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Held at the Neue Hofburg, Vienna,  
on Thursday, 13 October 1983, at 10.25 a.m.

President: Mr. KEBLÚŠEK (Czechoslovakia)  
later: Mr. BADDOU (Morocco)

## CONTENTS

<u>Item of the agenda**</u>	<u>Paragraphs</u>
7      General debate and annual report for 1982	1 - 106
Statements by the delegates of:	
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	1 - 13
Panama	14 - 32
Viet Nam	33 - 41
Yugoslavia	42 - 56
Islamic Republic of Iran	57 - 72
Point of order raised by the delegates of the United States of America and France	73 - 75
Spain	76 - 86
Mexico	87 - 99
Tunisia	100 - 111

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

GENERAL DEBATE AND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1982 (GC(XXVII)/684) (continued)

1. Mr. KOLYCHAN (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) expressed his delegation's concern at recent developments in international relations. Like other socialist countries, Byelorussia hoped for a fundamental improvement in the world's political climate and the removal of the threat of war. One of the most important ways of averting nuclear disaster was to limit, reduce and, eventually, completely eliminate nuclear weapons. The Soviet Union had proposed a programme of measures to avert the nuclear threat and improve the international political climate. In so doing, it had been prompted by its desire to resolve the crucial question of the nuclear age, namely whether atomic energy would serve the socio-economic development of mankind or turn the whole planet into a lifeless wasteland. There could be only one answer to that question: atomic energy should be used only for the benefit of mankind. There was therefore clearly an urgent need for the United Nations General Assembly, at its current session, to consider the agenda items proposed by the Soviet Union, namely "condemnation of nuclear war" and "freezing of nuclear armaments".
2. It was gratifying to see that the Agency's accounts for 1982 and budget for 1984 gave evidence of successful operations and planning in the Agency's main areas of activity, to which his delegation attached particular importance: nuclear power, nuclear safety, safeguards, technical assistance, protection of the environment and the nuclear information system (INIS). While on the whole approving the documents and draft resolutions submitted, his delegation wished to make the following comments. The nuclear power programme rightly reflected current developments in the field of nuclear power and the increasingly complex problems of nuclear energy forecasts and waste processing and disposal. It appeared preferable, however, to extend programmes on the technology of nuclear power reactors, in particular fast breeder reactors, the main source of nuclear fuel in the future, and also reactors for the production of high-temperature process heat for industry and of low-temperature heat for district heating.
3. The Agency had made great progress in the field of nuclear safety, especially in its work on safety standards for nuclear power plants and its Basic Safety Standards for Radiation Protection. It was to be hoped that work would be intensified on nuclear safety and radiation protection in non-traditional reactors such as fast breeders and reactors for the production of

heat as well as electricity, with due regard for their special construction features and safety requirements. Another very important aspect of the Agency's activities was its supervisory function in connection with the Non-Proliferation Treaty. He noted with satisfaction that the Agency was continuing to improve safeguards methods and equipment through automation and computerization at all stages of inspections, analyses and data processing. That had led to qualitative improvements in the safeguards programme in terms of operational readiness, reliability and flexibility. At the same time, the increasing need for reliable safeguards called for the early development and introduction of a full set of safeguards methods and procedures for all types of nuclear reactor and fuel cycle facility, including uranium enrichment and plutonium extraction plants. In the long run, that should lead to a reduction in inspection activities and corresponding budget economies. It was also essential to apply safeguards in the case of certain kinds of technical assistance, which, in his delegation's view, would be no less effective as a result however.

4. The Regular Budget for 1984 appeared to be based on minimum growth of expenditure and reflected the considerable efforts made by the Secretariat and the Board of Governors to draw up a balanced budget with a number of economies. Despite savings of 8.5% compared with the preliminary estimates, it had been possible to increase allocations for technical assistance to about a third of the Agency's expenditure in 1984.

5. The nuclear power and safeguards programmes were two of the most important of the Agency's activities and deserved priority in the allocation of funds and staff. In the proposed budget, however, expenditure on those programmes had been reduced far more than the total budget in relation to the preliminary estimates. His delegation hoped that the Secretariat would channel resources saved by curtailing non-productive activities into the basic programmes to the greatest extent possible.

6. His delegation was pleased to note the positive results that had been achieved in the Agency's technical co-operation programmes, which were designed to assist Members in achieving national self-reliance in the peaceful uses of atomic energy, creating national scientific and technical infrastructure

and solving specific technical and economic problems. The Secretariat was to be commended for introducing multi-year and dynamic programming and integrated project planning, for extending the idea of regional projects based on the "network approach" and, finally, for assisting Member States in obtaining additional financial resources for national projects. Those achievements would make it possible to meet the changing needs of developing countries, including the least developed among them, without impairing the integrity of the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund. Those results fully confirmed the justice of the provisions of the Statute on technical assistance financing.

7. In view of the great importance of technical assistance, his delegation did not object to the proposed increase in the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund target to \$22.5 million in 1984 and, moreover, was authorized to announce an increase in Byelorussia's voluntary contribution for that year to 70 000 roubles.

8. Modern Byelorussia was blessed with considerable scientific and technical potential. Scientific institutions and universities in the Republic were conducting fundamental and applied research in virtually all areas of science, which made it possible to achieve high growth rates in industrial and agricultural production. Considerable progress had also been made in the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

9. Research was being conducted in Byelorussia on the structure of the atomic nucleus, nuclear spectroscopy, neutron activation analysis and its practical applications, the influence of radiation on properties of semiconductor materials and derived structures, the use of radiation in the technology of semiconductor instrument production, etc.

10. Radiation from a variety of sources was being widely used in industry and agriculture, in various types of non-destructive testing, in the development of new construction and semiconductor materials, in the industrial manufacture of bacterial fertilizers, seed irradiation and fodder processing, the analysis of soil conditions for mineral intake by plants,

and a number of other fields of radiobiology and physiology. Particular attention was being paid in Byelorussia to the use of isotopes and radiation in cancer diagnosis and therapy. Byelorussia had a certain amount of scientific expertise which could be of use to the Agency and was prepared to consider co-operating with it in the areas of science and technology he had mentioned.

11. Great importance was also attached to the development and industrial application of fast breeder reactors, in order both to develop nuclear power generally and to reduce dependence on natural uranium resources. His country was successfully co-operating with other Soviet Republics as well as Bulgaria, Hungary and Poland on a pilot industrial nuclear power plant with a capacity of 300 megawatts, operating with a fast breeder reactor using associating gas coolant. In order to supply the city of Minsk with electricity and low-potential heat, construction had begun on a nuclear power plant consisting of two WWER-1000 reactor blocks. Other cities in the Republic would eventually be supplied with heat from nuclear power plants as well.

12. Byelorussia took an active part in the Agency's activities; its scientific institutions participated in the INIS system, evaluated nuclear data files were being prepared under the Agency's international co-ordination programme, and theoretical methods of evaluating constants were being improved. In June 1983, participants in an IAEA/FAO study tour from 23 countries visited the Institute of Physics and the Institute of Genetics and Cell Biology of the Byelorussian Academy of Sciences.

13. The International Atomic Energy Agency had an increasingly important part to play in applying nuclear energy to the economic and social welfare of mankind. Everything possible should be done, however, to ensure that that great achievement of the human mind was used only for peaceful purposes and would never serve as a means of annihilating life on earth. Byelorussia would continue its support of all the Agency's activities that pursued that noble goal.

14. Mr. KOREF (Panama) said that his country was deriving considerable benefit from the Agency's technical assistance and co-operation programme in agriculture and medicine. It was very important not only for Panama but also for all developing countries to receive technical assistance, which was one of the most important inputs into their economy. The developed countries, too, benefited by being able to export their products of advanced technology. Panama wished to express its gratitude to the Agency's Member States for the steady rise in their contributions to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund and to the donor countries for their extrabudgetary contributions in cash and in kind.

15. The world was passing through a serious economic crisis and unemployment, which resulted from lack of funds to buy the products of industrialized countries and raw materials. The only remedy was to create new markets, which could be found only in the Third-World countries, but the latter had no opportunity to earn money in order to buy the sophisticated products of developed countries. Thus, technical assistance was not merely charity but an investment. In that sense, the developing countries were also donors and should therefore fulfil their obligations of paying their individual contributions to the Agency.

16. At the meetings of the Board held in June 1983, his country had energetically supported the new programme of the Secretariat for speedy and efficient response to technical assistance needs, including the holding of biannual seminars to discuss improvements in technical assistance.

17. It fully endorsed the concept of multi-year programming and special missions to assist Member States in formulating requests. It attached great importance to programme packages which could be rapidly adapted to the needs of countries embarking on nuclear development, to multinational assistance through co-operation among several developing countries, and to dynamic programming. Endorsement by the General Conference of all those measures, intended to reduce the earmarkings against the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund, would provide a stimulus to the Secretariat.

18. The Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology in Asia and the Pacific was yielding good results, and the Agency's help in a similar agreement for the Andean region would be appreciated.

19. Panama shared the view that technical assistance ought to be financed from the Regular Budget, although it understood that such a procedure was not acceptable to the major contributors. The present agreement on indicative planning figures covered the years up to 1986, and negotiations on figures for 1987-90 should begin in 1984.

20. His country wholeheartedly approved the application of safeguards by the Agency, which activity should be extended. It was of great importance for countries with nuclear facilities and even for those who were considering building such facilities but meeting resistance from their peoples. The Agency's activities on nuclear safety and safety standards were equally important.

21. Although there was an awareness at present of the need for preventing damage to the environment, power plants using fossil fuels were continuing to be built. But demonstrations were held against nuclear power plants, where not a single fatal accident had occurred even though there were 300 such plants with a total operating experience of 3000 years; minor accidents which had occurred had been easily controlled and had produced no adverse effect on the environment or on the plants themselves.

22. His delegation therefore deplored the Agency's reluctance to issue more publications demonstrating the safety and harmlessness of nuclear power plants. It was regrettable that many countries were impoverishing themselves by importing vast quantities of fossil fuel while they could develop nuclear power mainly on the basis of local material and labour.

23. His country was in favour of the Agency's playing an important part in finding solutions to the waste management problems also in the long term, there being relatively few problems for short-term disposal.

24. He shared the Director General's view that an attack on a nuclear facility should be a matter of concern to all and that the 1949 Geneva Convention on the subject should be ratified by all Members of the Agency. A General Conference resolution to that effect would not be out of place.

25. Panama was taking an active part in the work of the Committee on Assurances of Supply (CAS); he was pleased to note that issues like emergency and back-up mechanisms were approaching solution and would in due time be submitted to the Board and the General Conference for approval. In that connection, he wished to thank all Working Groups of CAS for their hard work.

26. His Government welcomed the publication of an evaluation procedures manual for technical co-operation projects and hoped that it would meet the Agency's needs and that its officials, together with the countries concerned, would be able to evaluate the assistance provided so that similar operations in future could benefit from the exercise.

27. His country was greatly interested in the radiation preservation of foodstuffs, especially fruits and vegetables, for local consumption and export, and hoped that it would soon be possible to use that technology on a commercial scale at a moderate cost.

28. It was also ready to eradicate the Mediterranean fruit fly, should it appear in its territory, and would welcome any improvements in the eradication technique made in Egypt.

29. He strongly supported the Director General's statement to the effect that the Agency could co-operate in the disarmament negotiations and use its wide safeguards experience for the purpose of verification of nuclear disarmament. That was the greatest service which the Agency could render mankind, which was threatened by the vast nuclear arsenal of the nuclear-weapon States.

30. In his recent address to the United Nations General Assembly, the President of the United States had also pointed out that disarmament depended on reliable verification. No other organization than the Agency, with its proven neutrality and its excellent relationship with nuclear-weapon States, was better suited for such a function.

31. His delegation wished to extend a cordial welcome to the People's Republic of China as a Member of the Agency.

32. In conclusion, he expressed his gratitude to the Director General for implementing the General Conference resolution calling for the appointment of more nationals from developing countries, and hoped that the trend would continue.

33. Mr. NGUYEN TUAN LIEU (Viet Nam) pointed out that in the course of the 26 years of its existence, the Agency had achieved major successes, mainly as a result of the proper application of its objectives and performance of its duties in response to the needs and requirements of each phase of the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy throughout the world.

34. The Agency's chief function was to facilitate the development and practical utilization of such uses of nuclear energy, to promote research in that field and to ensure that nuclear energy was not diverted for non-peaceful purposes. A further important function was the provision of technical assistance, especially to the developing countries, which represented two thirds of mankind.

35. In performing those functions, the Agency also placed particular emphasis on the principles of respect for the sovereignty of States and equality and non-discrimination in the supply of technical assistance to Member countries. In short, the guiding principle behind the Agency's work was to encourage, strengthen and extend international co-operation, which in turn ensured the Agency's further growth and enhanced its stature as an international body. At the present time, with the developing countries facing urgent economic and social problems in their endeavours to build a new life, the Agency's role was assuming increasing importance. He expressed his country's appreciation for the efforts made by the Agency, and its Director General in particular, to defend and perform its important work and create an atmosphere conducive to international co-operation between its Member countries, attaching increasing importance to the needs of the developing countries.

36. Viet Nam had entered the initial phase of its programme to construct the material infrastructure and create the necessary reserve of qualified personnel for the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. With the assistance of the Soviet Union, the construction of Viet Nam's first research reactor, with a capacity of 500 kW, was in progress. In recent years, it had conducted training programmes relating to nuclear energy with a view to developing the country's economy and raising the standard of living of its people.

37. Since 1978, Viet Nam had received assistance from the Agency in the form of equipment and materials on the one hand, and training on the other. A number of Agency missions had been made and enormous benefits had been derived from the experience and advice of Agency experts. He wished to express his gratitude to the Agency and to the Soviet Union and other friendly countries for the assistance which they had lent to Viet Nam in launching its nuclear energy projects.

38. In 1982, Viet Nam had signed the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, having already, in 1981, signed a safeguards agreement with the Agency for a research reactor currently under construction. In June 1983 it had signed a further agreement with the Agency relating to the supply by the latter of fuel for that reactor. Those undertakings reflected its intention to develop the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

39. As a State belonging to the South East Asia region, it had signed the Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology. The latter provided a good illustration of co-operation between States for the purpose of placing nuclear science and technology at the service of the international community as well as each country. His delegation was convinced that consolidating such regional co-operation would help to strengthen understanding and co-operation between the region's nuclear scientists.

40. Referring to the present international tensions caused by the forces of aggression and the consequent escalation in the arms race, exacerbated in particular by the doctrine of a "limited nuclear war", he expressed his delegation's appreciation of and support for the important initiative taken by countries of good will such as the Soviet Union. The latter, in particular,

had undertaken not to be the first country to use nuclear weapons, to make Europe a denuclearized zone and to guarantee the safety of non-nuclear-weapon countries. Despite the fact that the forces of aggression were frenetically pursuing and intensifying their criminal policies, it was nonetheless becoming ever more possible to defend peace; the common will of the peoples to ensure peace, national independence and economic development were now irreversible facts of life.

41. The foreign policy pursued by the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam was one of peace, co-operation and friendship. In its efforts to rebuild the country after 30 years of resistance to a war of aggression it was deeply attached to the principles of peace, independence and liberty, while at the same time respecting the same rights with regard to other countries. It was prepared to enter into various kinds of co-operative and friendly relations with other countries and, in particular, would do its utmost to restore peace, stability, co-operation and freedom from foreign interference to the region of South East Asia.

42. Mr. PEŠIĆ (Yugoslavia) expressed his delegation's particular satisfaction at the decision of the Government of the People's Republic of China to apply to join the International Atomic Energy Agency and welcomed the Chinese delegation to the present session of the General Conference. The inclusion of China in the Agency's regular activities and co-operation with China in all fields of relevance to the Agency and its Member States in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy would not only serve to enhance the Agency's universality, but would also help to promote its work in many fields of importance to all its Members, in particular the developing countries.

43. He commended the Director General and his staff for the extensive and first-rate work which they had performed under very complex conditions during the past year, a year in which Yugoslavia had taken an active part in a number of Agency activities and had closely followed all those in which it was not directly involved.

44. The Yugoslav Government set a high value on its co-operation with the Agency. In addition to numerous regular forms of participation and co-operation, such co-operation was encouraged by exchanges of views and visits, some at the highest level. The Director General and some of his colleagues had, for example, recently made a most successful and useful visit to Yugoslavia.

45. Within the framework of its regular activities, the Agency had provided considerable technical assistance in various forms to his country's nuclear institutes and centres. Yugoslavia, in turn, had actively and continuously supported the Agency's activities. At the same time, it had taken a consistent stand in objecting to certain inadequacies in the Agency's structure and work. He hoped that his delegation's comments, which were intended to be constructive and objective, had indeed been taken in that spirit.

46. Yugoslavia was now making intensive preparations for the construction of its second nuclear power plant, the first in a series of similar power plants. It was therefore faced with the complex task of selecting the most reliable technologies and favourable terms for its relatively extensive nuclear programme. Such an undertaking required enormous efforts and sacrifices on the home front, together with considerable support and understanding on the part of the industrialized countries. His delegation had already, on a number of occasions, expressed its gratitude to the Agency for its assistance in the construction of its first nuclear power plant at Krško. It was confident that the Agency would continue to do its utmost to assist his country in appropriate ways, chiefly at the professional level. Without such assistance it would be difficult, in a developing country like Yugoslavia, to implement an extended programme for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

47. Yugoslavia attached the greatest importance to the question of safety and accordingly considered it essential to ensure that any system for protecting people and property in the event of a nuclear accident was prompt, effective and reliable. With such considerations in mind, in 1982 an exercise had been staged at the Krško nuclear power plant for the purpose of ascertaining the level of preparedness and organizational capacity required by national bodies and the people living near nuclear power plants in the event of a major

accident. Yugoslavia had been the first country to request the Agency to send a mission to examine its plans for the radiological protection of the population, to attend such an exercise and to assist in evaluating its results. Both the Agency and the national authorities had concluded that the exercise had been well prepared and performed; a great deal of information had been accumulated and valuable experience gained. The detailed report (No. NENS/83/2) prepared by the Agency mission was now available and, along with various documents published by Yugoslavia, might be useful to other countries.

48. As in the past, the agenda for the present Conference session included many important issues, some of which were still awaiting an adequate solution after many years. All the issues had already been discussed in the course of the year by the Board of Governors and other working bodies, and Yugoslavia had regularly participated in the consultations and work of the Group of 77, which had undoubtedly played an important positive role in the search for acceptable solutions. His delegation upheld the positions it had taken in those various fora on behalf of the Group of 77 and expected the Agency to take its views fully into consideration in its future work.

49. He welcomed the efforts deployed by the Agency in initiating new programmes and expanding its existing activities in a rational and balanced manner, in line with its Statute and in accordance with the ever greater need for co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In addition to nuclear safety, he was referring here to the increased level of technical assistance provided to developing countries. A true picture of that increase with respect to various items could only be gained by comparison with the previous period or year. Wherever possible, the corresponding amounts should be expressed in terms of the stated real needs; such a procedure would offer a somewhat different picture of the relative amounts spent on technical assistance and safeguards.

50. His delegation would be reiterating its views on a number of subjects in the course of the session, but wished, in particular, to mention the question of the inadequate representation of developing countries, including Yugoslavia, in the Secretariat of the Agency. The leading nuclear Powers and the responsible officers in the Agency should endeavour to resolve that problem, thereby enhancing the Secretariat's effectiveness.

51. With respect to the Committee on Assurances of Supply (CAS), he noted that the progress made in the most important areas of its mandate was far from satisfactory. However, he welcomed the successful completion of the work entrusted to Working Group 2. He hoped that CAS would eventually achieve success in its endeavour to establish a generally acceptable code of conduct.

52. Towards the end of 1982 the Expert Group on International Plutonium Storage (IPS), unable to reach a consensus, had concluded its work and submitted a report to the Director General. Yugoslavia had submitted a number of formal and substantive comments, now included in the relevant documents of the Group, regarding its establishment.

53. Yugoslavia attached great importance to the question of international plutonium storage. However, because that question was not of immediate interest to a large number of developing countries, it was possible that inadequate solutions might be agreed upon which could have unforeseeable consequences. Unless an attempt was made to resolve fundamental issues at a higher and more representative level and to provide explicit guidelines for future work, it would be ill-advised to pursue the examination of that question.

54. Noting the difficulties faced by the developing countries in their endeavours to generate enough energy for their own development, he drew attention to the efforts - which were aggravating those difficulties - to make the conditions of international nuclear trade more stringent by introducing discriminatory practices and maintaining inequitable relations with regard to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

55. Recent international conferences had proved that the generation of nuclear energy was safe from the environmental point of view and that virtually all the major problems regarding waste disposal had been satisfactorily solved. It could therefore be concluded that nuclear technology had come of age, as demonstrated by the fact that some countries had already made great progress in achieving self-reliance with regard to their nuclear energy requirements. However, some industrialized countries had curtailed their nuclear programmes as energy consumption had fallen owing to rationalization, but, as soon as

their economies needed more energy sources, that trend would be reversed. The developing countries, on the other hand, had no alternative to nuclear energy. It was therefore imperative for them to put forward their views at international fora regarding the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. It was in the common interest to work towards a new international consensus reflecting the priorities and needs of a far wider range of countries.

56. The failure of four successive meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, the lack of awareness of the fact that the interests of all countries were inter-related and the general lack of goodwill and understanding with respect to the complex problems faced by the developing countries in that area were a source of great concern and regret. Yugoslavia would do its utmost to find ways and means of overcoming the existing differences and reaching solutions which could be approved by that conference as a basis for international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. One matter yet to be resolved was the date of the United Nations Conference. He hoped that it would be convened in the near future and he believed that the United Nations General Assembly would endorse the justification for convening the Conference and entrust the Preparatory Committee with the task of preparing the ground for the necessary consensus on outstanding issues.

57. Mr. AMROLLAHI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that no other international conference brought together so many eminent scientists or their delegates. He wondered, however, whether morality had found its place beside knowledge and science. The contemporary world was suffering from a great moral crisis. In the absence of a serious and unified effort to avert it, a terrible disaster would occur which would threaten the existence of all

mankind. The sinister plans that were being made in the atomic arsenals were even more terrifying than the past disasters of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Science and knowledge without morality could result in nothing but the destruction of mankind. In other words, the value of science lay in its application, not in science itself.

58. He recalled that at the twenty-sixth regular session of the General Conference the credentials of the delegation of Israel had been rejected and world imperialism had felt for the first time that the unity of the oppressed nations of the world would put an end to its use of veto rights, bribery and false promises to serve its ends. The free nations of the world had learnt that the United States and its allies supported and protected Israel unconditionally and deceived the masses with their propaganda. The United States, in order to mislead world public opinion, pretended to respect the votes of other nations. However, when it failed to obtain positive votes despite all its efforts, it revealed its true nature by rejecting those votes, as the United States delegate had done at the last meeting of the twenty-sixth regular session of the General Conference.

59. The Government of the United States had always encouraged and assisted the Israeli Zionist and usurper régime in its inhuman invasions. Although Israel was not eligible for continued membership in the great family of nations, the United States had threatened to withdraw from a number of international organizations and discontinue its financial contribution to them, should Israel be excluded from membership in those organizations. The Islamic Republic of Iran condemned the United States Government for its humiliating behaviour towards the members of international agencies. It strongly believed that the nations of the world should unite without expecting any help from the super-Powers and undertake to defray the expenses of the international organizations so as to release them from the domination of those Powers. The previous year, the Islamic Republic of Iran had accordingly declared its readiness to make up any shortage of Agency funds resulting from the United States threat.

60. Furthermore, as a safeguard against future threats by the United States, the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran had proposed that a special fund be set up under the supervision of the head of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the members of which should contribute to the fund according to their financial ability to compensate for the possible stoppage of United States contributions and to free the international agencies from imperialist domination.

61. In view of the misleading reports on that proposal in the world imperialist press, the Islamic Republic of Iran reiterated its sincere will to co-operate in the proposed manner with the other non-aligned and anti-imperialist countries to prevent the United States and its allies from impugning the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

62. In the previous year's discussion on the breach of the Agency's Statute by Israel, some countries had opposed the suspension of Israel's membership as illegal by virtue of the use of the word "persistently" in Article 19.B of the Statute. He therefore suggested that that Article be amended in such a way that the word "persistently" only applied when it did not endanger the world's safety and security.

63. Moreover, at the previous session of the General Conference, his delegation had observed that Israel had participated in all the Conference's meetings and votes and that the credentials of its delegation had not been rejected until the last day of the Conference. In order to prevent similar cases in the future, his delegation suggested that Rule 28 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference be amended to read: "The credentials of delegations must be approved not later than the end of the second day of the regular session".

64. The Islamic Republic of Iran, inspired by the Islamic ideology, was determined to be active in all areas of science and technology, including nuclear technology. Science and technology belonged to all the nations of the world and should not be monopolized by a few countries. The super-Powers, however, had always tried to create difficulties, in particular for the Third-World countries, in the use of nuclear energy. They would exploit the valuable resources of the Third World until they were exhausted and would then demand extortionate prices for the transfer of technology, thereby bringing those countries under their imperialistic domination.

65. The total energy produced by the 13 nuclear power plants in developing countries by the end of 1982 had been less than 4000 MW, whereas the energy produced by the developed countries had been approximately 200 000 MW, or fifty times as much. A large proportion of the uranium used for the production of that large amount of energy had been procured from Third-World countries. That unjust state of affairs should not be tolerated.

66. As an example of the behaviour of the super-Powers towards the Third-World nations, he cited a loan by the Islamic Republic of Iran to France in the amount of US \$1 billion for which the French Government refused to pay either principal or interest.

67. In view of the atomic arsenals in the United States, the Soviet Union and their allied countries and the inhuman decisions and projects carried out in those countries, his delegation suggested that an international police force might be established by the Third-World countries, under the supervision of the Agency, in order to control the atomic arsenals in the East and West. The oppressed nations of the Third World that had suffered domination, pressure and extortion by the super-Powers were best placed to carry out a supervisory function of that kind.

68. One of the greatest obstacles to the development of nuclear technology was the insufficient assurance of the supplies required for that technology. Both super-Powers endangered the world's safety every day by their accumulation of nuclear weapons but nevertheless made observation of the non-proliferation rules a condition for the assurance of supplies. Most developing countries, however, were only considering the peaceful use of nuclear energy and believed that the transfer of nuclear technology was no more important than the transfer of any other type of technology.

69. Quoting Imam Khomeini, he said that writers, intellectuals, scholars and scientists throughout the world should enlighten the public on the danger of a nuclear holocaust so that the masses would rise against the two super-Powers and prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

70. At the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, the United States and the Soviet Union, together with their allies, had formed a united front against the developing countries and

had advocated the postponement of the Conference. Should the Preparatory Committee fail to achieve its purpose, it would be the responsibility of the United States, which had disregarded the principle of the peaceful use of nuclear energy in the Second World War, thereby shattering all confidence in nuclear technology. The participation of the United States in the Conference was therefore incompatible with the goals of the Conference.

71. Despite problems resulting from the war with Iraq, there had been remarkable improvements in the scientific and industrial fields in his country, including progress in nuclear science. The Islamic Republic of Iran was conducting research into new sources of energy, such as plasma physics and fusion, and working on new technologies, such as the production of radioisotopes for use in medicine, agriculture and industry. A facility for the radiosterilization of medical instruments and equipment was under construction and would eventually serve all the hospitals and medical centres in the country. Also, the first unit of the Bushehr nuclear power plant was nearing completion.

72. In conclusion, he reiterated his country's commitment to the amendment of Article VI.A.2 of the Agency's Statute with a view to increasing the number of representatives from Africa and the Middle East and South Asia on the Board of Governors. His delegation insisted that the Conference take a final decision to remedy the unjustified under-representation of those regions.

73. Mr. KENNEDY (United States of America), speaking on a point of order, requested the right to reply to the statement by the delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran under Rule 58 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference. He said that the comments made by the delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran were offensive, unwarranted and irrelevant.

74. Mr. de LA BATHIE (France) also requested the right to reply to the statement of the Islamic Republic of Iran under the same Rule. He regretted that the general debate had been used as a forum for political comments which were contrary to the spirit of constructive co-operation in which the Conference's work was proceeding.

75. The PRESIDENT granted the delegates of the United States and France the right of reply which they had requested under Rule 58 of the Rules of Procedure.

76. Mr. MADRID GONZALEZ (Spain) welcomed the admission of the People's Republic of China as a Member of the Agency, which was a cause for satisfaction for his country.

77. As in previous years, his delegation wished to describe briefly recent activities carried out in Spain in relation to the peaceful applications of nuclear energy.

78. With regard to uranium ore prospecting, in 1982 95 000 line metres had been surveyed, resulting in an increase in reserves by some 6000 tonnes, which had brought them up to a level of approximately 30 000 tonnes by the end of that year.

79. The Juzbado (Salamanca) fuel element fabrication plant had been completed, and it was hoped that it would soon begin production.

80. In 1982 the total electrical energy generated had been 114 570 GWh, representing an increase by 2.5% over the previous year. 8771 GWh of that had been produced by nuclear power stations, of which there had been four in operation in that year, with the installed power by the end of the year having been somewhat over 2000 MW. During 1983 two 930-MW power stations had been connected to the grid, which had brought the installed capacity up to nearly 4000 MW. At the time of speaking, various further nuclear power stations were at different phases of construction, and the Ministry of Industry and Energy was reviewing the National Energy Plan. Once the Plan had been approved by the Government, it would be submitted to Parliament for its consideration. The amount of nuclear power to be installed and the schedule for its connection to the grid would be decided in accordance with the Plan.

81. The Spanish authorities attached considerable importance to the back end of the fuel cycle, since the finding of satisfactory solutions for radioactive waste management was one of the key aspects of the utilization of nuclear power. In view of its concern, the Spanish Government welcomed both the fact that that topic was being given considerable importance in the Agency and the announcement of the efforts begun with a view to finding suitable solutions. It also agreed with the Director General's remarks relating to the need to increase international co-operation in that sphere. For its part, Spain was adopting a

series of measures of an organizational, legal and financial nature which were considered necessary for coping adequately with the problem of waste management.

82. His Government was particularly concerned about the dumping of radioactive wastes at sea. At the seventh consultative meeting of the contracting parties to the London Dumping Convention, the Spanish proposal for a moratorium on radioactive waste dumping into the sea until it was possible to know the hazards involved had received the support of 19 countries, that is three-quarters of those present and voting.

83. Also, at the 66th meeting of the Steering Committee of the Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) held in April 1983 in Lyons, the Spanish delegation had requested the suspension of the multilateral consultation and monitoring mechanism for the dumping of wastes at sea with a view to that mechanism being re-examined and modified in order for it to include, among other things, comparisons between dumping at sea and storage on land, since provision had been made for such comparisons in the IAEA recommendations concerning the London Dumping Convention.

84. According to section 3.2.2 of the report annexed to document GC(XXVII)/INF/214, underground disposal on land under national jurisdiction was, with today's technology, considered to be the most appropriate and practicable method of safely disposing of radioactive wastes that resulted from the use of nuclear power in a Member State. Spain agreed with that statement, especially since the irreversibility of sea dumping made storage on land preferable. In the light of the above considerations and since, in addition, the Agency was currently reviewing its definitions and recommendations in respect of sea dumping, the Spanish delegation believed not only that land storage was preferable, but also that it was necessary to put an end to all sea dumping, and it urged Agency Member States to cease such operations.

85. Turning to co-operation with the Agency, he said that Spain would always make maximum efforts in that context and also in order to assist with the universal dissemination of knowledge related to the peaceful uses of nuclear

energy. Among the activities on which Spain and the Agency had been co-operating - apart from the traditional ones whereby Spanish nuclear centres acted as host for visiting scientists and fellows sponsored by the Agency - he wished to mention the holding in Spain of four meetings, namely, the Technical Committee Workshop on Reporting and Assessment of Safety-Related Events in Nuclear Power Plants; the Advisory Group Meeting on Methods of Treatment of Low- and Intermediate-Level Liquid Wastes; the Interregional Training Course on Uranium Ore Processing; and the Seminar on Technical and Environmental Aspects of Spent Fuel Management.

86. Finally, during 1983 a supplementary co-operation agreement on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy had been signed between the Governments of Spain and Brazil in the context of a basic agreement on technical co-operation signed earlier.

87. Mr. de ROSENZWEIG-DÍAZ (Mexico) welcomed the decision by the People's Republic of China to join the Agency, especially since that country and Mexico had long maintained cordial cultural and commercial relations. Mexico had in fact been the first country of the New World to have ties with China.

88. At a time when meetings of the preparatory committee for the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) were beginning, Mexico wished to emphasize that, at the meetings both of the above-mentioned committee and of the Conference itself, NPT should be examined as a whole, and its various parts could not and should not be considered separately.

89. It was unfortunate that, 26 years after the establishment of the Agency and 13 years since NPT had come into force, all efforts to halt the arms race and to prevent the application of nuclear energy for military purposes by certain countries had so far been ineffective. In that context, it might be recalled that one year earlier the Nobel Prize for Peace had been awarded to the author of the Tlatelolco Treaty, the distinguished Mexican, Alfonso García Robles.

90. Mexico had roundly condemned the military attack by an Agency Member State which was not a signatory of NPT on the nuclear research centre of another Agency Member which was a signatory. His Government considered that the author of that armed intervention and those who attempted to justify it were flying in the face of the Agency's Statute, of NPT and, in particular, of the Agency's safeguards system, thereby seriously jeopardizing progress on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. His delegation believed that, in parallel to the steps which should be taken with respect to that act of aggression, it was necessary, in the appropriate international body, to consider the need to set up an international legal instrument which specifically provided all nuclear facilities subject to Agency safeguards with protection against military attacks.

91. In addition, Mexico condemned the racist régime of South Africa and wished to draw the attention of the Conference to resolution 37/69A of the General Assembly, under which all intergovernmental organizations had been requested to exclude the racist régime of South Africa and to put an end to all co-operation with it. That resolution had also requested the Agency to refrain from providing South Africa with any service which might assist it in its nuclear plans and, in particular, to exclude that country from all IAEA technical and working groups.

92. Turning to various important aspects of the Agency's activities, he said that Mexico had voted against the new list of base rates established by the General Assembly of the United Nations in its resolution 37/125A since it was not in accordance with the criteria to be applied when drawing up such lists. Specifically, Mexico believed, first, that the Committee on Contributions had not carried out the mandate conferred upon it by the General Assembly under resolution 36/231; secondly, the list of base rates had been drawn up to a large extent from the statistics available to the United Nations Statistical Office; thirdly, excessive weight had been given to exchange rates and to statistics on national incomes calculated at constant prices without taking inflation into account; and, fourthly, the new list had been drawn up in a manner which was irregular and incompatible with the principles of justice and equity.

93. With regard to technical assistance, in October 1982 an agreement had been signed between Mexico, Egypt and the Agency for a large-scale project on eradication of the Mediterranean fruit fly in Egypt. That agreement constituted the first example of horizontal technical co-operation between two Member States of the Agency. Under the agreement, Mexico and Egypt would collaborate using management methods and training material which had been prepared in Mexico and which, with the assistance of the Agency, would be adapted for the Egyptian project. In addition, training would be provided by experts from Mexico and the Agency in both Mexico and Egypt.

94. The problem of the financing of technical assistance persisted. An important feature of that activity, unlike safeguards, was uncertainty, since voluntary contributions always depended on the economic and political situation of the donors. The actual extent of growth in such assistance should not be measured against the figures from previous years but on the basis of the requirements of Member States and of the availability of funds for financing those requirements. From that point of view, the growth in technical assistance was still insufficient.

95. In 1985, it would be necessary to increase the percentage of growth for technical assistance activities coming under the Regular Budget because of the increase in the number of new projects, a fact which was closely linked with the development of the economies of recipient countries. Nor should it be forgotten that voluntary contributions to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund had to compensate for various developments, such as the stagnation in assistance in kind; the reduction in United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) funds; and, thirdly, the reduction in funds for promotional activities under the Regular Budget. Moreover, although the extrabudgetary funds with which "footnote a/" projects were being financed had increased in recent years, such funds were unpredictable. It would be preferable for contributions made by donor States and at present designated as extrabudgetary to be included from the start in the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund, since that would be a way of increasing the reliability of the system of indicative planning figures.

96. Turning to the subject of the staffing of the Secretariat, he said that for some time developing countries had been in a position to provide highly qualified staff for both technical and administrative posts at the Professional level in the Agency. It was necessary to satisfy, as soon as possible, the legitimate demands of developing countries for equitable geographical distribution in the composition of the Secretariat. Although geographical representation should not arbitrarily replace the criterion of efficiency and the national quotas of different States, due emphasis was not yet being given to the geographical factor. In that connection, linguistic diversity was of fundamental importance and should also be reflected in the qualifications for becoming an international civil servant. It was thus essential that the Secretariat should recruit candidates who had mastered at least two official and working languages of the Agency.

97. With regard to Agency personnel practices, transparency in the relevant Board documents was required, whereby clear data should be provided on cost-free experts, personnel with special service agreements, consultants, temporary assistance personnel, fellows and trainees at Headquarters. That information should be given in detail and should include, for example, the nationalities of such personnel, the Departments to which they had been assigned, the duration of their respective contracts or assignments and the basis on which they received remuneration.

98. The accounting practices of the Agency had been in existence for over a quarter of a century and needed to be adjusted to fit present needs and, where possible, simplified. In addition, it was urgent to achieve greater transparency in accounting and budgetary procedures. So far, only a small number of States had been involved in preparation of the budget. However, budget preparation required a system of informal consultations which, with the assistance of the Secretariat, would ensure the participation of all interested States without discrimination. Moreover, the Secretariat should consider the merits of various management systems - for example, one geared to results - in order to be able to evaluate satisfactorily the achievements in the different activities of the Agency at the end of each financial year.

99. Mexico welcomed the - albeit modest - progress made by the Committee on Assurances of Supply (CAS) at its tenth series of meetings. For his delegation, the topic of principles of international co-operation was of fundamental importance. He urged CAS to continue its activities since, if the political will were to be found in all participants, work on that topic could be concluded in a relatively brief period. In addition, he was confident that in the near future the Board would instruct the Director General to implement the system for an emergency and back-up mechanism agreed in CAS. Although the results achieved by CAS had indeed been modest, implementation of the system would be useful, practicable and inexpensive.

100. Mr. GHEZAL (Tunisia) was pleased to note that the General Conference, after having admitted Zimbabwe to membership at its twenty-fifth session and Namibia the previous year, was now unanimously approving the admission to membership of the Agency of the People's Republic of China. That event was a landmark in IAEA history. Tunisia wished to welcome China and to assure it of its fullest co-operation.

101. At a time of increased tension and world-wide economic and political crisis, the Agency was still an invaluable instrument which could be used by the community of nations to promote the peaceful uses of atomic energy in the service of mankind. Economic and social progress, both in the Third World and in the industrialized world, was no longer feasible without the help of nuclear technology, not only for power production but also for application in agriculture, industry, health, etc.

102. The Director General, in his opening address, had drawn attention to the slow progress made in nuclear power production. Opposition to nuclear energy on the part of some sectors of public opinion, together with the economic crisis, had led certain industrialized countries not only to reduce the number of reactors planned for the future, but also to delay or even cancel some projects already under way. Yet, any increase in the use of nuclear energy in the industrialized countries would inevitably release some of the oil otherwise consumed by those countries to meet the needs of the developing areas of the world. Although the energy needs of developed countries were continually

increasing, those countries had little hope of being able to rely substantially on nuclear power in the short term, especially in view of the obstacles they were encountering in nuclear trade. In that connection, he regretted that the Committee on Assurances of Supply had made little progress so far.

103. He wished to commend the Director General for the emphasis he had placed on nuclear safety, and for the steps he had taken to strengthen the Agency's programme in that important field. The action taken by the Agency would promote nuclear energy in industrialized and developing countries alike by helping to set up effective safety mechanisms, and would in addition encourage Governments by helping to dispel the fears aroused in the general public by the development of nuclear energy.

104. Tunisia was pleased that it was extending its co-operation with the Agency in a number of fields, notably in public health, industry, hydrology, etc. It also welcomed the interest shown by the Agency in a regional project concerning the application of isotopic techniques to subterranean water prospecting in Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco.

105. Tunisia, which was a signatory of NPT, wished to reaffirm its complete support for the Agency's safeguards system. However, it noted that there continued to be an excessive imbalance in the allocation of funds under the 1984 budget as between the two main activities of the Agency, an imbalance which was harmful to technical assistance and technical co-operation.

106. The Director General had done his best to see that more nationals of developing countries were recruited for positions of responsibility. The Tunisian delegation welcomed that trend, and hoped that the target set in resolution GC(XXV)/RES/386, adopted by the General Conference at its twenty-fifth session, would be reached on time.

107. His delegation regretted to see that there had not been any progress in considering the question of amending Article VI.A.2 of the Agency's Statute, which the General Conference had had before it since 1977, the aim being to reduce, at least to some extent, the inadequate representation of the two regions "Africa" and "Middle East and South Asia" on the Board of Governors.

108. In his opening address the Director General had stated that it would be impossible for problems such as those of the Middle East and South Africa not to be touched on in the deliberations of the General Conference. In that connection his delegation considered that the Agency should henceforth refrain from any co-operation with the racist régime of South Africa, which was pursuing a policy of aggression against the countries of that region and apparently continuing to develop a nuclear military capability, while systematically pillaging the mineral resources of Namibia, particularly uranium, and refusing to place its nuclear facilities under the Agency safeguards system. The openly known alliance in the nuclear field between Israel and South Africa was a matter of grave concern for the Agency, the Member States of which were striving to eliminate all risk of nuclear proliferation.

109. The General Conference was not the right body before which to enumerate the many acts that had been perpetrated by Israel in defiance of international law, but he felt it was the duty of all Member States to see to it that the credibility of the Agency and its integrity were preserved. The Israeli armed aggression against the Tamuz reactor in Iraq on 7 June 1981 had been officially described by the Director General as equally an attack on the Agency's safeguards system. All Iraq's nuclear facilities, including the Tamuz reactor, were under Agency safeguards; that was not the case with Israel. There was no point in trying to maintain the smooth operation of the Agency without examining in depth the consequences of damage done to the Agency's safeguards system thereby and without seeking means by which the Agency could regain its credibility.

110. Israel, furthermore, had made an official statement proclaiming its right to repeat that act against Iraqi nuclear facilities or those of other Arab countries. That threat of force was an attack on international peace and security as well as on the Agency's technical assistance and co-operation, its other main function; it was also a violation of the right of Member States to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

111. The repercussions of the Israeli attack against the Iraqi nuclear research centre were still being felt, and many Member States were increasingly aware of the gravity of that incident for the international community. He wished, finally, to stress that the remarks that he had just made were not an attempt at politicization of the Agency's work; it was rather that the Tunisian delegation believed that it had the right to leave no stone unturned in its desire to restore confidence in the Agency and in its capacity to fulfil its mission.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

