



International Atomic Energy Agency

GENERAL CONFERENCE

GC(XXVII)/OR.249

January 1984*

GENERAL Distr.

ENGLISH

TWENTY-SEVENTH REGULAR SESSION: 10-14 OCTOBER 1983

RECORD OF THE TWO HUNDRED AND FORTY-NINTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Neue Hofburg, Vienna
on Tuesday, 11 October 1983, at 10.20 a.m.

President: MR. KEBLÚŠEK (Czechoslovakia)

CONTENTS

<u>Item of the agenda**</u>		<u>Paragraphs</u>
4	Arrangements for the Conference	
	(a) Adoption of the agenda and allocation of items for initial discussion	1 - 6
	(b) Closing date of the session and opening date of the next session	7 - 8
5	Application for membership of the Agency	9 - 10
	(a) Application by the People's Republic of China	11 - 31
6	Voluntary contributions to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund for 1984	32
7	General debate and annual report for 1982 Statements by the delegates of:	
	Italy	33 - 60
	France	61 - 93
	Belgium	94 - 102
	Iraq	103 - 112
	Denmark	113 - 126

*/ A provisional version of this document was issued on 14 October 1983.

**/ GC(XVII)/700.

The composition of delegations attending the session is given in
document GC(XXVII)/INF/215/Rev.4.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CONFERENCE

(a) ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ALLOCATION OF ITEMS FOR INITIAL DISCUSSION
(GC(XXVII)/683 and Add.1 and 2)

1. The PRESIDENT informed the Conference that the General Committee, at its meeting the previous day, had authorized him to report on the result of its consideration of the agenda and the allocation of items for initial discussion. The General Committee recommended that the agenda should consist of all the items contained in the provisional agenda, as set out in document GC(XXVII)/683, and of the two supplementary items contained in documents GC(XXVII)/683/Add.1 and 2.

2. The inclusion of supplementary item A (document GC(XXVII)/683/Add.1) had been opposed by the representative of the United States of America on the grounds, inter alia, that the item was substantially similar to items which had been disposed of at the 1981 and 1982 sessions of the General Conference and that the same item was still under consideration by the United Nations General Assembly. The representative of the United States of America had added that the Board of Governors, the General Conference and the General Assembly had confirmed their confidence in the effectiveness of the Agency's safeguards system. The representative of Paraguay had supported the statement by the representative of the United States of America. The representative of Iraq had expressed doubt whether it was true that no threat existed, as the statements by the other two Members who had spoken implied, and had therefore supported the inclusion of the item in the agenda.

3. The General Committee further recommended that those items should be allocated for initial discussion as indicated in documents GC(XXVII)/683 and Add.1.

4. With regard to supplementary item B, contained in document GC(XXVII)/683/Add.2, the General Committee recommended that the application for membership by the People's Republic of China should be taken in plenary meeting without being referred to any Committee, and that the draft resolution contained in

document GC(XXVII)/697, dealing with the introduction of Chinese as a working language of the Conference, should be allocated for initial discussion in the Committee of the Whole.

5. Finally, the General Committee recommended that, subject to the desirability of making the best use of the time available, the items listed in document GC(XXVII)/683 should be taken in the order in which they appeared there, but with supplementary item A being included immediately after item 6 and supplementary item B being included immediately after item 4, all the other items being renumbered accordingly.

6. The General Committee's recommendations were accepted.

(b) CLOSING DATE OF THE SESSION AND OPENING DATE OF THE NEXT SESSION

7. The PRESIDENT informed the Conference that the General Committee had authorized him to report that it recommended fixing Friday, 14 October 1983, as the closing date of the twenty-seventh regular session and Monday, 24 September 1984, as the opening date of the twenty-eighth regular session of the General Conference, to be held as usual in Vienna.

8. The General Committee's recommendations were accepted.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE AGENCY

9. The PRESIDENT said that there were two documents under item 5 of the agenda before the Conference, one concerning the application for membership by the People's Republic of China (document GC(XXVII)/696) and the other, proposed by Romania, concerning the adoption of Chinese as a working language of the General Conference (document GC(XXVII)/697). Since the latter had financial implications and would involve an amendment of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, a report thereon from the Committee of the Whole would have to be awaited before it could be dealt with in plenary. He therefore suggested that the plenary should follow the General Committee's recommendation and for the moment consider only the document concerning the application by the People's Republic of China, which contained a draft

resolution already approved by the Board of Governors, deferring further consideration of the item until a report of the Committee of the Whole on the draft resolution contained in document GC(XXVII)/697 was available.

10. It was so agreed.

(a) APPLICATION BY THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (GC(XXVII)/696)

11. The PRESIDENT invited delegates to comment on document GC(XXVII)/696, which contained a recommendation by the Board of Governors that the Conference should approve the People's Republic of China for membership of the Agency and a draft resolution to that effect.

12. Mr. GROZA (Romania) said that the application for membership of the Agency by the People's Republic of China was a question of historic importance for the life of the Agency. Romania had requested the inclusion of that question in the agenda and had presented a paper explaining that the importance of China, in view of its vast resources and extensive nuclear programmes, was such that the accession of China would constitute a valuable enrichment of the Agency, bringing it closer to the ideal of universality and strengthening its role of promoting international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy for the good of all the world's people. The Romanian delegation was therefore convinced that the General Conference would follow the recommendation by the Board of Governors to approve China for membership and wished that country much success as a future Member of the Agency.

13. The PRESIDENT asked the Conference whether it wished to adopt the draft resolution contained in document GC(XXVII)/696 and approve the admission of the People's Republic of China to membership of the Agency by acclamation.

14. The admission of the People's Republic of China to membership of the Agency was approved by acclamation.

15. Mr. MIYAZAWA (Japan), speaking as representative of one of the Agency's Asian Member States, expressed a whole-hearted welcome of the participation of the People's Republic of China in the Agency and his conviction that China would contribute signally to the Agency's efforts to promote peace, health and prosperity throughout the world by spreading the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and strengthening the regime of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

16. Mr. PETROSYANTS (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking on behalf of the Eastern Europe group, recalled that his country's position had always been to favour the restitution of the rights of the People's Republic of China to be represented in the United Nations and other international organizations. His delegation noted with satisfaction that by joining the Agency China was committing itself to fulfilling the obligations of membership laid down by the Statute and accepting the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and hoped that, as a country with a large scientific and technical potential in the nuclear field, China would contribute to the solution of the problems of preventing nuclear war, halting the arms race, and strengthening the international non-proliferation regime and would help to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy as defined by the Statute.

17. Mr. SINGH (India), speaking on behalf of the Middle East and South Asia group, welcomed the newly admitted Member of the Agency and recalled that his country had held that the People's Republic of China was the rightful representative of the people of China ever since the Agency's inception. He had no doubt that he was expressing the feelings of the peoples of the non-aligned world in saying that the admission of China could be expected to give a new impetus to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and power throughout the world.

18. Mr. KENNEDY (United States of America), speaking on behalf of the North American group, said that the accession of China underscored the vitality and importance of the Agency, whose efforts to strengthen international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and the world-wide safeguards regime would be enhanced by the support of a country that possessed such major potential for technical assistance, nuclear science and nuclear power programmes

as China did. Moreover, the accession of China would not only increase the universality of the Agency in general, it also meant that for the first time all countries with significant nuclear programmes would be Members of the most important international organization in the field of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

19. Mr. UMAR (Nigeria), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, welcomed the admission to the Agency of the People's Republic of China, a great and powerful country with vast human resources and remarkable achievements in nuclear technology. As an ally of the developing countries, moreover, China would support and strengthen the position of those countries within the Agency.

20. Mr. MOLITOR (Luxembourg), speaking on behalf of the Western European group, associated himself with previous speakers in welcoming the accession of China to the Agency, which would strengthen the principle of universality and lend new impetus to international co-operation. It also showed that China had confidence in the future of nuclear power as a source of energy. The countries of Western Europe were convinced that both China and the Agency would benefit from China's accession and were ready to co-operate fully with the new Member in a spirit of friendship and mutual confidence.

21. Mr. CASTRO MADERO (Argentina), speaking on behalf of the Latin American group, welcomed the Conference's decision to approve China for membership of the Agency, as that country had much experience in nuclear science and technology and would be able to contribute significantly to the Agency's efforts in the fields of technical assistance and non-proliferation.

22. Mr. MANOUAN (Ivory Coast), speaking on behalf of the African group, extended a warm welcome to China as a Member of the Agency and expressed his conviction that China, which, in spite of owning nuclear weapons, had always stood for peace and international co-operation and for the principles of equality and sovereignty of States, would fulfil all the obligations of membership and play a major role in the future activities of the Agency.

23. Mr. BRENNAN (Australia), speaking on behalf of the South East Asia and the Pacific group, welcomed China's admission to membership and looked forward to co-operation with China in supporting the Agency's programmes and activities. He hoped China's decision would consolidate international confidence in the future of nuclear power and the value of the Agency's safeguards system.

24. Mr. WANG SHU (People's Republic of China) expressed his delegation's sincere gratitude to all the countries participating in the Conference for their unanimous support for the resolution concerning the admission of China into the IAEA. In particular, he thanked the Socialist Republic of Romania and 12 other countries which, back in 1971, had put forward at a meeting of the Board of Governors a draft resolution demanding the expulsion of Chiang Kai-Shek's representatives and the recognition of the representation of the People's Republic of China in the Agency. Lastly, he thanked the Director General for facilitating his country's admission into the Agency.

25. In its 26 years of existence, the Agency had made a great contribution to the promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. China therefore regarded it as an honour to be a Member of the Agency.

26. China had entered the nuclear arena way back in the 1950s. Thanks to the joint efforts of all the departments concerned, a relatively complete nuclear fuel cycle system had been evolved over the past 30 years, incorporating uranium ore prospecting, mining and processing, fuel-element production, reactor technology, spent-fuel reprocessing and radioactive waste management. In order to achieve the great strategic goals of Four Modernizations and quadruple its gross annual industrial and agricultural product, China was working hard to strengthen its transport and communication as well as energy sectors. While China was rich in hydro-electric power and coal resources, their uneven geographical distribution restricted their availability to the coastal areas, thus hampering the latter's industrial and economic development. China therefore needed to develop nuclear power as well. At present, preparations were under way for the construction of the first units of nuclear power plants in East and South China. In developing nuclear power plants, China was largely self-reliant, but at the same time it sincerely looked forward to co-operating

extensively with other countries on the basis of mutual respect for the principles of sovereignty, equality, mutual benefit and non-interference in internal affairs. It was also prepared to share its experience with other countries and to learn, in turn, from their experience so as to contribute to the cause of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in all countries. China was confident that it would benefit from the Agency's assistance and make its own contribution to the promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

27. China would accept the Statute of the Agency and duly meet its consequent obligations. Its membership did not imply, however, any change in its position regarding the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. While remaining critical of the discriminatory nature of the Treaty, China respected the desire of a great many non-nuclear-weapon States not to test, use, manufacture, produce or acquire nuclear weapons. He solemnly declared that China neither stood for nor encouraged the proliferation of nuclear weapons. International co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy involved various sensitive issues which should be dealt with cautiously. China had consistently taken a conscientious and responsible attitude towards such co-operation and would continue to do so after becoming a Member of the Agency. It would take account of the relevant provisions of the Statute, including safeguards provisions, in its future international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and in its transfer of nuclear materials, technology and equipment. Since the latter was a sensitive area of co-operation, the adopting of certain necessary but appropriate measures by consensus would be understandable and acceptable to all the Members. However, China could not condone any attempt to widen arbitrarily and unilaterally the scope of restrictions and controls ostensibly for the purpose of strengthening the non-proliferation regime. Such a practice would hamper the world-wide development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the economic and scientific development of various countries and the peace and security of the world.

28. Taiwan had become a Member of the Agency and signed NPT by usurping China's name after the founding of New China. It was common knowledge that Taiwan was an integral part of the People's Republic of China and that the measures taken by the Taiwan authorities were absolutely illegal and null and void. The resolution entitled "Representation of China in the Agency", adopted by the Board of Governors of the Agency on 9 December 1971, also explicitly recognized "that the Government of the People's Republic of China" was "the only Government which had the right to represent China in the International Atomic Energy Agency" and requested "the Chairmen and the Director General to take all the actions" resulting from that resolution. China believed that the Agency would respect the above-mentioned resolution and China's consistent principled stand and take practical steps to rearrange its safeguard relationship with Taiwan in such a way as to make it non-governmental.

29. Upon becoming a Member of the Agency, China would strengthen its ties with Members of the Agency and strive to make the Agency's work more productive and to contribute to the expansion of its international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

30. The PRESIDENT thanked the representative of the People's Republic of China for his statement and suggested that further consideration of item 5 should be postponed until a report from the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole in respect of the Romanian proposal was available.

31. It was so agreed.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CO-OPERATION FUND FOR 1984

32. The PRESIDENT said that in 1982 the Agency's Board of Governors had agreed to continue - for the years 1984, 1985 and 1986 - the practice of recommending indicative planning figures to serve in fixing targets for voluntary contributions to the Fund in order to provide for a certain degree of predictability as far as the financing of technical assistance was concerned.

As it was extremely helpful for the Secretariat to be able to make an early assessment of the total funds that would be available for the provision of technical assistance, all delegations in a position to do so were urged to notify the Secretariat, before the end of the current session, of voluntary contributions to be made by their Governments to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund in 1984. He hoped that he would be able to report, towards the end of the current session, that a large percentage of the target figure for 1984 had been pledged.

GENERAL DEBATE AND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1982 (GC(XXVII)/684 and Corr.1) (resumed)

33. Mr. BORGA (Italy) expressed his appreciation for the Director General's statement to the Conference. His analysis of the main international nuclear issues and of the Agency's role offered insights and ideas which the Italian Government would study very carefully.

34. Unfortunately, the hopes his delegation had expressed in the previous year had not come to fruition. In the present year as well, the General Conference was being held at a time when the world situation was marked by grave uncertainty and dangerous tensions. Legal and ethical standards that were essential to peaceful and secure coexistence among nations were yet again being undermined by episodes constituting a patent violation of the principles of the United Nations Charter that had provoked unanimous condemnation from the civilized world.

35. That situation had certainly worked against the establishment of a climate of mutual international trust, which was not only an indispensable pre-requisite for the elimination of dangerous conflicts in many troubled areas of the world and for a negotiated equilibrium between the world's main power blocks on security and arms limitation, but would also provide impetus for every form of international co-operation, including co-operation in the development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy. He believed, however, that international co-operation with a view to improving the social and economic conditions of mankind, especially in developing countries, was essential for the promotion of international détente, rather than being only a result of it.

36. 1982 had been marked by widespread economic stagnation, even recession. The gross domestic products of the member countries of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) had dropped, for the first time in a number of years, by an average of 0.5%, while the number of workers unemployed in those countries had been a record 30 million. Furthermore, the debt of the developing countries had reached unprecedented levels, and some of those countries were even finding it difficult to pay the interest on their loans. A secure supply of energy and the economic security that went with it would increasingly become the mainstay of overall security that could also foster an international climate of mutual trust.

37. It was in that perspective that the functions and role of the Agency, for which no substitute could be found, seemed to him destined to assume growing importance for the international community. There was no doubt, however, that, in carrying out its functions, the extent to which the Agency could meet the expectations of public opinion and of Governments depended on its ability to prove its credibility and effectiveness. That could be accomplished if the Agency could effectively eradicate the excessive political manoeuvring in its own midst that could undermine its foundations and patently obstructed its essentially technical functions and aims. By virtue of those functions and aims, the Agency had a universal vocation to bring together the greatest possible number of nations, instead of discriminating against them for purely political reasons. For that reason, Italy wished to express the wish that in the future, both near-term and long-term, excessive politicization would not again occur in the Agency, since in the past it had negatively affected its credibility and efficiency.

38. But what did "credibility" mean for the Agency? First, it meant full allegiance to its primary role, that of promoting and guaranteeing the progressive expansion of international co-operation for the peaceful uses of atomic energy, with special regard to the needs of developing countries. It was clear that attainment of those objectives could not take place except in conditions of absolute security. Consequently, such primary objectives could in no way be separated from the Agency's second fundamental task, that of effectively preventing any possible diversion of atomic energy towards non-peaceful uses.

39. The experience of recent years had shown that the present Agency safeguards system adequately met its objectives as regards horizontal non-proliferation. In practical terms, inspections had also proved satisfactory - in both quantitative and qualitative terms - in the countries in which they had taken place. Italy noted, therefore, with very great satisfaction that in 1982 none of the nuclear material in plants under safeguards had been diverted.

40. Every efficient organization needed to set its priorities from time to time, and it was in that light that he suggested that there was a need for better distribution of the Agency's financial resources. The safeguards system had to keep in step with technological evolution, and should be made as transparent and sophisticated as possible. Nevertheless, the percentage of the Agency's budget allocated to safeguards at the moment reflected a rather unbalanced interpretation of its statutory functions.

41. That observation was consistent with the position Italy had always taken as a signatory of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and also with the need for complete and balanced application of all provisions of the Treaty. Such application must be free of discrimination concerning the rights and duties of the States party to the Treaty. With that in mind, moreover, Italy had always looked forward to the universal extension of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, which should be pursued and attained not by imposing NPT on sovereign States but by enabling them to make a free choice. The objective of a universal and comprehensive safeguards regime was designed to achieve the maximum level of protection against the risks of horizontal nuclear proliferation.

42. In Italy's opinion it was precisely by following that universal approach, aimed at the non-discriminatory, full and responsible involvement of all interested countries - whether industrialized or developing, nuclear exporters or importers - that the groundwork would gradually be laid for the establishment of a "code of principles" for guaranteeing the widespread and harmonious development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in a genuine framework of security and non-proliferation. The Agency and, in particular, its Committee on Assurances of Supply (CAS) represented a suitable institutional and

legal framework for the search for such a new international consensus. Despite the somewhat slow progress made in CAS, which was due to the extreme complexity of the problems it dealt with, Italy believed that CAS now represented the most appropriate institutional basis for a painstaking and difficult search for the solutions required. Both the reconfirmation of the credibility and effectiveness of the Agency and an improved atmosphere in the North-South dialogue on matters of nuclear co-operation depended to a large extent on further positive developments within CAS. In particular, such improvements could be the key to the satisfactory and beneficial outcome of two imminent events of capital importance where that most sensitive of issues was concerned, namely the Third NPT Review Conference, scheduled for 1985, and the planned United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (PUNE).

43. In his earlier reference to the need to set priorities, he had been thinking specifically of Agency technical assistance, to which Italy attached the greatest significance, as the considerable commitment of his country to that activity confirmed. Through extrabudgetary contributions, Italy was financing, first of all, projects amounting to a total of some \$18 million in the five-year period 1981-1985 alone, which placed it in the very forefront among contributing Member States in that sector. In addition, scholarship and training programmes were being offered by Italy to developing countries, and in 1984 the Italian National Atomic Energy Authority (ENEA) would award scholarships for a total of some 200 man-months for such programmes. Finally, an extremely important role was being played by the International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste, which was supported by Italy with an annual contribution of \$3 million. The Centre pursued objectives which fully corresponded to the policy of providing technical assistance which his country had espoused. The Centre trained experts from developing countries in order to enable them to run national programmes directly and to choose the most suitable technologies with a view to meeting economic and social objectives in those countries.

44. In that framework, the bodies responsible for technical co-operation in his country would continue to examine new ways of furthering co-operation with the developing countries in order to modify and to improve their economic structures permanently. It was precisely because of the present political situation and because of the related difficulties to which co-operation with developing countries had generally been subject - as the disappointing results of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Belgrade, held in June 1983, had proved - that technical assistance programmes must be given greater priority in the Agency's budget, since that activity was an essential instrument for re-balancing social and economic conditions in variously endowed areas of the world.

45. Among the activities of the Agency most deserving of attention and development were, in particular, those concerning nuclear safety and protection of the environment. Nuclear energy - tainted as it was by the original sin of its military uses - was the only source of energy the peaceful uses of which had been gradually and satisfactorily expanding in step with the most advanced arrangements designed to reduce its hazards. Nevertheless, the misgivings of a large portion of the public about nuclear power could not and should not be ignored. Consequently, Agency initiatives in the field of safety, whether independent or in concert with other international bodies or with individual Member States, must be strongly supported and encouraged in order to make nuclear power inherently safer, and also to help overcome understandable, albeit irrational, suspicions on the part of broad sectors of the less well-informed among the public.

46. Furthermore, Italy hoped that the work conducted by the Agency on International Plutonium Storage (IPS) would be resumed and that progress would be achieved with the establishment of a simple, automatic system which, above all, responded to the twofold need for the widest participation by user countries and for the prevention of large quantities of unused plutonium from accumulating.

47. He also wished to mention the principal forms of international co-operation engaged in by his country with other prominent bodies in the fields of energy, technology and science, such as the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM) and the European Nuclear Research Centre (CERN). Important research work was being carried out with those organizations, whereby Italian scientific participation and financial support made a decisive contribution.

48. On a bilateral level Italy had, at the same time, joined in a number of concerted efforts pertaining to the exchange of information and the implementation of programmes in the most important sectors for the development of nuclear power. In that connection he recalled the ENEA-CEA^{1/} agreement on fast breeder reactors; the ENEA-NRC^{2/} agreement on nuclear safety and the training of research workers and technicians from developing countries; and the establishment in those countries of research infrastructures specifically intended for the nuclear sector but also useful in a broader technological sense as provided for under the bilateral agreements Italy had concluded with Brazil, the People's Republic of China, Iraq and Indonesia.

49. Turning to the current energy situation in his country and to the most recent developments in nuclear power in Italy, in which the research, promotion and development activities of the sector headed by ENEA figured prominently, he said that in 1982 the domestic consumption of primary sources of energy had declined by 2.2% as compared with 1981. In particular, the trend whereby a reduced role was being played by oil had continued. There had been an increase by 5.2% in the consumption of solid fuels, while the percentage of gas consumed had remained virtually stationary. In 1982, both primary electrical energy, including hydro, geothermal and nuclear power and the balance of payments had remained practically at the same levels as in 1981: nuclear power production had increased by 150%, thereby offsetting a 3% decline in hydroelectric power production and a 24% drop in the balance of payments.

1/ French Commissariat à l'énergie atomique.

2/ United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

50. There had been a considerable reduction (5.9%) in energy consumption by national industry, accompanied by a more modest decline in industrial production. That confirmed the trend seen in recent years towards a reduction in energy consumption per unit produced. That trend was being strengthened by the savings measures adopted and by the effect of similar trends in sectors which were heavy energy consumers and in sectors with smaller consumption but high consumption per unit produced.

51. The data available for the first six months of 1983 confirmed the tendency for primary energy consumption to decrease, and oil consumption had decreased by 5.1%.

52. In 1982 gross electrical energy production had increased by 1.5% over the previous year's total, reaching a level of 184.4 billion kWh. The proportion of primary energy represented by electrical energy had been 30% in 1982, as compared with 29.3% in 1981. That showed that recourse to electrical energy was increasingly becoming a feature of the energy system, particularly in the industrial sector.

53. The 150% increase in nuclear power was attributable to the Latina power station (0.9 billion kWh) and of the Caorso power station (5.9 billion kWh), in which the first refuelling operation had taken place at the beginning of the year. In 1982 decommissioning operations had begun at the Garigliano plant while technical operations aimed at the reactivation of the Trino Vercellese plant had continued. Construction of two boiling water reactors of 1000 MW(e) each was continuing on schedule at Montalto di Castro, and completion was expected in 1987-1988. During 1982 and in the first few months of 1983, Parliament and the Government had taken the necessary steps to make the nuclear energy programme operational as soon as possible.

54. The financial situation of the Italian National Electricity Generating Authority (ENEL) had improved considerably, thus enabling it to allocate the necessary resources to investment in, among other things, six new nuclear power plants.

55. Moreover, in accordance with a new version of the siting law, on 22 February 1983 the Interministerial Committee on Economic Planning (CIPE) had indicated the areas most suitable for nuclear plant construction in Lombardy,

Piedmont and Apulia. The site selection procedures for those three regions should last no longer than 22 months, after which the ENEL could proceed with initial site preparation.

56. During 1983, ENEA activities had developed in accordance with the new tasks assigned to it under the reform law approved by Parliament in March 1982. In the nuclear field, a particularly important part had been played by activities aimed at examining technical and economic problems relating to work on two major plants being constructed by ENEA, namely the PEC and CIRENE reactors. According to the latest estimates, PEC, a test reactor built by NIRA as part of a long-established collaboration programme between ENEA and the CEA, should be completed by the end of 1987 and over the period 1983-1987 would cost approximately 900 billion lire (value as of 1 January 1983). The CIRENE project for a 40 MW(e) heavy-water-moderated light-water-cooled plant was already well into the construction phase. The plant assembly phase was expected to finish by mid-1985 and the expenditure involved from 1983 on would amount to approximately 290 billion lire.

57. In fuel cycle activities, particular emphasis had been placed on the back end. Work had gone ahead with the reprocessing of CANDU fuel from the Canadian Pickering station.

58. Work had been stepped up on the selection of suitable processes for treating and processing high-level wastes. In that connection, four vitrification campaigns had been carried out, and satisfactory performance had been achieved with processes which would seem particularly suited to small or medium-sized reprocessing plants (100-200 tonnes per year). Finally, research was continuing on Italian clay deposits for disposing of high-level wastes.

59. In the field of controlled nuclear fusion, where initial research had concentrated on strictly physical aspects, the technological side had begun to assume growing importance. In that context, the completion of the design for the Frascati Tokamak Upgrade plant, which was expected to be started up in 1987, was of particular importance.

60. In conclusion, he expressed Italy's great satisfaction with and interest in the forthcoming move by the People's Republic of China to join the Agency. That would be an event of the utmost importance and would contribute towards

the general involvement of the international community in the responsibilities associated with the development, in conditions of complete security, of the peaceful uses of a source of energy which could make a decisive contribution to the balanced social and economic progress of mankind. At a time of grave uncertainty and dangerous tensions, that event augured well for the credibility of the Agency as an important factor in promoting orderly economic and social progress and world peace.

61. Mr. RENON (France), welcoming China as a Member of the Agency, expressed his confidence that its membership would enhance the Agency's credibility and efficiency. His Government, for its part, was willing to co-operate extensively with China in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

62. The IAEA had in recent years made renewed and dynamic efforts to fulfil its statutory function of promoting nuclear energy. Those efforts were amply justified by the world energy outlook and the difficulties faced by the development of nuclear power.

63. As a result of the Agency's activities it was recognized that nuclear power had reached industrial maturity and that it was reliable, safe and economical. Those conclusions had been demonstrated at the Conference on Nuclear Power Experience held in 1982. In summing up the work of that conference, the Director General had pointed out that psycho-political factors accounted for the somewhat slow progress of nuclear power in developed countries and had stressed the risks involved in that situation. That assessment was fully shared by France, whose experience had shown the need for vigorous and objective public information work on the energy options available and for a democratic dialogue on what specific activities should be conducted.

64. Since the problem was a difficult one, whose solution was essential to the harmonious development of nuclear power, and especially as the back end of the fuel cycle and spent fuel management worried public opinion, his Government had recently conducted an exhaustive expert study and made its results available to the public. Its policy and options had been based on those results.

65. As the Agency's initiative and, in particular, the international conference held at Seattle had shown, scientists and industrialists agreed that there was no insoluble technical problem associated with satisfactory radioactive waste management. His Government welcomed the idea of holding a round table discussion on that important subject during the Conference and had deputed Mr. Jean Auroux, Secretary of State for Energy, to present the French views and policy in that area. He wished to emphasize that the Agency's activities on the promotion of nuclear power were innovative and fruitful.

66. Nuclear power already had an impressive record: it had accounted for 10% of world electricity production in 1982, which figure was likely to rise to 20% in 1990; there were 300 reactors in operation in 25 countries, with a total capacity of 173 GW(e), and 223 under construction which would have a total capacity of about 200 GW(e). However, the economic crisis made it difficult to predict the energy needs for the following 10 years. There was not only a fall in consumption but also the large funds required, the high interest rates and recession were working against heavy investment in nuclear power.

67. In that context, there were a number of points which should be borne in mind. An energy policy was based on long-term trends and should not be affected by variations in market conditions and in the price of a barrel of oil. Nuclear power made it possible to reduce the vulnerability of supplies and increased independence, especially in the case of countries with poor fossil fuel resources.

68. Improvements in living standards in developing countries necessarily involved a higher energy consumption, and any difficulty in oil supplies affected them adversely. In view of the current trend towards greater economic interdependence among States, the developed countries must reduce their oil import requirements. In that connection, it was desirable that those countries should make up for the lost time in nuclear power development and consider coal and nuclear power as a substitute for oil.

69. That was the general framework of the French nuclear power programme, which was being implemented with determination at all the stages of the fuel cycle.

70. France was at present the second-largest producer of nuclear power, with 36 units in operation having a capacity of 26 GW(e) and 25 under construction, which would add another 29 GW(e). Nuclear power provided half of its electricity, which proportion was to rise to 70% by 1990. Furthermore, it planned to achieve 50% self-sufficiency in energy by the end of the decade, as compared to 38% at present and 25% in 1975.

71. The objective of fossil fuel substitution would be achieved with the completion of the power plants under construction. Thereafter, new commitments would cover replacement of the existing plants and the expected increase in electricity consumption. In the context of the general economic crisis, which hindered growth in energy and electricity demand, the French Government had decided on two 1300 MW(e) units for 1983 and 1984 respectively. That decision would cover the foreseeable demand, and took into account increased industrial and domestic use.

72. At the same time, France had developed a complete nuclear fuel cycle industry, including enrichment at the Eurodif plant, which had reached the stage of industrial operation at its rated capacity. Spent fuel reprocessing, which was a very important component of a nuclear programme, was part of that industry. Those matters were of great urgency and would be dealt with at the Round Table discussion organized by the Agency. However, it was worth mentioning that the Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique had been recognized as possessing the industrial capability for reprocessing fuels from pressurized-water reactors, which formed the backbone of the French nuclear power programme. The French Government had approved expansion and modernization of the La Hague plant and commitments for a new one. Within a few years the annual reprocessing capacity was expected to reach 1600 t.

73. Reprocessing also led the way to breeder reactors, in which field France was active. The commissioning in 1984 of the 1200-MW(e) Super-Phénix reactor, built with its European partners, would initiate the age of large breeder power stations.

74. The transition from an industrial prototype to a commercial reactor called for heavy investment in terms of finance and technology, but the stakes - world energy supplies and the world energy balance - were high in the case of breeder commercialization. For that reason, a study group had been set up to consider the practical ways and means of commercial promotion of that reactor type from the technical, economic and industrial standpoints with a view to contributing to the security of energy supply in Europe. At present it included Belgium, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy and the Netherlands, and was open to other partners.

75. France was sharing its nuclear experience with others and was in favour of transferring technology for the needs of its partners.

76. Although nuclear power was being introduced in some developing countries, in many countries of the Third World the physical or economic characteristics, the size of electricity networks and their growth rates did not justify nuclear power. However, in most such countries, including the poorest, the use of nuclear techniques in agriculture, food preservation, medicine, etc., could have a great impact on the standard of living. That was an area where the Agency could play an important role.

77. As regards the Agency's initiative at instituting a dialogue between the developing and the supplier countries about low-power reactors, he pointed out that French industry was ready to respond to any demand.

78. Generally speaking, the Agency's technical assistance and co-operation activities in recent years had been characterized by a growth of funds allocated for the purpose and by reorientation in some activities.

79. From that point of view France, as the fifth-biggest contributor to the Agency's budget, approved the emphasis placed on the financing of multi-year and regional projects and on the appreciable growth of activities relating to the use of nuclear techniques in medicine and agriculture. It welcomed the progress in programming and the establishment of a section for project evaluation and follow-up. It urged, in particular, that more emphasis should be placed than had been heretofore on the training of technicians, who were generally not available in sufficient numbers in developing countries.

80. The growth in the technical assistance and co-operation budget, which would account for 28% of all programmes in 1984, bore testimony to the effort made in that field in spite of the difficult financial situation. The results obtained should now be evaluated and future budgets decided on their merits. In spite of the priority accorded to technical assistance and co-operation, such budgetary growth would no longer be accepted.

81. The Agency was continuing its activity in the area of nuclear safety, where no laxity could be permitted. For countries involved in the use of nuclear energy it was necessary to draw on others' experience. In that regard, the Agency was playing a positive role. The Nuclear Safety Standards programme (NUSS), which was the very symbol of an efficient and beneficial activity, the recent initiatives regarding expert and advisory missions in connection with specific projects or general organization, and the preparation of guidelines for agreements between neighbouring countries on joint action in the event of nuclear accidents - those were topics which justified strong involvement of the Agency. Moreover, it was a forum where safety issues could be discussed constructively, as had been done after the Three Mile Island accident. In general, countries with different systems could hold an open dialogue on such matters under its aegis.

82. The countries which were developing nuclear programmes had for a long time maintained fruitful relations, which had enabled them to arrive at an international consensus on the criteria, methods and, implicitly, objectives of safety and protection. Each country had to develop its own safety regulations and application procedures and no international co-operation could replace that function, which belonged to States. It was gratifying to note that the Agency had never transgressed the limits of its activity, which was deliberation, drafting of agreements on general safety criteria, guides, codes of practice and dialogue but in no case codification or regulation.

83. In that connection, he pointed out that France had reservations about the suggestion, made in some quarters, concerning the establishment of a nuclear safety commission or institute, possibly in association with the IAEA.

84. The Agency had been entrusted by the international community with a leading role in promoting nuclear energy and with the function of verifying that the undertakings given in connection with the development of nuclear power on a global scale were fulfilled. Such development covered activities ranging from the export of reactors to the sale of material, fuel and services, including technology transfer and training. France's exports to countries developing nuclear power were part of the activities verified by the Agency.

85. Being familiar with the work of the Department of Safeguards, he wished to express his country's confidence in the Agency's safeguards system, which was technically reliable.

86. He had noted with great interest that, after solving the technical problems relating to two nuclear facilities, the Agency was in a position to safeguard all facilities for which, from that point of view, it was responsible. Paying a tribute to the goodwill of the two countries concerned, he said that adaptation of safeguards techniques to progress should be a principle to be applied to the management of such important matters.

87. The safeguards methods were at present satisfactory. However, his Government had often expressed its concern about the growing number and diversity of the facilities to be safeguarded in future. The safeguards strategies should perhaps be reviewed with a view to cutting costs. It might perhaps be useful, for example, to take into account the technical development of nuclear fuel cycles in the safeguarded countries rather than applying mathematical criteria to each facility. The matter was now under consideration and the Board of Governors would in due course decide on the merits of the suggestions to be submitted to it.

88. The Agency's safeguards system was reliable, and was irreplaceable because of its universal nature and its qualities. The international community should at all times be assured of its credibility.

89. The Agency's potential role in the regulation of the international flow and, more generally, storage of plutonium was of interest to the world community. France had consistently maintained that solutions should be defined internationally and assign a central role to the Agency. That was important in connection with nuclear power development. Generally acceptable solutions should be found, and the study of the matter should be resumed within the Agency's framework.

90. Predictability of the conditions imposed by suppliers was essential for nuclear power development, which required large investment and involved long lead times. It must also be recognized that, in the interest of the world community as a whole, the rules of application of such a principle should take account of non-proliferation considerations. The Committee on Assurances of Supply, which was dealing with those difficult issues, had made some tangible progress. He hoped that further discussion on the subject would be conducted in a spirit of strictness and responsibility.

91. It should be noted that the field was now open to international co-operation enabling interested States to have a nuclear programme. His country, for example, was willing to discuss, on a firm basis, the terms for assured supply of equipment and material for programmes in which it would co-operate.

92. Although, in reviewing some of the essential activities of the Agency, he had considered the programmes on their merits, it must be emphasized that the Agency's work should be reviewed in the context of the very difficult financial situation in the world. All efforts must be made to restrain future budgets. He was sure that the Director General was making every effort to achieve savings and exercising care in defining priorities.

93. In conclusion, he paid a tribute to the Agency's staff, whose quality, competence and devotion enabled the Agency to tackle its difficult tasks. It was they who ensured the Agency's efficiency and credibility. And that credibility must be maintained for it was essential for development in the nuclear field.

94. Mr. ERNEMANN (Belgium) recalled that the twenty-sixth session of the General Conference had ended on a sombre note, with the refusal to accept Israel's credentials and the consequent decision by the United States to suspend its participation in the Agency's activities. Since that time, however, the United States had reassessed its role in the Agency and had concluded that its activities benefited all Member States alike by ensuring, through the application of safeguards, that nuclear materials were not used for military purposes. He hoped that the inclusion on the agenda of the current session of a supplementary item on the possible consequences for the Agency of the Israeli military attack on the Iraqi nuclear research reactor would not once again lead to a rejection by the Conference of Israel's credentials. Such an action would jeopardize the vital principle of the universality of international institutions, and might have more serious repercussions than before. He welcomed China's admission to membership, which could not but strengthen the Agency.

95. The Agency should be universal and should be open to all countries on a permanent basis, whatever their individual status and whatever their record in regard to possible violations of international law. It should also be universal in the sense that it should belong to all countries, and should not be dominated by the few who enjoyed nuclear superiority. That principle had to be reconciled with the need to ensure that the Agency continued to be wisely and properly managed.

96. The Agency's scientific and technical activities had again been outstanding; its nuclear safety and waste management programmes, the conference it had held in Seattle in May 1983, and its promotion activities had all been of the greatest value. However, little progress had been made with non-proliferation, although three more countries had ratified the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) bringing to 121 the total number of States parties. Unless all States without exception were willing to open all their facilities to inspection by the Agency, non-proliferation policies and safeguards policies alike would be ineffective.

97. On the other hand, little purpose would be served by increasing the number of controls where inspection was already perfectly adequate, merely for the sake of producing impressive statistical results. He was glad that the Board of Governors had refused to approve the Report on Safeguards-Related

Questions (GOV/2107), but had merely noted it. The report had revealed that the Agency's inspection goals were outdated, that the costs of safeguards application were unduly high for the nuclear industry in many countries, and that too large a proportion of inspections were concentrated in too small a number of States. There should be less emphasis on quantity of inspections, and more on quality. Until the report had been studied further and conclusions drawn, the burden of safeguards application should be reduced rather than increased. The nuclear Powers should be urged to open all their facilities to inspection by the Agency, since to refuse safeguards on some facilities gave their nuclear industries an unfair commercial advantage over those of other States.

98. If a non-proliferation policy was to be credible, it should be consistent, particularly where the major nuclear Powers were concerned; to permit delivery of a reactor to one country while refusing it to another which accepted the same type of safeguards was to cast doubt on the credibility of IAEA safeguards, and even of NPT itself. The selective application of NPT had led some to infer that the policy of non-proliferation was a political and economic weapon for use against countries which did not possess nuclear weapons. Such an inference was of great concern to countries such as Belgium, which was rigorous in its respect both for the policy and for the Agency's safeguards.

99. The previous year he had stated that he could not approve a budget that was not based on the principle of zero growth. Although there were some signs of improvement, Belgium's economic situation, like that of all other Western countries, was still a difficult one, and he could not agree that international organizations should be allowed to evade their responsibilities in that respect.

100. The 2% real growth in the Regular Budget for 1984 was entirely due to an overall expansion of almost 14% in the Safeguards Department. The safeguards budget had risen steeply in recent years, and by 1984 would account for 35% of programmes under the Regular Budget; such an increase could only be justified if there were to be a corresponding increase in the number of

countries subject to inspection and in the number of facilities subject to safeguards. The continued expansion of the safeguards budget was an indication of a change in the nature of the Agency, and of a tendency to step up inspection activities at the expense of promotion activities. That trend should be resisted, and he could not join in any consensus which gave the budget unreserved approval.

101. In Belgium, nuclear power generation had now accounted for 45% of electricity generation as against 30% in 1982, and by 1986 it would account for 65%, so that Belgium would continue to be one of the leading nuclear-power-generating countries. Also, Belgium was continuing with activities at all stages of the fuel cycle. Of the two fuel fabrication plants at Mol-Dessel, the production capacity of one had recently been increased, and there were plans for a substantial increase in the capacity of the other. Plutonium technology had been under development in Belgium since 1958, particularly with a view to the recycling of plutonium in light-water reactors; research had indicated that such recycling might well be feasible. The recent reopening of the Dessel plant for the treatment of special recycled fuels in addition to traditional fuels would help to strengthen Belgium's co-operation with other countries of Western Europe. The country's nuclear programme called for sustained research and development, and here the Centre d'Etude de l'Energie Nucléaire at Mol was playing an important role. Also, studies were being conducted in an underground laboratory at Mol on the treatment and storage of radioactive waste.

102. The Institut National des Radioéléments (IRE) was continuing to grow; the installation of a 90 MW(e) proton cyclotron, the most powerful of its kind in Europe, would enable it to play a leading role in the production of short-lived radioisotopes. Belgian industry as a whole was playing an important part in the national nuclear power programme. Belgium was also making its contribution to the Agency by supplying experts, by offering training programmes, by carrying out research under contract, and through a support programme in the field of safeguards.

103. Mr. AL-KITAL (Iraq) said that, especially in view of the friendly relations between his country and the People's Republic of China, he welcomed the approval of China for membership of the Agency. That country had been prevented from occupying its rightful seat in the United Nations and its subsidiary organs for over two decades by the same super-Power that now proclaimed its concern for the principle of universality. Iraq, on the other hand, had vigorously campaigned for the admission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations.

104. The General Conference had before it several important issues related to the basic functions of the Agency as they had been for a number of years. Although those issues remained unresolved, he felt that a better understanding and clearer definition of the problems had been achieved. That, however, should not lead to a relaxation of serious endeavours to resolve those issues satisfactorily. In that connection, he fully supported the statement of the Group of 77 at the June meetings of the Board of Governors with regard to the Regular Budget. He wished to reiterate Iraq's position that a complete and satisfactory way of implementing resolution GC(XXV)/RES/388 lay in financing technical assistance from the Regular Budget. In addition, Iraq would continue to give its fullest support to all efforts aimed at achieving equitable geographical representation in the Board of Governors, because it believed that that was in the best interests of the Agency.

105. In his address at the twenty-sixth session of the General Conference the Iraqi Foreign Minister had stated that twenty-five years after the IAEA had been founded with the aim of accelerating and enlarging activities relating to the peaceful uses of atomic energy, the situation was less than satisfactory since, while the needs of developing countries for various peaceful applications of atomic energy were increasing, the obstacles hindering the transfer of nuclear technology were mounting. A year later, there had unfortunately been no marked improvement in that situation. On the contrary, experience showed that some industrialized countries continued, on a unilateral basis, to exercise ever-tightening constraints on the transfer of nuclear technology for peaceful uses. In certain cases, export licences for conventional laboratory equipment were not being granted for reasons which did not stem from the control measures known to have been adopted by suppliers.

It seemed that in some instances certain States tended to replace internationally accepted control measures by other measures, based on speculative reasoning and subjective judgement.

106. In his view, failure to convene the United Nations Conference for Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy as scheduled could only be seen as a setback to the political will that had been behind the organization of the Conference. He urged all countries concerned to do what they could so that the Conference could be held at the earliest possible time and, in so doing, to comply with the fundamental principles that had been behind the consensus in the United Nations General Assembly which had given rise to the organization of the Conference. The goals of the Conference were clear from the title. The issue of non-proliferation, important though it might be, ought not to be allowed to overshadow its principal objectives. He believed that genuine acceptance of the needs of developing countries for peaceful uses of nuclear energy and their inalienable right to the development of such uses would greatly facilitate the reaching of an agreement that could also satisfy legitimate non-proliferation concerns.

107. He welcomed the progress recently reported in the work of the Committee on Assurances of Supply (CAS), notably in the area of emergency and back-up mechanisms. However, further progress on principles of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy needed to be achieved before any real optimism was warranted. His Government, like others, had hoped that positive results might emerge from the work of CAS in time to serve as input to the United Nations Conference. However, the progress achieved had been too slow to make that hope a reality. He was convinced, nevertheless, that it was in the interests of both developed and developing countries to reach a consensus on the matter. As a participant in CAS, Iraq would continue to work with others towards that end. It believed that the questions involved were of vital importance and would certainly be reflected at the United Nations Conference and at the Third NPT Review Conference.

108. In his address to the Uranium Institute in London on 26 August 1983, the Director General had stated that promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, whereby the world's uranium resources were used as fuel, and helping to ensure that the atom was used only peacefully, were matters of interest

to everyone and were, indeed, the tasks formally assigned to the IAEA by its Statute. The Director General had further said that, although a certain country had vast deposits of coal and much unexploited hydro power, it had come to the conclusion that nuclear energy must become one of its main energy sources and it was determined to start building its first power reactors. That statement also held true for Iraq, a country with vast oil resources, which had come to the conclusion that nuclear energy must become one of its energy sources; and, in fact, work on finalization of a contract for the commencement of siting studies for its first nuclear power plant was continuing. The same conclusion had been reached by many developing countries, which highlighted the importance of nuclear energy for their development programmes. Certainly the IAEA had an important role to play in facilitating the implementation of those programmes.

109. The promotion of the utilization of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and the role of the IAEA in that connection had been seriously undermined by the Israeli aggression against the Iraqi Nuclear Research Centre in Baghdad. More general consequences of the Israeli attack had taken the form of damage to international norms and institutions. That aggression had demonstrated clearly the Israelis' disrespect for, and wish to challenge, the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the IAEA safeguards system; had undermined international legal constraints on acts of aggression, including the standards enshrined in the United Nations Charter; had introduced new hazards and uncertainties which posed a threat to further peaceful nuclear development and co-operation and to the promotional activities of the IAEA; and ran counter to the objectives set forth in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and in the Declaration on the Establishment of and the Programme of Action for a New International Economic Order.

110. That situation was being further worsened by the officially stated Israeli threat to repeat its act of aggression at any time and at any place in which it deemed that to be in its own interests, thus threatening not only international co-operation on the development of nuclear energy but also posing a very serious and continuous threat to the very existence of the Agency.

The International Atomic Energy Agency might have no power to prevent aggression directly, but it had moral authority which it could exercise together with other international bodies empowered to do so. It was therefore the duty of the Agency and of its General Conference to declare to the world at large, as explicitly and as clearly as possible, the gravity of the situation that it was facing as a consequence of the Israeli aggression and in view of Israel's standing threat to perform similar acts of criminal adventurism. It was also duty bound to take all measures within its statutory authority to punish the aggressor and to discourage such acts in the future.

111. Moreover, Member States of the Agency should heed the repeated calls to put a halt to co-operation with Israel and to cease conniving with it in its nuclear threats and blackmail. In particular, he called on the United States of America to end its assistance to and protection of Israel, without which it would not have been possible for it to continue its aggressive and expansionist policies. Moreover, there were signs of increasing nuclear co-operation between Israel and South Africa, which gave rise to very grave concern since it posed a considerable and very real threat to peace and security in Africa and the Middle East. That danger would continue to increase as long as the nuclear activities of those two régimes were not subject to Agency safeguards and as long as certain States continued to ignore their duty to cease co-operating with them.

112. Finally, his Government attached considerable importance to the issue of military attacks on nuclear facilities, since such attacks were no longer merely hypothetical. An act of aggression against nuclear facilities had already been committed and the threat to repeat it was still standing. It was, therefore, a matter that should be treated with the utmost seriousness. Attacks on nuclear facilities could result in the release of radiation of the same nature and having the same effects as that released by a nuclear explosion.

113. Mr. KOCH (Denmark) said he welcomed and supported the application for membership of the Agency made by the People's Republic of China, an application which represented an essential step towards the universality of the organization. He looked forward to co-operating with the representatives of the People's Republic of China and was convinced that that country's membership would prove as fruitful for the Agency as for the applicant.

114. Although the year that had passed since the Conference's last session had been one of the most critical in the lifetime of the Agency, the IAEA had proved itself to be one of the most vital and effective of international organizations. It had successfully reoriented its activities towards its statutory objectives, namely towards enlarging the contribution of nuclear energy to peace, health and prosperity, and towards efforts to prevent a further proliferation of nuclear weapons.

115. Although growth in installed nuclear power capacity had slowed down, due in part to the world-wide low economic growth, a large nuclear industry already existed and would continue to exist for a long period of time, thus making international co-operation on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis a necessity.

116. Safety, international trade in nuclear materials, technical assistance and non-proliferation were all areas in which the Agency had played and would in future play a leading role. Increasing international co-operation in those areas, both within the Agency and outside it, was of paramount interest to the Member States of the Agency. Denmark was strongly in favour of such international co-operation, and attached great importance to the role of the IAEA in contributing to international peace and stability.

117. The Director General's statement gave a clear analysis of the present status of the Agency and of the results it had achieved. It confirmed the Director General's commitment to the Agency, and his belief in its ability to meet any demands on it that the future might bring.

118. In the past year many Member States had been facing a situation of budgetary constraint, a situation which was reflected in the important decisions taken in the Administrative and Budgetary Committee and in the Board of Governors on the budget proposals for 1984. Those decisions placed a heavy burden on the shoulders of the Secretariat. He was pleased to learn from the statement by the Director General how well the Secretariat had succeeded in meeting the new challenges, and how it had endeavoured, in co-operation with Member States, to identify priority areas, in order to ensure that available resources were used to meet the needs of Member States.

119. Nuclear safety had become one of the Agency's most important areas, and he wished to congratulate the Secretariat on the efforts it had made to strengthen the activities being carried out under the safety programme. The Agency had now become the leading forum for international discussions on safety. The development of that area of the Agency's activities was clearly demonstrated in the Second Annual Report on Nuclear Safety, a report which deserved to be widely circulated among Member States.

120. Contributions to the Technical Co-operation Fund had continued to increase during 1982. One of the most important events of the year had been the completion of the Board's review of the Agency's technical co-operation programmes, a review which had given valuable guidelines to the Secretariat when planning activities for the years ahead. A further proof of the success of the review was the Board's request that in future such reviews, together with seminars on the technical co-operation programmes, should become a regular event. He attached great importance to that side of the Agency's activities, and was glad to pledge Denmark's contribution for 1984.

121. One of the issues on the Board's agenda for the coming year would be the question of implementing International Plutonium Storage (IPS) as a supplement to the Agency safeguards system. No agreement on that issue had been reached during the previous year, but he hoped that the discussions currently being held would make it possible for the Board to arrive at a solution in the coming year.

122. During the past year the Committee on Assurances of Supply had succeeded in producing concrete results in the area of revision and back-up mechanisms. He hoped that the consensus achieved would facilitate the reaching of agreement on principles of international co-operation in the field of nuclear energy. Some progress had been made in that direction during the last session of CAS, but it had to be admitted that the results so far had been modest.

123. The transfer of nuclear materials, technology and equipment should not be based merely on a document but also on mutual trust between States. In that respect the Agency's safeguards system was unique, and was one of its most important promotional activities. It was of crucial importance to Member States

that the safeguards applied by the Agency should be perceived as effective and credible, since only thus could they contribute to stability and peace. The safeguards applied by the Agency were in that respect equally important to all Member States. His Government attributed the highest importance to the expansion and continued improvement of the IAEA safeguards system. In that connection, he noted with deep concern that the annual report for 1982 stated that there were four non-nuclear-weapon States in which only some installations were under safeguards and in which there were unsafeguarded nuclear facilities, either in operation or under construction, capable of producing weapons-grade material.

124. He strongly supported the safeguards system, and was pleased to note the progress achieved during 1982. However, there was still room for improvement, and he urged all States who had not yet done so to join the NPT and accept full-scope safeguards, thus making the safeguards system truly universal.

125. The question of the introduction of nuclear power generating capacity was still under consideration in Denmark. By the spring of 1984, government investigations into such questions as nuclear safety, the potential for disposal of radioactive waste in the salt domes and subsoils of Denmark, and the economy of nuclear power generation compared to generation by the use of coal would be concluded. On the question of the safe disposal of radioactive waste, he had noted the Director General's statement on the conclusions reached at the IAEA conference on radioactive waste management, and was confident that the Agency's continued studies would throw further light on the issue in the future. He supported the Director General's view that the time had come to consider possible international co-operation on the ultimate disposal of high-level waste, and to work towards regional and international solutions which would make it possible to limit the total number of disposal sites.

126. In conclusion, he hoped that the Agency would continue to lay stress on a high level of technical competence, and that it would maintain its efforts to find solutions to the sometimes conflicting needs of Member States.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.