshadow its technical co-operation programme. His delegation considered that there should be a balance between those two types of activity and that the financing of technical co-operation should be such as would permit expansion of the programme on a predictable basis. His Government had already pledged to meet in full its 1983 assessed contribution to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund, which amounted to US \$65 000. Greece, which also benefited from the technical assistance programme, had embarked on a reappraisal of its activities with a view to determining whether it was necessary to reorient its programmes and change priorities in order to speed up the training of manpower in the nuclear field. It would rely on the Agency's continued assistance in those efforts.

19. Mr. LEVRERO PUIG (Uruguay) said that his country had pursued its efforts to set up its National Atomic Energy Commission's nuclear centre and, in particular, had embarked on a feasibility study which was to be carried out with the co-operation of the Agency, the United Nations Development Programme and the Argentine National Atomic Energy Commission. The Uruguayan Atomic Energy Commission had maintained its support for programmes

aimed at the promotion and testing of applications of nuclear techniques, particularly in medicine, agriculture and industry, and also for scientific programmes at the university level. In addition, it intended to participate in the regional programme on non-destructive analyses. As far as it was able, Uruguay was receiving fellows from the Latin American region and was placing its experts at the disposal of the Agency for the implementation of technical co-operation projects.

20. The Uruguayan Government attached great importance to the work of the Agency, especially its work on the development of peaceful applications of nuclear technology and on the promotion of international co-operation. At the twenty-third session of the General Conference it had proposed that the Agency set up a Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and was strongly in favour of the conclusion of such an agreement, which was currently under study.

21. Article III of the Statute stated clearly that the Agency's main efforts should relate to technical assistance. Nevertheless, at present that assistance was still financed from voluntary contributions by Member States, whereas safeguards were financed under the Regular Budget. Consequently, Uruguay once again called for a restructuring of the Agency's Regular Budget. While recognizing the importance of safeguards, it believed that it would be appropriate to treat safeguards and technical assistance on at least an equal basis, with particular account being taken of the interests of the developing countries, which represented the majority of Agency Members.

22. Uruguay continued to believe that the various regions should be properly represented on the Board of Governors. In order to amend Article VI of the Statute it would be necessary to re-examine it as a whole and to ensure that the new version did not result in the proportion of seats occupied by the area of Latin America becoming smaller.

23. Uruguay considered that Latin American countries were insufficiently represented among the staff of the Agency's Secretariat and hoped that the Secretariat would undertake an analysis which would enable the problem to be solved satisfactorily. The Secretariat had declared that it was continuously revising its internal standards and regulations governing the recruitment of

staff in order to eliminate possible obstacles impeding the selection of candidates from developing areas, and that when qualifications and competence were comparable it gave preference to candidates from developing countries or other under-represented areas. Uruguay supported the training programmes for young graduates from developing countries, which would result in an increase in the number of qualified candidates from such countries available for filling posts in the Secretariat.

24. Mr. RIOSALIDO GAMBOTTI (Spain) said that his country was pursuing its uranium prospection programme, which had made it possible to confirm the 3000 tonnes of U_3O_8 discovered in the Mazarete deposit and to determine that on 31 December uranium reserves minable at a cost below US \$30/lb of U_3O_8 amounted to 25 000 tonnes. It hoped that the uranium oxide fuel fabrication plant would go into service during 1983. The review of the Spanish energy plan carried out in 1981 hardly modified the ratio between nuclear power and hydro power but reduced the proportion of oil while increasing those of coal and natural gas. At present Spain had four operating nuclear power stations with a total capacity of 2030 MW(e). In 1990 Spain's nuclear power stations should be able to meet 15% of primary energy needs and account for 39% of electricity production.

25. In the face of the concern manifested by public opinion in most Western European countries with regard to nuclear power programmes, it would be necessary to take steps aimed at allaying that concern while ensuring that nuclear power continued to be used in a way which improved the quality of life of the population. Those problems went beyond the competence of a single State and required international co-operation within the framework of the appropriate bodies.

26. The Spanish Government considered that it was desirable to adapt the structure and composition of the Agency's policy-making organs, including the Board of Governors, to the present world situation in the nuclear field. The provisions of the Statute governing the composition of the Board and the practices relating to the designation of its Members did not ensure sufficiently

frequent participation by Spain in the Board's work. Such participation would indubitably be of value to the Agency in view of the fact that Spain was at an advanced stage in the development of nuclear technology and wished a number of problems to be solved at the international level.

27. Spain, which had always considered that international co-operation constituted the best means of ensuring the progress of mankind, had pursued and intensified its co-operation with other countries, in particular with the countries of Latin America and with Portugal. That was demonstrated by the conclusion of new agreements with foreign organizations such as the Nuclear Research Institute of Colombia, the Ecuadorian Atomic Energy Commission, the French Commissariat à l'énergie atomique and the Portuguese Engineering and Industrial Technology Laboratory. Specifically, those agreements related to the transfer of technology and training of staff. As far as co-operation with international organizations was concerned, Spain had agreed to lend its support to the holding of the NEA/IAEA Symposium on the Application of the Dose Limitation System in Nuclear Fuel Cycle Facilities, which had taken place in Madrid in October 1981, and to the Training Course on Uranium Ore Analysis given in May-June 1982 in Madrid under the auspices of the Agency. In addition Spain, which was convinced that the peaceful character of nuclear energy would contribute to international coexistence, had signed a trilateral safeguards agreement with the Agency and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany.

28. Mr. CHISHIMBA (Zambia) welcomed the Conference's approval of Namibia for membership of the Agency and hoped that the international efforts at present being made to achieve the withdrawal of the South African occupation forces would soon be crowned with success. Zambia reaffirmed its attachment to the peace, security and prosperity of all peoples of the world and was convinced that atomic energy and nuclear techniques could make a great contribution to the fight against disease, hunger and poverty.

29. Zambia's nuclear activities were limited owing to a lack of qualified personnel and of financial resources; they concerned mainly agriculture, medicine and industry. Radioactive ore prospecting activities were continuing. Zambia had received technical assistance from the Agency in the form of fellowships, equipment and expert services. It welcomed the improvement in the utilization of the resources of the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund in 1981 and the increase in extrabudgetary resources devoted to implementing technical assistance projects. His delegation hoped that the Agency would continue to pay particular attention to the needs of the less advanced Member States and urged the Agency to help such States to develop an infrastructure which would enable them to apply nuclear techniques for peaceful purposes. His delegation also trusted that the number of staff members from developing countries in the Division of Technical Assistance and Co-operation would continue to grow and that the Agency would improve further its procedures for the selection of experts and the purchase of supplies, equipment and materials. Existing training facilities associated with technical assistance and co-operation should be strengthened or new regional centres set up for nuclear training. His delegation was concerned at the reduction in the number of Type II fellowships offered by Member States and at the growing difficulties encountered in the acceptance of Agency fellows in certain areas such as practical training. His Government would like to see the establishment of a mechanism which would put the financing of the technical assistance and co-operation programme on a more predictable footing.

30. With regard to nuclear safety, he noted with satisfaction the Agency's work in revising and completing the nuclear safety standards series, particularly in the fields of radiation protection, the transport of radioactive materials, waste management and uranium mining and milling. With regard to safeguards, his Government was deeply concerned that, in the nuclear-weapon States, dangerous nuclear facilities and activities had not been placed under Agency safeguards and that the nuclear arms race was continuing. He urged all progressive Member States to terminate all relations in the nuclear field with

South Africa and Israel, since those countries had not submitted their nuclear facilities to Agency safeguards. Without the active support, assistance and encouragement of certain Powers those two countries could not continue to adopt a contemptuous, bellicose and aggressive posture towards their neighbours. The Director General should inform the General Conference at its present session whether or not Israel had complied with the provisions of Security Council resolution 487, and appropriate measures should then be taken.

31. His Government was extremely disappointed and concerned that no agreement was in sight on the subject of the amendment of Article VI.A.2 of the Statute and that certain Member States continued to dominate Agency affairs. On the other hand it welcomed the efforts made by the Secretariat to increase the number of Agency staff members from developing countries at all levels and thus to correct the imbalance which existed in that respect.

32. Mr. PAPADOPOULOS (Cyprus) said that in the context of the present economic crisis it was particularly important for the Agency to achieve its objectives, in view of the contribution which nuclear energy could make to the world economy by helping to overcome energy problems. The Agency could play a vital role in promoting confidence in nuclear energy by disseminating objective information, widening its activities and stabilizing the world's nuclear supply system.

33. In direct contrast to the worsening economic situation, nuclear arsenals were rapidly expanding. Disarmament measures were urgently needed and any further spread of nuclear weapons should be halted. There was a ray of hope in the fact that non-proliferation efforts had so far been successful and that there was broad support for NPT. Aware of the grave danger inherent in proliferation, Cyprus had frequently stressed that universal acceptance of NPT was a matter of urgency since it represented the only possibility for saving the world from total destruction. Cyprus wanted to see an end to the arms race, which was a threat to the very existence of the world community, and advocated

genuine disarmament based on justice, freedom and development which would reflect the interrelationship and interdependence of disarmament, security and peace. The Director General had clearly defined the Agency's role in that regard, and its safeguards system was an extremely important instrument for verifying compliance with commitments given. Despite the limitations of the present system, his country believed that access to nuclear technology should be subject to Agency safeguards if the world wished to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Only acceptance of Agency safeguards could guarantee that nuclear energy was used exclusively for peaceful purposes, and Cyprus called on all countries to assist the Agency in removing obstacles to the effectiveness of safeguards by demonstrating the political will necessary to make the system comprehensive. That would serve the interests of everybody.

34. In the field of nuclear safety it had become apparent after the Three Mile Island accident that safety standards would have to be improved through international action. The Agency's role and responsibilities in that connection were perfectly clear. The Agency's past record in that field was impressive and, in view of its vigorous efforts to strengthen the nuclear safety standards programme and ensure the transition from the development of standards to their implementation, its future plans also looked promising.

35. Cyprus welcomed the establishment of the Committee on Assurances of Supply and hoped that a supply mechanism could be designed which would meet the special needs of the developing countries. It also hoped that specific measures would be adopted for providing assured supplies linked with non-proliferation guarantees.

36. The Agency had already accomplished a great deal in the field of technical co-operation with developing countries. As a recipient, Cyprus, fully recognized the value of its programme and highly commended the Agency for putting the services of experts at the disposal of developing countries. It warmly welcomed the unanimous decision of the Board to recommend a target of US \$19 million for contributions to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund in 1983 and indicative planning figures for three subsequent years. Member States must place their confidence in the Agency and strive to strengthen it through co-operation and understanding.

37. Mr. EL AGIB (Sudan) said that his Government had earmarked substantial funds for its scientific development programme covering the period 1980-90, despite the difficult economic situation. That indicated the importance attached to the programme, one of the essential elements of which was a project supported by the Agency in connection with the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy in food and agriculture. Under that project, Sudan had constructed buildings with an approximate area of 10 000 m² in which laboratories were to be installed; a group of Agency experts was to help select the equipment in conjunction with Sudanese scientists. The project included the construction of a large laboratory for research on serum and the improvement of animal production. His country had announced its readiness to put that laboratory at the Agency's disposal for the holding of regional training courses for students from neighbouring countries. The peaceful utilization of nuclear energy should have high priority in international technical co-operation programmes in view of its importance in improving productivity and combating disease. Sudan strongly urged other donors, countries and organizations to assist with the implementation of those important development programmes.

38. The developing countries attached great importance to the stability of the financing of the technical assistance and co-operation programme. In resolution GC(XXV)/RES/388, the General Conference had in 1981 requested the Board to take measures aimed at financing technical assistance through the Agency's Regular Budget or through other comparably predictable and assured resources. Despite that resolution, the Board had not been able to reach agreement on financing technical assistance through the Regular Budget nor had it agreed to increase the resources allocated to technical assistance in a way which responded to the needs and aspirations of the developing countries. Indeed, while the safeguards budget had risen by 20%, that for technical assistance had increased by only 6%.

39. Multi-year programming for technical assistance was particularly well-suited to the needs of the developing countries. However, multi-year projects represented no more than one third of the total number of technical assistance projects, and he hoped that the Agency would take steps to increase that fraction. Sudan also considered the training and fellowship programmes to be of importance since they contributed to the successful implementation of

approved projects, and it was to be hoped that the Agency would expand them.

40. Sudan had consistently spoken in favour of increasing the number of Members of the Board of Governors in order to achieve more equitable representation in the Agency for the various areas, and particularly Africa. Despite General Conference resolutions, the Board had not yet made a recommendation on the amendment of Article VI.A.2 of the Statute. That item had been on the agenda of the General Conference for many years and his country hoped that more would be done to achieve satisfactory agreement.

41. In 1981, through resolution GC(XXV)/RES/381, the General Conference had decided to consider suspending the exercise by Israel of the privileges and rights of membership if it did not comply with the provisions of Security Council resolution 487. Far from complying with the resolution, Israel had committed further crimes and acts of aggression against Lebanon and the Palestinian people. It had organized and supervised the recent massacre of Palestinians in Lebanon, in which thousands of women, children and elderly people had been killed. At the same time, the racist Zionist régime had intensified its co-operation and collusion with the South African régime to the detriment of the interests of the people of South Africa and African liberation movements. Furthermore, Israel had refused to heed Security Council resolutions 508 and 509 calling upon Israel to withdraw from Lebanon and retreat to its internationally recognized borders. In view of Israel's systematic contempt for the resolutions of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Agency's General Conference and of its violations of the United Nations Charter and of fundamental human rights, the General Conference should expel it immediately. It was paradoxical that, while efforts were being made to prevent the use of nuclear energy for military purposes in order to save innocent people, thousands of women and children had been killed by conventional weapons, and that controls were imposed on the weakest nations while tyrannical and savage States were permitted full scope to destroy. Sudan hoped that the General Conference would adopt the draft resolution aimed at suspending the exercise by Israel of the privileges and rights of Agency membership.

42. Mr. BADRAN (Jordan) welcomed the Conference's approval of Namibia for membership of the Agency. He hoped that the Agency's twenty-fifth anniversary, which marked also the technical and administrative maturity of the organization, would be the start of a new era of responsibility towards all countries and in particular the developing ones.

43. At times of energy crises, the fundamental aim of the Agency must be to help the developing countries by all possible means to increase their technical capacity and to construct nuclear facilities so as to produce the energy they urgently needed for development. That required a fundamental change in the philosophy, priorities, organization and policy of technical assistance. Market forces and industrial development would raise the price of fossil fuels to a point where the developing countries would face a second energy crisis. In such a situation, the Agency's historic responsibility for the future was to aid the developing countries to obtain, implement and develop nuclear techniques.

44. Despite the efforts made by the Agency and the majority of its Member States to improve the international safeguards system, a dangerous trend had been observed on the part of a number of countries. The most serious example had been the armed aggression of June 1981 carried out against the Iraqi nuclear reactor by Israel, which had cast doubt on the Agency's neutrality and credibility. Instead of using the respite it had been granted at the twenty-fifth regular session of the General Conference to prove its respect for the Statute and for the relevant Security Council resolution, Israel had not only failed to place its nuclear facilities under Agency safeguards but had recently extended its acts of aggression. The Jordanian delegation therefore urged the General Conference to suspend Israel from the privileges of membership.

45. On a more general level, the Agency and the international community should consider the problem which was posed for the developing countries by the threat of the destruction of peaceful nuclear facilities under safeguards by States which were following a policy of aggression. The safeguards system should be considered not only in terms of its technical aspects but also in terms of its legal connotations. In guaranteeing the peaceful nature of facilities, it called for a sense of responsibility on the part of the international community, which should defend the right of developing countries to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

46. Jordan associated itself with other delegations which were requesting a change in Article VI.A.2 of the Statute regarding representation on the Board of Governors. Representation should be made more regional in nature in view of the current energy and technology problems and the prospects of co-operation within a context exhibiting at least basic cultural and political homogeneity.

47. Technical assistance should be re-examined, because despite its importance it had suffered from the absence of a fixed and well-defined form of financing and from the fact that it had not been treated as a priority area. The training courses and fellowships provided by the Agency should be revised so as to become integrated into a coherent programme and play a greater part in regional co-operation.

48. Member States expected the Agency to help bridge the technological gap separating various countries in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. That task would not be easy, but the success of the work carried out during the preceding 25 years suggested that the quarter century to come would be an excellent example of international co-operation.

49. Mr. MELO BREYNER ANDRESEN (Portugal) congratulated Namibia on its having been approved for membership of the Agency.

50. The Agency was to be complimented on the efforts it had made, especially in strengthening the application of safeguards and concluding new safeguards agreements, in preparing codes and guides under the NUSS programme and in revising its basic radiation protection regulations. The spirit of international co-operation had been particularly apparent in those fields, but there were also other areas of co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. One example of such co-operation was provided by the agreements between Spain and Portugal relating, in particular, to the safety of nuclear power stations situated near their common border.

51. The Agency should certainly make economies, particularly in its bureaucracy and administration, but that should not be done to the detriment of safeguards and nuclear safety.

52. One of the major difficulties confronting the development of nuclear energy in the world was public resistance. To combat that attitude, it was necessary to make concerted efforts to establish, for the benefit of the general public, a system for disseminating authentic and attractively presented information concerning the status of various techniques and the progress already achieved. The example of the ocean dumping of wastes, which was of particular interest to Portugal as a maritime country, showed that clear and simple scientific information could help to overcome public fears. In that connection, Portugal welcomed the holding of a major international conference on waste management and hoped that considerable progress would soon be made in that field.

53. Turning to the nuclear power situation in Portugal, he said that prospecting and mining were continuing and the results of the first phases of the energy plan seemed to favour the nuclear option. The selection of nuclear power station sites was in progress and was expected to last two years. Portugal hoped that the Agency would be able to provide assistance and was grateful for the help it had already received - for the training of personnel, nuclear research and development and secondary standard dosimetry laboratories.

54. In conclusion, he urged the participants in the Conference session to exercise prudence in an effort to preserve the future of the Agency. Political problems should not make them forget the fundamentally technical and universal nature of the organization, even though there were grounds for condemning certain actions which Portugal also regarded with horror.

55. Mr. BINTOU'a-TSHIABOLA (Zaire) welcomed the Conference's approval of Namibia for membership of the Agency - a step which marked one more victory for legality in the progress of that country towards independence. For Zaire, the current session of the General Conference represented not only the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Agency but also the twentieth anniversary of Zairian participation in the work of the organization.

56. The Zairian delegation believed that the spirit of compromise which had always prevailed would help to reduce the differences which existed within the Agency, and which were normal, and to produce a consensus on a number of contentious issues: the staffing of the Agency Secretariat, the amendment of Article VI of the Statute, the safeguards system and the financing of technical assistance.

57. On the first of those points, the Zairian delegation noted with satisfaction that the Director General had made a special effort to achieve results. It hoped that that effort would be continued so as to ensure a better geographical distribution of posts involving responsibility and the taking of decisions.

58. While some progress had been recorded during the previous year on the representation of developing countries in the Secretariat, that was not true of representation on the Board of Governors. All the relevant arguments had been put forward. What was lacking was a desire to compromise. For reasons which seemed to be associated more with a concern about safeguards than with the relevance of the claims put forward by Africa, there was still a refusal to grant that region the two extra seats to which simple numerical logic gave it the right. The Zairian delegation hoped that the spirit of compromise would once again prevail and that the discussions on the amendment of Article VI would soon reach a conclusion.

59. Zaire was convinced that an efficient safeguards system was an essential condition for promoting the use of atomic energy for the benefit of mankind.

60. While safeguards was certainly a priority area, it only had meaning in association with another priority activity, namely technical assistance. The promotion of such assistance required a reform in the method of financing. His delegation noted with regret that that point of view was not shared by the majority of advanced countries, which continued to regard the present system of financing based on voluntary contributions as the only acceptable one. All the Secretariat's efforts at rationalization would be in vain as long as the financial resources continued to fall below the needs expressed by the developing countries.

61. Mr. SCHACK LARSEN (Denmark) congratulated the Agency on the sustained efforts that it had made over 25 years in various fields relating to the use of nuclear energy. The Agency had also contributed in a decisive way to awakening the confidence of the world community by developing its safeguards system.

62. He had particularly noted the references by the Director General in his statement to nuclear safety and the disposal of radioactive wastes. His delegation would welcome the Agency's efforts to find solutions to those crucial problems and awaited with great interest the International Conference on Radioactive Waste Management to be held in May 1983.

63. His country attached great importance to the technical assistance programme and had welcomed the consensus on indicative planning figures for voluntary contributions to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund in 1984-86. His country had already pledged its contribution for 1983.

64. He hoped that the Committee on Assurances of Supply would make a major contribution to the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy for Economic and Social Development. However, assurances of non-proliferation had a fundamental part to play in the promotion of nuclear energy. Priority should be given to extending and improving the Agency's system of safeguards, which had a crucial impact on public acceptance of the uses of nuclear energy.

65. In view of the energy outlook, his country would have to make use of all forms of energy, including nuclear energy, with due regard for the safety of the population and the protection of the environment. Studies by his Government of nuclear safety and the disposal of radioactive wastes should be completed in 1983. If the results were satisfactory, nuclear power could be introduced in Denmark in 1993. By the year 2000, the installed power could have reached 1800 MW, equivalent to 15-20% of the total electricity generating capacity.

66. Mr. PECCI (Paraguay) stated that, on the occasion of its twenty-fifth anniversary, he wished to congratulate the Agency on the success of its technical and scientific activities and on the way it had carried out its fundamental role, which was to preserve mankind from the terrible consequences of the use of nuclear weapons. His country continued scrupulously to observe its commitments as party to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Tlatelolco Treaty) and as signatory of a safeguards agreement. The Agency should keep out of the political debate and devote itself entirely to improving the technical capacity of its Member States. His country was grateful to the Agency for its assistance in developing the uses of nuclear energy.

67. The Paraguayan nuclear programme would be backed up by the exploitation of the immense hydroelectric potential of the Itaipu dam from 1983 onwards. Work was drawing to a close on the design of a centre for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and further nuclear medicine and soil research laboratories.

68. Mr. DARWISH (United Arab Emirates) said he hoped that the Agency would increase its technical assistance to meet the growing needs of the developing countries in, for instance, medicine, agriculture, prospecting for underground water, electricity production and desalination. He congratulated the Agency on its activities in the fields of radiation protection and nuclear safety and on its action to discourage any diversion of nuclear materials for military purposes.

69. Israel had refused to open its nuclear installations for Agency inspection, thus proving that they were being used for military purposes. As a peace-loving nation, his country strongly condemned the Israeli attack on the Iraqi nuclear research centre and called upon all law-abiding countries to support the draft resolutions aimed at suspending Israel from the exercise of the privileges and rights of membership and severing all technical assistance in the applications of nuclear energy. Those measures would prevent the recurrence of such acts of aggression, which were reminiscent of the law of the jungle. All Member States were aware of the massacres perpetrated against Palestinian and Lebanese civilians. Israel was directly responsible for those massacres, and the consequences would be grave if the international community stood idly by. His country supported the proposal that the Agency draft a treaty prohibiting attacks against nuclear installations.

70. Careful consideration should be given to the proposal to amend Article VI.A.2 of the Statute with a view to improving the position on the Board of the under-represented areas, especially Africa and the Middle East.

71. Mr. PAK (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that he wished to congratulate Namibia, represented by the United Nations Council for Namibia, on being approved for membership of the Agency.

72. Despite some difficulties, the role of nuclear energy was increasing rapidly throughout the world. The International Conference on Nuclear Power Experience had clearly shown that nuclear energy accounted for a substantial proportion of world electricity generation. The development of nuclear energy was being promoted by the Agency's work on nuclear safety, especially the preparation of safety codes and guides and the revision of the basic standards for radiation protection, and also on the management and disposal of radioactive wastes.

73. Technical assistance was also furthering the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the developing countries. However, the technical assistance programme was not adequate to meet the needs of those countries. Owing to financial constraints, technically sound projects had not been approved, and even some approved projects were not being completed on time. The agreement on indicative planning figures for 1984, 1985 and 1986 was a step towards a solution to that problem.

74. His delegation was pleased to note that, in carrying out the safeguards programme, the Secretariat had not detected any anomaly that might indicate the diversion of a significant amount of safeguarded nuclear materials.

75. The Israeli attack against nuclear installations safeguarded by the Agency had been duly condemned by the General Conference at its twenty-fifth regular session. However, far from observing the resolution of the General Conference and Security Council resolution 487, Israel had again aroused world indignation by conducting a war of aggression against Lebanon. Sanctions must be taken against Israel.

76. In view of the country's rapid economic growth, his Government had embarked on a vast programme for the construction of hydroelectric and thermal power stations and had undertaken the necessary studies for the introduction of nuclear power.

77. As stated by the Director General, the increasing number of nuclear weapons was creating a dangerous situation. In order to remove the danger of a nuclear war and the devastation that would ensue therefrom, denuclearized zones should be established throughout the world as a matter of urgency. His Government had made efforts to set up a denuclearized zone in north-east Asia, including the Korean peninsula. To bring that about, the United States must first withdraw the military equipment and 700 nuclear warheads deployed in the southern part of the peninsula. The United States and its allies would have no justification for claiming that in so saying his delegation was interfering in the internal affairs of another country.

78. Mr. DEME (Mali) said that he welcomed the Conference's approval of Namibia for Agency membership. He wished to consider the major problems facing the Agency after the first 25 years of its existence.

79. No one could deny that Israel was persistently infringing the provisions of the Statute and that, pursuant to Article XIX.B, it should be suspended from the exercise of the privileges and rights of membership. Israel had not heeded the call by the General Conference in its resolution GC(XXV)/RES/381. It still refused to submit its nuclear facilities to safeguards and was pursuing its efforts to acquire nuclear weapons. The attack on Tamuz was a setback to progress towards the achievement of the objectives set forth in Article II of the Statute. None of the examples of disregard for the Agency's regulations came near to the various persistent and provocative acts by Israel in violation of the aims and regulations of the Agency. That should come as no surprise, given Israel's responsibility in respect of the tragic events in Lebanon and the tension in the Middle East. The legal code of the Agency, its ethics and even its credibility called for the suspension of Israel by the General Conference.

80. With regard to the more equitable representation of developing countries on the Board of Governors, it was logical that the Statute, which had been drawn up at a time when the number of developing countries and their share in the utilization of atomic energy were still insignificant, should be modified in order to take account of the evolution that had taken place; an expansion in the recruitment of experts and other professional personnel from developing countries should also follow from that evolution.

81. At a moment when, thanks to the sustained efforts of the Secretariat and the technological progress achieved, the key role which the Agency could play in the limitation of nuclear armaments and in economic and social progress was recognized by all, the Agency - like all other international institutions - was being threatened by a crisis of resources. The justification advanced by many Member States for the stagnation and even reduction in contributions was the economic recession. Without wishing to open a debate on the new international economic order, his delegation recalled the analyses and recommendations made by eminent experts who saw the solution to the world economic crisis in improving the living standards in and increasing the purchasing power of developing countries, where the Agency could play an important part.

82. Mali had not made the construction of nuclear power stations one of its current development priorities. Its co-operation with the Agency related mainly to the utilization of nuclear techniques - in hydrology, agriculture and medicine in particular - and also to uranium prospecting and sample analysis; Mali had uranium deposits which were believed to be extensive.

83. It seemed there were those who feared that the developing countries would seek to strengthen technical co-operation and the transfer of technology at the expense of safeguards and nuclear safety if they held more power within the Board of Governors. But that was to forget that those countries, a great majority of which were members of the non-aligned movement, were working actively for peace in the world - to which the Agency's contribution was essential - and also that they would become able, as they developed, to gain access to nuclear energy. Their priorities at present related of course to the transfer of technology, but that would not lead them to neglect the other fundamental activities of the Agency.

84. Mr. PANASENKOV (Council for Mutual Economic Assistance) stated that CMEA, which had ten socialist member countries (Bulgaria, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Viet Nam), had celebrated its thirtieth anniversary in 1979. Co-operation between those countries within the framework of CMEA focused principally on economic development and was being increasingly directed towards technological progress, the specialization and standardization of production, and the exploitation of natural resources. It had constituted the basis of important achievements, such as the development of a high-voltage electrical grid linking the European member countries of CMEA and distributing the electricity produced in various large nuclear power stations, and the construction of the 2750-kilometre-long "Soyuz" gas pipeline between Orenburg and the western border of the USSR. Co-operation in nuclear power production represented an important part of the activities performed in the context of CMEA and the installed capacities of the nuclear power stations of CMEA member countries now exceeded 20 000 MW(e). That figure would have doubled by 1985 and would reach 100 000 MW(e) in ten years' time. The share of nuclear power in the electricity generation of each of those countries was likely to be between 20 and 30% in 1990, except in Bulgaria, where it would be over 40%.

85. The rapid progress in the nuclear power sector was being accompanied by collaboration between the member countries of CMEA in drawing up construction programmes for nuclear power stations, fabricating the necessary plant and solving fuel cycle problems, whereby each country specialized in the manufacture of a certain type of product. Similarly, the fabrication of nuclear instrumentation, including that for nuclear power stations, was the subject of co-operation in the framework of the "Interatominstrument" association. Special attention was being paid in co-operation agreements to quality control and to compliance with production schedules as well as to the operational safety of nuclear power stations.

86. A co-operation agreement had been concluded in 1980 with a view to developing high-power fast reactors. An international team of scientists and other

experts from CMEA member countries, based at the Nuclear Physics Research Institute in Hungary, was performing important work on the physics of WWER reactors in co-operation with the Yugoslav Technical Research Centre.

87. In the context of the Co-operation Agreement concluded in 1975 between CMEA and the Agency, numerous exchanges of scientific and technical information had taken place and experts from the two organizations had had several meetings on the study of problems associated with different applications of nuclear energy. CMEA intended to take all the necessary steps to intensify its co-operation with the Agency.

88. Mr. PARK (Republic of Korea), exercising his right of reply, stated that the allegations made by the delegate of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea were without foundation, had nothing whatever to do with the agenda of the General Conference and served exclusively propaganda purposes. On several occasions the Republic of Korea had proposed to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea that the problems that had arisen as a result of the division of the country into two States should be resolved through dialogue, but the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had always refused that dialogue.

89. Mr. BRUSH (United States of America), exercising his right of reply, deeply regretted the fact that accusations of a political nature, which were totally foreign to the topic under discussion, had been made. He categorically rejected the allegations made against the United States by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

90. Mr. PAK (Democratic People's Republic of Korea), exercising his right of reply, pointed out that in his previous statement he had merely mentioned the 700 nuclear warheads deployed by the United States in the southern part of the country. With regard to the dialogue between the two parts, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had on several occasions proposed to the Republic of Korea that negotiations should be undertaken with a view to the reunification of the country. The conditions that it laid down, however, were that the United States should withdraw its troops stationed in the southern part of the country and that the régime of the Republic of Korea should be democratized.

The meeting rose at 6.35 p.m.

