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RECORD OF THE TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FOURTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Neue Hofburg, Vienna,
on Thursday, 13 October 1983, at 3.15 p.m.

President: Mr. KEBLÚŠEK (Czechoslovakia)
later: Mr. HENDERSON (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Mr. BRUSH (for Mr. HODEL, United States of America)

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**/ GC(XXVII)/700.

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

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

1. Mr. ALER (Sweden) recalled that at the end of 1982 his country had had the sixth-largest nuclear generating capacity in the world. The Swedish nuclear programme, which had been described before the General Conference at a previous session, was being carried out as planned. Electricity production in Sweden was now based entirely on hydroelectric power and nuclear power, so that dependence on imported fossil fuel had been considerably reduced. Nuclear power plants generated nearly 40% of the electricity and, on a per capita basis, Sweden produced more nuclear power than any other nation in the world. The Swedish programme, begun thirty years ago, had now reached full maturity. The reactor and fuel industry was nearly self-sufficient, but it still had to import fuel materials from several countries and accordingly had to rely on the smooth functioning of international trade and co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

2. That was why Sweden was particularly interested in the Agency's excellent work. The implementation of safeguards to prevent any diversion for military uses was a necessary prerequisite for the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and it was Sweden's conviction that full-scope safeguards offered the best guarantee of smooth international trade in the nuclear field. Experience seemed to show that the nuclear industry readily accepted the consequences of safeguards, and Sweden was pleased to note the negotiations being conducted between the Agency and the Soviet Union regarding that country's voluntary offer to place part of its civilian nuclear facilities under Agency safeguards.

3. An effective safeguards system required good organization and global confidence in the system. Sweden had always supported the principle of the universality of international organizations and therefore welcomed the entry of the People's Republic of China into the Agency.

4. Sweden was actively participating in the work of the Committee on Assurances of Supply and welcomed the practical steps which had been taken, particularly with regard to emergency and back-up mechanisms. The Agency could play a useful role in collecting information, and Sweden was sure that the Committee would reach a general consensus on principles of international co-operation.

5. As to technical co-operation, an area of prime importance, he welcomed the continuing marked trend towards increased contributions to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund and noted that his country had pledged its full base-rate share of the target of $22.5 million recommended for 1984.

6. Sweden had also been one of the largest donors of extrabudgetary resources for the Agency's technical co-operation activities, and the Swedish Government would continue to finance footnote a/ projects.

7. The implementation of the technical assistance and co-operation programme was satisfactory. There was room for improvement, however, and his Government welcomed the greater attention now being given to project evaluation, which should make it possible to reassess the Agency's programme constructively.

8. The Director General had referred to the increased interest in small and medium power reactors, particularly in developing countries. Representatives of Swedish industry had participated in discussions between reactor vendors and potential customers arranged by the Agency, and Sweden believed that the Agency could play an important role in helping Member States to make a realistic assessment of the technical and economic possibilities which nuclear power offered for their national grids. The infrastructure required to cope with safety and radiation protection, even on a modest scale, was considerable and took many years to be established. The Agency could play an important role by transferring the experience of other Member States and contributing to the training of the specialized staff required for regulatory functions.

9. Sweden welcomed, in particular, the work of the Agency in nuclear safety, activities which were quite justly accorded priority alongside safeguards operations and technical assistance. The Agency's meetings and seminars were of immediate relevance to Member States and the annual report on nuclear safety was a valuable source of information which could help foster a wider exchange of information. He welcomed the fact that the vast work of the Nuclear Safety Standards programme was being carried out according to schedule.

10. The Swedish authorities regarded with scepticism, however, the Director General's suggestion of creating an independent group of experts on reactor safety under the auspices of the Agency, since the subject was very complex and it was by no means certain that such a group could usefully contribute to the international co-operation already established.

11. The problem of spent fuel management and safe disposal of radioactive waste was attracting widespread interest in a great number of countries, not only in those with their own nuclear programmes. Sweden was also very interested. It welcomed increased international co-operation and exchange of information in that field. It had given a detailed account of its waste management policy during the scientific afternoon on that subject.

12. Like many other countries, Sweden was concerned about the dumping of radioactive substances at sea. It believed that land-based methods of disposal, where waste could be isolated from ecological systems and monitored more easily, were preferable to sea disposal. Sweden therefore welcomed the resolution adopted at the beginning of the year at the seventh Consultative Meeting of the Parties to the London Dumping Convention calling for a suspension of sea dumping pending an expert report. He stressed the importance of the Agency's work on establishing regulations within that controversial area.

13. The Agency's budget was, on the whole, a reasonable compromise between the demands made by Member States and the need for economy. However, the Regular Budget represented, in real terms, an increase of 2% compared with the previous year. Like many other countries, Sweden was enforcing an austerity programme which forced it to reduce expenditure in the public sector in real terms and altered its position regarding international organizations. As far as the Agency's Regular Budget was concerned, even a zero-growth policy would mean preferential treatment by comparison with Sweden's national programmes. Most of the Agency's budget related to staff costs, which made it all the more essential that the Agency should meet the demands of Member States not by increasing the staff of the Secretariat further but by making more efficient use of existing staff. Sweden recommended the Board of Governors to focus its attention increasingly on budgetary questions.

14. Sweden actively supported the Agency, not only for the two reasons already cited, but for another extremely important reason, which applied to all States represented in the General Conference whether or not they had nuclear programmes, namely the fear of nuclear war. All States had a fundamental interest that nuclear war be avoided. The nuclear-weapon States bore a heavy responsibility and Sweden took every opportunity to urge them to

reduce their nuclear arsenals. It would be highly desirable for an agreement on a total nuclear test ban to be concluded as soon as possible, and Sweden had submitted a draft treaty to the Committee on Disarmament at its meetings during the summer.

15. The non-nuclear-weapon States also had an important responsibility. They, too, should do everything possible to prevent peaceful nuclear energy from being exploited for military purposes. Otherwise, not only might the number of nuclear-weapon States increase but also international trade in the nuclear field might become severely restricted. The importance of the Agency's role in securing an effective non-proliferation regime could not be too strongly emphasized. Through its safeguards system, the Agency provided States with the most effective means of demonstrating the peaceful nature of their nuclear programmes. That was why his Government was very concerned to read again in the annual report that four non-nuclear-weapon States had unsafeguarded nuclear facilities, in operation or under construction, which could produce weapons material.

16. Sweden would continue to give the highest priority to the Agency's decisively important non-proliferation activities. Preparations for the next NPT Review Conference were about to begin, and Sweden was confident that the Agency would make substantial contributions. The Agency's safeguards system was a truly unique instrument in the service of peace and deserved to be considered also in the broader perspective of nuclear arms control and disarmament.

17. Mr. BAIQUNI (Indonesia) said that his country, which was about to begin its fourth five-year development plan, attached great importance to the various applications of nuclear energy. As a developing country, Indonesia needed nuclear technology to promote the well-being of its people and regarded technical assistance as one of the Agency's most important activities. His delegation thus welcomed the information in the Director General's statement that technical assistance had steadily increased over the last fourteen years. It appreciated the work of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste, which had enabled a large number of scientists from developing countries, including Indonesia, to acquire knowledge and competence which was very valuable to their countries.

18. However, in view of the considerable increase in the membership of the Agency since its establishment, and the changing needs of its Members, particularly the developing countries, it was essential to adapt the Agency's programmes so that the Agency could better fulfil the objectives laid down in its Statute. His delegation welcomed the fact that the Director General had responded positively to the request made by the Conference at its last session and had appointed, especially to posts at the higher levels, more nationals from developing countries, whose familiarity with the needs of those countries made them particularly well qualified to help the Agency adapt its programmes to the changes that had taken place. Indonesia hoped that the Director General would continue his efforts in that area.

19. The safeguards programme was just as important as technical assistance in fulfilling the Agency's dual objective of enlarging the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world while ensuring that the Agency's assistance was used solely for peaceful purposes. It was encouraging to note that despite its limited staff the Agency had been able to perform its safeguards functions effectively. Indonesia would continue to co-operate with the Agency in that field.

20. As a party to NPT, Indonesia undertook to use nuclear energy solely for peaceful purposes. It therefore noted with concern that, while Articles II and III of the Treaty had been observed scrupulously by the non-nuclear-weapon States party to the Treaty, Articles IV and VI had not been implemented by the States referred to therein. Indonesia urged those States which were today capable of destroying mankind to take the necessary steps to end the arms race and bring about nuclear disarmament.

Mr. Henderson (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) took the Chair.

21. Mr. KIM (Republic of Korea) recalled that his country had been one of the founding Members of the Agency and had actively participated in all its activities. Over the years, his country had made enormous progress in exploiting nuclear energy, and the year 1983 had marked another important stage in its nuclear power programme. In April 1983, a 687-MW(e) CANDU

nuclear power plant had been put into operation. In September, a 650-MW(e) PWR had also gone into service. With those two new nuclear units, the share of nuclear power, with about 2000 MW, had reached 14.8% of total electrical generation capacity. In addition, six nuclear power plants were being built, and construction was to begin on a new 900-MW(e) PWR every year from 1984 onwards. By 1991, when those facilities were completed, the share of nuclear energy would reach 33.4% while the share of oil-fired power plants would have decreased from 54.8% to 17.8%. Owing to the world-wide recession in recent years, the growth of electricity demand had slowed down, and as a consequence the plan to build nuclear power plants Nos 11 and 12 had been suspended; but since there were now signs of a fresh up-turn in electricity demand, overall power demand was being reassessed.

22. Various measures had been taken to improve public acceptance of the current nuclear power programme. One important measure had been the recently revised nuclear energy law, which outlined nuclear safety requirements. The modification of that law had led to the publication of other texts on safety, in particular on quality assurance, and codes and standards for nuclear-related components and environmental protection.

23. In order to review the current safety problems of three nuclear power plants in operation, his Government had invited the Agency to send an operational safety review team, in August 1983, to determine whether there were adequate safety levels at the nuclear power plants. The visit had confirmed the competence of the Korean authorities to ensure the operational safety and regulatory management of nuclear power plants. It had also demonstrated the valuable objective assistance which such a team could provide to countries with limited experience in that area.

24. As to the implementation of safeguards, his delegation noted with satisfaction that there had been no diversion of nuclear material. As had already been mentioned, the on-load-refuelling reactor had been in commerical operation since April. That type of reactor had been in operation for many years in Canada. However, neither inspection procedures nor facility attachments had been standardized. His delegation urged the Secretariat to expedite the standardization of inspection procedures for the on-load-refuelling reactor in order to achieve the safeguards objectives.

25. With regard to the Director General's proposal for the possible establishment of an international commission on nuclear safety, his delegation wished to express both its interest and its concern. It believed that the proposal should be studied in detail by the Scientific Advisory Committee to consider the necessary arrangements and the scope of activities. Once the results of such a review were available, his delegation could make a more definite statement of its views.

26. The Agency's technical assistance programme was one of its most important activities, particularly for developing countries. It had played a major role in the development of nuclear energy and its peaceful uses in various recipient countries. Compared with previous years, there had been a substantial improvement in the quality and quantity of technical assistance delivery. However, the funds available for technical assistance remained far below the needs of many developing countries. He proposed that the programme be standardized to ensure its effective implementation. In view of its importance, nuclear power generation technology would arouse growing interest in developing countries. The assistance programme set up to meet their needs should be standardized and should cover both nuclear power technology and the nuclear fuel cycle, particularly spent fuel management and the safe disposal of radioactive waste. In no nuclear power programme was it either technically or economically feasible to achieve total self-sufficiency. Nuclear power technology was continually evolving, and even the developed countries would need to count on the co-operation of other countries in that area. His delegation therefore believed that standardized assistance projects would improve the effectiveness of technical co-operation and would be useful for both developed and developing Member States. His delegation fully supported multi-year programming and a judicious degree of over-programming to improve efficiency and to ensure timely implementation. It hoped its comments would be taken into account when technical co-operation policy was formulated and implemented.

27. With regard to staff recruitment, he recognized the Director General's efforts to implement resolution GC(XXV)/RES/386. Aware of the increasing role played by developing Member States and the importance of recruiting staff on

as wide a geographical basis as possible, he hoped that the Director General would continue his efforts to rectify the existing national and regional imbalance and would take further steps to increase the number of staff drawn from developing areas at all levels and particularly at the senior and policy-making levels.

28. With regard to the Regional Co-operative Agreement (RCA), he welcomed the considerable progress that had been achieved in expanding its activities. His delegation also welcomed the opening of the UNDP industrial project office at the Centre for the Application of Isotopes and Radiation in Djakarta. Among the various UNDP industrial projects, it attached particular importance to that on radiation sterilization and was proud that a Korean institute had been selected as a model regional centre for demonstration and training in that field. In that connection he was pleased to announce his Government's willingness to host the eighth RCA working group meeting in Seoul, and expressed the hope that the meeting would lead to substantial progress in implementing RCA programmes.

29. As to the Agency's 1984 budget, it was understandable, in the light of the recent world recession, that adoption of the principle of near-zero growth had been inevitable. However, in view of the essential role of the Agency's promotional activities, and in particular of the technical assistance and co-operation programme, financial resources for those activities should be increased. The sum of $23.5 million allocated to the Agency's technical assistance and co-operation programme fell far short of what was needed for many technically sound projects. He believed that, if the Secretariat evaluated projects more prudently and implemented the chosen projects more rapidly, it would be possible to stretch the limited resources a little further.

30. Mr. GLEISSNER (Austria) said that his country welcomed the decision of the People's Republic of China to apply for membership of the Agency and the unanimous decision of the General Conference to approve that application. By such a major step towards universality, the Agency would be in a better position to serve the international community as a whole.

31. As the Director General had pointed out in his statement, although the present economic situation had led to lower-than-forecast energy demands in almost all countries, it was vital that there should be a source of energy available which caused less environmental damage than fossil fuels. His delegation noted with interest that in 1982 nuclear reactors had accounted for 10% of world electricity production and that the figure would rise to 20% by the end of the century. The Director General had also noted the continuing trend in some countries to stop further expansion of their nuclear power programmes. The reasons for that trend were of a technical and political nature, the latter generally described by the term "public acceptance". However, public acceptance was itself dependent on the answers to certain technical questions such as safeguards, safety and waste management.

32. In the area of safeguards, considerable progress had been achieved in 1982. The number of facilities inspected and evaluated had increased. Evaluations had become more systematic and comprehensive. More advanced equipment had been used and there had been a substantial improvement in the attainment of inspection goals, including those for on-load-refuelled reactors. The conclusion that nuclear material under Agency safeguards had been used solely for peaceful nuclear purposes or had been otherwise adequately accounted for confirmed the effectiveness of the system. However, further progress was necessary. His delegation endorsed the sum recommended for safeguards in 1984 but wished to stress that, in view of the present economic situation, the budgets of international organizations should reflect the principle of zero growth as far as possible. There should not be any competition between the safeguards and technical assistance programmes. In determining the level of resources to be allocated to each of them, efforts should be made to establish a balance between goals that had their own merits.

33. Austria, which had consistently supported the principle of horizontal non-proliferation, called upon States that were not party to NPT to accede to the Treaty and accept its obligations. Concerned also about vertical proliferation, Austria shared the Director General's view that the time had come for the nuclear-weapon States to study how Agency safeguards, or safeguards modelled on them, could be applied to nuclear arms control.

34. Austria had always been in favour of promoting nuclear trade and the transfer of nuclear technology, subject to the need to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. It therefore welcomed the efforts being made both by the Committee on Assurances of Supply and by the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (UNCPICPUNE). Those efforts were of interest to both developing countries and industrialized countries with an incomplete nuclear fuel cycle. CAS had made encouraging progress in the field of revision mechanisms and emergency and back-up mechanisms, and his delegation welcomed the fact that the Agency was to act as a clearing-house within the framework of emergency and back-up mechanisms devised by CAS.

35. He hoped that activities relating to the review of NPT would give fresh impetus to preparations for the UNCPICPUNE, which, his delegation believed, would provide a very important forum for discussing international co-operation.

36. With regard to nuclear safety, he noted with satisfaction that the NUSS programme was well advanced and that the Agency's activities had shifted towards providing direct assistance to Member States. Important progress had been made by establishing the International Incident Reporting System, which was due to go into operation shortly.

37. At the twenty-third session of the General Conference Austria had made a proposal concerning the trans-frontier aspects of nuclear power plants, which aimed to facilitate co-operation between neighbouring States. In the meantime an international advisory group on questions of mutual assistance in connection with nuclear accidents had been discussing certain aspects of the problem and his delegation hoped that the group would shortly conclude its work. He pointed out that an agreement had been signed between Austria and Czechoslovakia on questions of mutual interest in connection with nuclear facilities. Austria was at present negotiating other, similar agreements with other neighbouring countries.

38. From the point of view of the public acceptance of nuclear power, radioactive waste management was probably the most crucial problem, particularly in countries which did not have the economic resources necessary

for constructing their own waste storage facilities. His delegation noted the conclusion reached at the International Conference on Radioactive Waste Management that no further technological breakthroughs were necessary. What was needed was an international demonstration facility to show the public not only that the problem of waste disposal could be solved but that it had in fact already been solved. The Director General's arguments in favour of international co-operation in that field seemed very convincing.

39. He welcomed the continued fruitful co-operation between the Agency and Austria regarding the Agency's laboratories and hoped that technical agreements implementing the basic agreement of 1 March 1982 between Austria and the Agency would soon be concluded.

40. One of the Agency's most important tasks was to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in developing countries through its technical assistance and co-operation programme. The fact that the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund had increased more rapidly than the Regular Budget showed that the system of indicative planning figures was serving its purpose well. The Austrian Government pledged, subject to parliamentary approval, a voluntary contribution of $168 750 to the Fund in 1984, which was 23% more than in 1983. Furthermore, in 1984 Austria would provide 121 000 schillings to finance Type II fellowships and would continue to provide cost-free training for fellows selected by the Agency.

41. Mr. SILANGWA (Zambia) joined other delegations in welcoming the People's Republic of China, a country which was a friend of Zambia; China's entry was a significant event in the Agency's history since it would make the organization more representative and bring it fresh experience and dynamism.

42. Zambia had always been very committed to the principle of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, which should serve to improve human living conditions and not destroy mankind. It was health care, industrial development and, above all, adequate food to feed the world's population which would contribute more than anything else to peace. Nuclear energy, when diverted to armaments - even if not used in a directly destructive way - jeopardized peace and world stability by consuming resources which could otherwise have been better used.

Zambia therefore reaffirmed its commitment to the Agency's Statute, which could even, should the occasion arise, be strengthened to reflect the aspirations and demands for justice of the majority of Member States.

43. The severe world economic crisis which had been going on for several years had had a devastating impact in Zambia, as in most developing countries. Although there had been some signs of economic recovery in the industrialized countries, prospects remained dim for most developing countries: oil prices were still too high and basic commodities earned too little foreign exchange to offer any hope of recovery.

44. In view of the situation, Zambia was grateful for the assistance received from the Agency over the past twelve years, which had helped it to apply nuclear science and technology for the nation's peaceful development. The effects of that assistance had already been felt in certain sectors and would become even more noticeable if present plans and activities were continued. Starting from almost no activity in the field of nuclear science, Zambia now had a university undergraduate course in nuclear physics; facilities for the peaceful application of radioisotopes, radiation techniques and nuclear analytical techniques in agriculture, medicine, mineral exploration and prospecting; and a modest radiation protection service.

45. In view of the shortage of time available to the General Conference, he would not go into the details of the projects that were receiving Agency assistance but would merely point out that, overall, 1982 had been a particularly good year as regards assistance provided to Zambia by the Agency. In view of its level of development, Zambia hoped that 1982 would be used as a reference point for future technical assistance in the application of nuclear science and technology for peaceful purposes. He hoped that the Agency's budgetary resources would reflect the important role which the applications of radioisotopes and radiation techniques in agriculture, the life sciences and mineral resources development could play in the development of the poorest Member States. He wished to take the opportunity to thank the Governments of Sweden and India for their assistance through the Agency's technical assistance and co-operation programme.

46. The Director General's report indicated that once again no anomaly had been detected which would have indicated diversion of safeguarded nuclear material or facilities for the manufacture of nuclear weapons or any other purpose. The Secretariat had successfully carried out its inspection duties. However, the number of facilities inspected represented only a very small fraction of the world's total nuclear facilities, and it was to be hoped that all would ultimately be subject to the Agency's safeguards system. The Agency's co-ordination and planning activities in areas such as nuclear power development forecasting, waste management and international plutonium storage had been very useful and should be continued.

47. The technical assistance and co-operation programme continued to be well managed and the resources available to it were relatively higher than in 1981; but the fact that many projects had footnote a/ status and that there were delays in receiving some contributions clearly showed the inadequacy and unpredictable nature of the financing arrangements for the programme. Even when footnote a/ projects had received financial support, that assistance had often been provided later than had been forecast in national implementation plans. His delegation had already stressed, both at previous sessions of the Conference and at Board meetings, that the technical assistance and co-operation programme was one of the Agency's two major activities and should be financed from the Regular Budget to guarantee predictable and assured resources. He was pleased that certain donor countries were showing increasing interest in footnote a/ projects and hoped that they would follow the principles of the Agency's technical assistance and co-operation programme in their decisions to support those projects. Zambia supported the Board's recent guidelines for the technical assistance and co-operation programme and hoped that future policy reviews of the programme would concentrate on the method of project financing.

48. The work of the Committee on Assurances of Supply (CAS) was very important in promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Although Zambia had not participated in the Committee's deliberations, it had closely followed its work and realized how complex and difficult it was. However, in view of the time devoted to that work and the pressing need to establish mechanisms to

facilitate supplies of nuclear material and technology for the benefit of all countries, more positive results should have been achieved. If CAS had made more rapid progress it could have made a significant contribution to preparations for the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy. He urged CAS and all those concerned to redouble their efforts to achieve the set objectives.

49. In view of the current difficulties, the 1984 budget had been very well prepared. However, although the estimates for the Agency's two most important programmes appeared comparable, at $36 692 000 for safeguards and $38 644 000 for technical assistance and co-operation, the latter programme would not be financed from assured resources, as were safeguards. Therefore, it was impossible to forecast from the budget exactly how the technical assistance and co-operation programme would be implemented in 1984. Nevertheless, Zambia endorsed the Agency's 1984 budget and pledged a voluntary contribution to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund in accordance with its base rate of assessment for 1984.

50. Fair representation in an international organization promoted democracy and mutual respect. However, although the General Conference was acquiring greater universality as new Members joined the Agency, the Board of Governors remained as unrepresentative as it had been over the past ten years. The Board had been examining for several years ways of redressing the balance in favour of the under-represented areas of Africa and the Middle East and South Asia. As yet, despite the self-evident need to do justice to those two regions, nothing had been changed. Zambia believed that there was no justification for refusing to correct that anomaly, which was contrary to common sense and fair play. He recalled the African proposal to give three more Board seats to Africa and two more to the Middle East and South Asia. The validity of that proposal appeared increasingly incontestable, and other proposals on the same issue had only complicated matters. He hoped that a just solution would be found without further delay.

51. The Agency's activities were dedicated to peace; yet there were still numerous areas of conflict in the world which threatened peace. The raison d'être of some régimes seemed to be to destablize the world so as to preserve

the privileges of a few. The South African régime continued to perfect and consolidate policies aimed at creating conflict, which threatened the peaceful development of Africa. It had begun to build up a nuclear arsenal to perpetuate its domestic policies of oppression and to carry out terrorist activities in neighbouring countries. Even the civil nuclear programmes established by that régime were designed to benefit only a few and to increase the country's industrial capacity so that its repressive policies could be maintained. Those Member States of the Agency which collaborated with the South African authorities and which assisted or in any way encouraged them in nuclear technology, for either military or civilian applications, were in effect threatening the peace in that country and in the region as a whole and acting contrary to the Agency's Statute. Fortunately, other Member States, acting collectively under the Statute, had shown their displeasure and condemnation of that régime's domestic and foreign policies. However, the international community still had a lot to do to enable the peoples of Southern Africa to develop peacefully. Positive effective action had to be taken to force the South African régime to renounce its domestic and foreign policies of oppression and to use its civilian nuclear programme for the benefit of all South Africans. He therefore urged the Agency and its Member States not only to continue effectively to isolate the South African régime but also to take positive measures which would ensure that the régime could not strengthen its military capability. Furthermore, all Member States should act in such a way as to leave South Africa with no alternative but to agree to place all its nuclear facilities under Agency safeguards. Zambia appreciated the measures taken by the Secretariat, in line with the relevant resolutions of the General Conference and of the United Nations General Assembly, to limit the participation of South Africa in the Agency's activities. It hoped that such action would be continued.

52. Mr. MORSHED (Bangladesh) shared the hope expressed by the Director General that the deliberations at the present session of the General Conference would be focused on the Agency's two main objectives - promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and preventing nuclear proliferation.

53. The entry of the People's Republic of China into the Agency was an important event. The Chinese people had always made striking contributions to the advance of science and technology and China's entry gave renewed hope to the developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, that the peaceful uses of nuclear energy would be better directed to suit the needs of the developing world.

54. Energy problems remained acute for all countries, particularly for developing countries which, like Bangladesh, also faced problems such as the need for increased imports of manufactured goods, high inflation rates, worsening terms of trade, and the rapid depletion of traditional energy resources. Major steps were needed to increase the supply of energy, including nuclear energy, in a planned and sustained manner to meet the increased demand imposed by development. However, nuclear energy development continued to raise a whole series of complex problems, and as a result nuclear power programmes in many countries were stagnating, while in others they were slowing down and in some they could not even be initiated. Those problems arose mainly because the nuclear industry was capital-intensive and costly, because capital was scarce, and because there were uncertainties regarding the transfer of technology, and ever-increasing controversy over nuclear safety, waste management and nuclear safeguards.

55. The Agency had greatly contributed to overcoming those problems. For its part, Bangladesh was observing its commitments to the Agency, having actively participated in Agency activities, particularly as a Member of the Board of Governors. The present session of the Conference should help to strengthen the Agency's role in various fields, particularly in technical assistance to developing countries. Those countries, and especially the least developed among them, had the greatest need for that assistance if they were to be successful in developing nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

56. Recently, the Agency's technical assistance programme had grown rapidly: from a modest training programme, it had come now to include a broad spectrum of applications in various fields of particular relevance to the developing countries. Bangladesh greatly appreciated the progress made so far; however, it believed that the scope and extent of the assistance programme

should be further widened. Moreover, the technical assistance programme for developing countries should occupy a more central place in the Agency's activities and be financed from the Regular Budget. Ensuring the future and the stability of the assistance programme in that way would be do much to enhance the Agency's usefulness.

57. Bangladesh also attached great importance to the Agency's efforts to develop and implement a credible safeguards system. It hoped that nuclear energy would be developed solely for peaceful purposes, and it was that concern for peace and stability which had prompted it to accede to NPT. It believed, however, that, in order for NPT or any other similar instrument to be successful, the signatory States must be assured of greater security and increased technical and economic benefits. In 1985, the NPT Review Conference should focus on studying ways and means of making the non-proliferation regime more viable through greater security and technical benefits for all parties to the Treaty. Such a step would supplement the Agency's overall effort to promote an effective safeguards system by generating confidence and fulfilling the just expectations of all concerned.

58. Finally, Bangladesh believed it was essential to increase representation of the developing countries at all levels of the Secretariat, as had been recognized in General Conference resolution GC(XXV)/RES/386. It hoped that steps would be taken to implement that resolution and that the number of nationals from developing countries would increase, particularly at the higher levels of the Secretariat, in order to fulfil the genuine aspirations of developing countries.

59. Mr. MARTINEZ COBO (OPANAL) said that the greatest challenge ever faced by mankind was to prevent nuclear war and the destruction of the human species. If human civilization was to be saved, it was necessary to abolish nuclear weapons right away, thereby removing the risks of nuclear conflict. That pressing need took precedence over all others.

60. The contribution made by Latin America to the political philosophy of peace and to international law in the field of disarmament had been demonstrated by the first and (so far) the only initiative to set up a nuclear-weapon-free zone in a densely populated region by establishing a system which ensured the total absence of nuclear weapons. The award,

in 1982, of the Nobel Peace Prize to the Mexican Alfonso García Robles, father of the Tlatelolco Treaty, reflected both universal recognition of the enormous significance of the Treaty and a tribute to the whole of Latin America, which had participated in the long work leading up to adoption of the Treaty in 1967.

61. During the week, Antigua and Barbados had joined the twenty-five countries which had signed the Tlatelolco Treaty. If one accepted the interpretation of the Vienna Convention that States which had subscribed to or ratified a treaty could not act in any way contrary to the objectives of that treaty, one could conclude that the Latin American nuclear-weapon-free zone, which covered almost the entire geographical area, would ensure that the majority of its inhabitants did not become victims of a nuclear holocaust.

62. All non-Latin-American States with territories in the area over which they had legal or de facto international responsibility had signed Protocol I of the Treaty, in which they pledged to keep those territories free from nuclear weapons; only ratification by France was lacking, and it was to be hoped that France would ratify Protocol I in the very near future.

63. By signing and ratifying Protocol II, the five nuclear Powers at present recognized as such had given a full guarantee to respect the sovereign decision of the Latin American people and had undertaken not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against the signatories of the Treaty.

64. OPANAL welcomed China's entry into the Agency and did not forget that the first and unique commitment regarding nuclear arms control taken by China had been its signature, ten years earlier, of the Tlatelolco Treaty; that had been a genuine gesture of friendship towards Latin America.

65. Relations between OPANAL and the Agency had always been, and would continue to be, excellent. Eighteen OPANAL Member States had concluded safeguards agreements and two others had initiated negotiations on such agreements. The unanimous wish of the OPANAL General Conference was that the agreement with Argentina, one of the most advanced Latin American countries, on the peaceful applications of nuclear energy should be rapidly concluded so that Argentina could become completely integrated into the Tlatelolco system by ratifying the Treaty. The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones would undoubtedly increase the security of non-nuclear-weapon States, limit

proliferation geographically and contribute effectively to reducing the likelihood of nuclear conflict. That was why the sustained efforts of the United Nations to create other zones should be supported by the international community and, in particular, by the Agency. He hoped that the path opened up by Latin America would soon be chosen by other areas which did not yet possess nuclear weapons, and OPANAL would be happy to share with them its fruitful experience of the past 16 years.

66. Mr. TÖRNUDD (Finland) warmly welcomed the entry of the People's Republic of China into the Agency and recalled that the widest possible participation of all States in the Agency's work was one of the basic prerequisites for its smooth functioning. With the membership of China, a State representing a quarter of the world's population and a permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council, all States of the world using nuclear power were now Members of the Agency.

67. Now that such an important step towards the Agency's universality had been taken, Finland hoped that there would be no more attempts to exclude any Member State from the Agency on political grounds. Member States should, on the contrary, endeavour to reduce the level of controversy and give priority to the specialized matters falling within the Agency's mandate.

68. One of the merits of the Agency, within the United Nations family of organizations, had been its ability to adapt its programme to changes, qualitative and quantitative, in the needs of Member States using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. To maintain their present excellence, the Agency's activities should be kept under continuous critical review and should receive the support of all Member States, particularly those with the widest experience and the most advanced nuclear power programmes. In the Agency's long-term programme, emphasis had shifted from simple exploitation of radiation to nuclear electricity generation. Finland welcomed that trend, though it had to be recognized that a large number of Member States were more interested in other applications. The Agency should be able to provide advice and assistance concerning not only the advantages but also the problems connected with nuclear electricity generation and other projects requiring substantial investments.

69. Finland welcomed the results of the technical co-operation policy review conducted by the Board. It was financial problems that had limited the possibilities of technical co-operation. Finland supported the financing of technical co-operation programmes through voluntary contributions but believed that the targets should be increased. It had pledged its full share for 1984 and would continue to provide certain extrabudgetary resources for the Agency's technical co-operation activities.

70. The structure of Finland's nuclear industry was special in that Finland bought all the uranium and fuel cycle services it needed from other countries, not only from principal suppliers but also from many other countries, in the East and the West. The main components for nuclear power plants had been imported, an arrangement which had given Finland unique expertise and enabled it to assist the Agency more and more in transferring knowledge on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, in particular to countries where the nuclear and technical infrastructure was limited and which were dependent, like Finland, on supplies from abroad.

71. The Finnish national economy had considerably benefited from nuclear power, and its nuclear power plants were operating highly satisfactorily. Concern regarding the safe operation of nuclear reactors had been alleviated to some extent, but the problem of waste management had come very much to the forefront of public debate and had in turn affected considerations regarding acceptable solutions for the back-end of the fuel cycle. Nuclear safety and nuclear waste management were two areas of concern which were not specific to any one country, and Finland hoped to benefit from information collected and disseminated by the Agency. Finland would like to see the Agency become a major centre for attempts to reach a world-wide consensus on certain aspects of safety and waste management which could greatly influence decisions on the large-scale use of nuclear energy and its acceptability in all countries, since many of them faced the same problem.

72. Finland welcomed the new steps which, in addition to the almost-completed nuclear safety standards programme, had been taken recently by the Agency in the field of nuclear safety. Reports on nuclear safety were now published regularly each year, and the International Incident Reporting System, which was already operating between Member States of the Nuclear Energy Agency of

OECD, could be extended to all Member States of the Agency. He hoped that such a step would help to alleviate concern and improve the already laudable safety record of nuclear energy. The idea of developing nuclear safety philosophies and basic safety criteria within the Agency was worth consideration. A high-level commission of worldwide composition, established through the Agency, could be of great benefit to all Member States, and not only to those which were in an early stage of their nuclear power programmes.

73. Finland had followed with interest and had actively participated in the Agency's work in the field of nuclear waste management, and felt confident that the results would be valuable. The International Conference on Nuclear Waste Management in May 1983 had been successful. The idea, mentioned by the Director General in his statement, of establishing internationally accepted generic criteria for waste disposal deserved serious attention.

74. The Agency's safeguards activities were one of its most important tasks. According to the annual report for 1982, nuclear material under Agency safeguards in 1982 had been used in peaceful nuclear activities or had been otherwise adequately accounted for. That was a welcome result. A matter for concern, however, was to be seen in the fact that four non-nuclear-weapon States had unsafeguarded nuclear facilities, in operation or under construction, which could produce material for military purposes. It was essential, as his delegation had emphasized on a number of occasions, that all nuclear material in non-nuclear-weapon States should be used only under international safeguards.

75. In order for the Agency's safeguards to be applied universally, the acceptance of "full-scope safeguards" should be a prerequisite for nuclear exports to non-nuclear-weapon States. States submitting all their activities to international safeguards should, in return, not only be given preferential treatment and receive the fullest possible assurances of supply from the supplying States, but also receive security assurances eliminating the danger of nuclear threats from nuclear-weapon States. He recalled his Government's suggestion that common export requirements should be complemented by common import requirements. Member States could commit themselves to buy nuclear material and other equipment only from those countries which followed nuclear export policies designed to prevent proliferation. A comprehensive framework

combining assurances of supply and non-proliferation could be established. That subject should be examined as soon as possible.

76. The Committee on Assurances of Supply had been working for more than three years. Finland was glad that it had reached a consensus on emergency and back-up mechanisms. Progress had also been made in discussions on the principles for assuring nuclear supply on a more predictable and long-term basis. Finland regretted that the Committee had not reached agreement on non-proliferation conditions to be applied in nuclear co-operation and trade. Resolution 37/167 of the General Assembly, on the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (UNCPICPUNE), had regrettably cut the essential link between preparations for the Conference and the results of the work being done by CAS. The work of the Committee should nevertheless be pursued. By its very nature CAS was a central political forum for discussions on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The factual situation in that field was continuously changing, thus adding new aspects to the work of the Committee.

77. The Expert Group on International Plutonium Storage (IPS) had completed its work in October 1982 and submitted its report to the Director General. Finland awaited with interest the decision by the Board of Governors concerning further development of the IPS concept, which would be an important addition to the Agency's safeguards system.

78. The Preparatory Committee for UNCPICPUNE had not yet reached agreement on an agenda and rules of procedure, so the Conference had, regrettably, been postponed. Some basic political differences lay behind the formal arguments. Under such conditions, it would be reasonable to consider the possibility of postponing preparatory work on the Conference for some time.

79. Preparations for the Third NPT Review Conference were also under way. The success of the Conference would depend to some extent on the result of the Geneva negotiations between the Soviet Union and the United States on strategic and medium-range nuclear forces. Also, it was very important to make further progress in efforts to negotiate a complete nuclear test ban treaty. Not all the objectives of the Non-Proliferation Treaty had yet been achieved, particularly with regard to the so-called vertical proliferation referred to in Article IV of the Treaty. His Government believed that that

fact did not detract from the value of NPT in preventing horizontal proliferation. The Agency was continuing to provide technical assistance, in the nuclear field, to developing countries; Finland supported that activity and believed that it should be regarded also as a contribution to the implementation of Article IV of NPT.

80. Finland was very interested in the Agency's work. That interest was quite natural in view of the fact that nuclear power in Finland accounted for over 40% of total electricity production. The Finnish parliament would shortly be considering a bill for comprehensive nuclear energy legislation which concerned, amongst other issues, decision-making procedures on new nuclear power plants and the financing of nuclear waste management by the power companies. Finland was, of course, ready to share its experience in that area with other countries.

81. Member States of the United Nations had entrusted the Agency with the task of promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and Finland therefore considered the Agency, as an autonomous international organization, to be an ideal international forum for developing the principles to govern the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. It would be necessary to strengthen the role of the Agency in that respect as well as its functions in implementing safeguards and carrying out other tasks entrusted to it.

The meeting was suspended at 5 p.m. and resumed at 8.45 p.m.

82. Mr. BARUTCU (Turkey) stressed the important contribution to the Agency's universality which the membership of the People's Republic of China would make; he trusted that China would fulfil all its statutory obligations and enjoy the rights and privileges that derived from the Agency's Statute.

83. States were becoming increasingly dependent on each other in most international transactions, particularly in the field of nuclear energy. In that sense the IAEA provided a unique mechanism, for it was the only universal institution which was directly and solely involved in international nuclear co-operation. Its dual functions - promotional activities on the one hand and regulatory activities on the other - generated confidence among both supplier and recipient Member States. The expansion of nuclear energy was consequently being ensured, through the Agency's surveillance, against possible non-peaceful applications.

84. As the Agency's work covered such a broad range of subjects, one had to concentrate upon what seemed to be the most important items. One such item was the work of the Committee on Assurances of Supply (CAS), whose tenth session was due to be held in December 1983 in Vienna. He was pleased to note the substantial progress achieved during the ninth session of CAS. Although some brackets in some of the "Principles of international co-operation in the field of nuclear energy" remained, the Committee had been able to accept reformulations of several draft principles. That was a major achievement for CAS, and the Committee deserved congratulation. In addition, adoption of CAS Working Group 2's report on "Emergency and back-up mechanisms" was a meaningful achievement which opened the way for the implementation by the Agency of such a mechanism. He hoped that subsequent sessions of CAS would demonstrate a similar flexible and constructive approach, leading to greater agreement in all areas of the Committee's work. More progress in CAS would undoubtedly have repercussions on the work of other international fora, such as the Third NPT Review Conference and UNCPICPUNE, due to take place in 1985 and 1986 respectively.

85. With regard to the implementation of the Agency's technical assistance and co-operation programmes, he was happy to note that the total delivery of assistance by the Agency in 1982 had amounted to US $40 million - 18% more than the 1981 figure. He was also happy to note that extrabudgetary contributions had reached a record level of US $9 million in 1982. Consequently, the implementation of footnote a/ projects had doubled, representing 63% of the value of all requests in that category. Contributors of extrabudgetary funds and contributors in kind would, he hoped, continue to act in 1983 as they had done in 1982.

86. He noted with satisfaction the increase in the total number of assignments carried out in 1982 by experts but regretted the fact that in 1982, according to document GC(XXVII)/INF/212, 1197 man-months of expert services had remained undelivered. The timely recruitment and assignment of experts were extremely important for recipient countries, as delays impeded the implementation of projects. However, he was grateful to the Agency for the technical assistance delivered for his country's projects, in 1982 as in 1983. The Agency's new methods of delivering technical assistance and the concepts of dynamic programming, over-programming and multi-year projects deserved support.

87. Turkey's voluntary contribution to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund for 1984 would be in proportion to its base rate of assessment.

88. As to the energy situation in Turkey, demand had been increasing at a rate of 12% per year; installed capacity in 1982 had reached 6640 MW; and production had attained 27 114 GWh, which undoubtedly represented quite a small per capita figure when compared with other European countries. It was expected that installed capacity would reach 39 000 MW by the year 2000, and that production would reach 165 000 GWh. When those targets were achieved, the average per capita electricity figure would reach 2300 kWh. Hydraulic potential was estimated to be approximately 100 000 GWh. Lignite resources were estimated at 6 billion tons. If 80% of the country's hydroelectric potential was to be used, hydro power stations with an aggregate capacity of 20 000 MW would have to be built. Assuming that further lignite power stations with a capacity of 13 000 MW were added, that would still leave a gap of 6000 MW to be filled by nuclear power. Such a figure had appeared to be beyond his country's capabilities and had consequently been halved, so a programme to create 3000 MW of installed nuclear capacity had been initiated.

89. Turkey was endeavouring to complete plans for the construction of its first nuclear power station, and to that end had been studying various offers made by major exporters. A decision by the Turkish Government would determine the type of reactor to be constructed. The country's proven thorium reserves were of the order of 380 000 tonnes; in addition, 500 000 tonnes of possible reserves had been estimated. Research aimed at the eventual use of those reserves had already been initiated, and he believed the Agency's contribution in that connection would be most valuable. The existence of thorium reserves in Turkey augured well for further uranium potential, and uranium prospecting was continuing. He believed that uranium reserves would reach 10 000 tonnes as a result of future surveys, scheduled for 1984.

90. Plans also existed for yellow cake production parallel to the construction of the first nuclear power station. The Agency's co-operation in that field would be highly appreciated by his Government.

91. Commenting on the relationship between nuclear trade and non-proliferation concerns, he expressed his conviction that nuclear trade and the nuclear market should in no way be affected by the concerns of non-proliferation. Mutual confidence and liberal trade on a non-discriminatory basis would pave the way for a smoothly functioning market mechanism, which would in turn contribute to the progress of developing countries and also benefit the economies of the exporting countries.

92. In conclusion, he reiterated his conviction that the Agency would continue to play its unique role in developing and expanding nuclear co-operation amongst its Members.

93. Mr. GROZA (Romania) welcomed the admission of the People's Republic of China to the Agency, which would strengthen the Agency's analytical and decision-making ability and increase its universality.

94. The present session of the General Conference was taking place in a tense international climate and at a time of unprecedented escalation of the arms race which threatened the peace, independence and lives of all peoples. The Romanian delegation felt great concern at the extremely harmful effects of the arms race on the social and economic development of all States, and in particular on that of the developing countries.

95. The President of the Socialist Republic of Romania had stressed that the fundamental problem of the present time was to stop the arms race and to bring about disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament.

96. There could be no possible justification for an armaments policy. Everything should be done to stop the stationing in Europe, in 1983, of medium-range nuclear weapons, and those weapons which already existed should be withdrawn and destroyed.

97. Firm action was necessary to remove force and the threat of force from international relations and to resolve all problems and conflicts between States through peaceful negotiations. At the present time the most pressing need was to avert war, to preserve peace and the security and life of all peoples, and to eliminate the threat of a nuclear catastrophe.

98. Romania believed that efforts should be stepped up to strengthen the role of the United Nations specialized agencies in the fight against underdevelopment and for the establishment of a new international economic

order, and to increase the contribution made by science and technology to the social and economic development of nations, particularly the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

99. Romania was a strong advocate of promoting the unhampered transfer of nuclear technology, materials and equipment to non-nuclear countries, and of wide, unrestricted access for all countries - regardless of size, level of development or social system - to the achievements of science and modern technology, and to all peaceful applications of nuclear energy. It was necessary to create conditions which would enable developing countries to benefit fully from those achievements in attempting to eliminate underdevelopment, to exploit national resources and to make rapid economic and social progress. To that end it was necessary to strengthen international co-operation on the basis of full equality, respect for independence and national sovereignty, and non-interference in States' internal affairs, to the mutual benefit of all concerned. He therefore urged Member States to do everything in their power to enhance the Agency's contribution towards wide international co-operation for developing the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

100. Romania, in accordance with its view that all disputes between States should be resolved through negotiations, had strongly condemned the air raid carried out by Israeli forces on the nuclear research centre in Iraq.

101. The Romanian Government appreciated the Agency's work during the last year, notably its achievements in nuclear power, technical assistance and co-operation, training of national staff, nuclear safety, and the social and economic applications of nuclear techniques and methods. At the same time, it believed that a policy should be pursued which would result in a more efficient use of material and financial resources, particularly for those activities associated with the Agency's basic function of promoting international co-operation and supporting the efforts of Member States, particularly those of developing countries, in introducing and developing nuclear power.

102. His delegation wished to reiterate the request it had made in the Board, in June, for a strict system of economies, the most efficient use of funds possible, the elimination of all non-economic expenses, and a substantial reduction of the funds set aside for regulatory activities and

administration. In that way, it believed, the 1984 budget could be reduced by 1.2% or at least remain the same as the 1983 budget. Unless that were achieved, Romania could not support adoption of the budget.

103. He expressed the hope that the Secretariat would make efficient use of the 1984 budgetary funds and would have achieved substantial economies by the end of the financial year.

104. Romania aimed to become independent in terms of energy and to supply most of its own raw material needs by the end of the present decade. Consequently, in its priority programmes particular emphasis was being placed on the intensive development of energy and raw materials, nuclear power included. Scientific and technological research had been strengthened with a view to the development of advanced industries, particularly those related to nuclear power, chemistry, microelectronics, electronics and electrotechnics, automation, and high-alloy steels. Romania was also giving special attention to fundamental research. Its research, technical engineering, design and production in the field of nuclear energy and physics were all directed to exploiting the country's natural resources, producing the new products and materials that could be derived from modern technology, developing new sources of energy, and improving existing technology.

105. The previous year, his Government had taken steps to accelerate the construction of nuclear power stations and to increase the country's installed nuclear capacity. In 1990 the installed nuclear capacity would be 4500 MW and by 1995 would rise to 9600 MW. The Cernavodă nuclear power station would have 5 units, each with an installed capacity of 660 MW. Construction of the first two units was progressing smoothly and the first unit was due to be put into operation in 1986. A similar power station, construction of which was to begin the following year, would be sited in Transylvania, and one or two units would be operational by 1990. The third power station, with three units, each of 1000 MW, would be sited in Moldavia, and its first unit was scheduled to go into service in 1990.

106. There had been fruitful co-operation in the past year between Romania and the Agency. He appreciated the efficient technical assistance which had helped Romania solve a number of major technological problems and problems of applied and fundamental research.

107. In conclusion, he expressed Romania's continued support for the Agency, along with the hope that the Agency would make ever larger contributions towards solving the problems of its Member States, particularly developing countries, so that they could benefit fully from the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in their social and economic development.

108. Mr. DALKHSUREN (Mongolia) said that the world was going through a critical phase marked by attempts of reactionary forces to gain supremacy in the world by means of an unprecedented build-up of nuclear armaments. The socialist countries, by contrast, were putting forward peace proposals aimed at limiting, reducing and, eventually, totally eliminating nuclear armaments. His delegation was especially concerned at the reluctance of a certain State and its allies to enter into an agreement on a complete and general nuclear test ban. The IAEA should act on its mandate in that regard and encourage negotiations on the reduction of nuclear armaments.

109. As a signatory of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, Mongolia was concerned at the continuing difficulties in securing its full implementation and urged the Agency to intensify its efforts in that regard. In particular, a number of so-called threshold countries had still not acceded to the Treaty, which limited its effectiveness and universality. He shared the concern expressed by the Director General at the opening of the Conference session and urged all Member States that had not yet done so to sign agreements on safeguards with the Agency as soon as possible.

110. In connection with the Israeli attack on an Iraqi research reactor in 1981, he recalled the proposal made by the Soviet Union at the thirty-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly to the effect that conventional military attacks on nuclear installations should be regarded as equivalent to a nuclear attack, in other words as a most serious assault on mankind. The attack in question had been launched in defiance of the Agency's safeguards system, which was the basis of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Mongolia condemned Israel's refusal to put its nuclear facilities under Agency safeguards and for its aggressive policy generally. His delegation was in favour of imposing unmitigated sanctions against Israel under Article VII of the United Nations Charter.

111. His delegation continued to support the idea of giving priority in technical assistance to those countries which had signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty and had entered into safeguards agreements with the Agency. That idea represented an important moral and political factor enhancing the responsibility of the Agency in the field of technical co-operation. His country was a beneficiary of the Agency's technical assistance programme and wholeheartedly endorsed the Agency's activities in that field. In particular, it welcomed the decision of the Board of Governors to recommend an increase in the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund to $22.5 million in 1984, and also the indicative planning figures for subsequent years. Mongolia, for its part, would continue to make its voluntary contribution to the Fund. His delegation still believed that technical assistance should be directed towards the least developed countries in the first place and that contributions to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund should be made on a voluntary basis.

112. He was convinced that the Agency could benefit from the considerable experience of the socialist countries in a variety of areas and that its co-operation with the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance and the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research in Dubna could and should be intensified.

113. In the draft budget for 1984, his delegation approved the sections dealing with safeguards, nuclear power, nuclear safety, the further development of INIS, and technical assistance. His country was grateful for the Agency's assistance in preparing national programmes for the utilization of atomic energy and hoped it would continue in the future. He was glad to note that in the current year highly qualified Agency experts had been to Mongolia on study and training missions to introduce recent innovations in nuclear science. A number of radioimmunological laboratories using radioisotopes for medical diagnosis were already in operation and work on the establishment of a radiobiology laboratory in Darkhan had commenced with direct assistance from the Agency.

114. In conclusion, he extended his best wishes to the Secretariat for continuing success in its work and expressed the wish that the current Conference session would make a contribution to peaceful co-operation among nations in the field of science.

115. Mr. MALU wa KALENGA (Zaire) said that, when he had first taken the floor at a Conference session, in 1963, there had been a general feeling that the work of a technical organization such as the Agency should not be paralysed by cold war politics. The current resumption of the cold war coincided with a worrying tendency within the IAEA to conduct debates from entrenched positions and a lack of co-operative spirit quite out of keeping with the Agency's traditional image of technical pragmatism. A compromise of the kind that had brought about the Agency's safeguards system no longer appeared possible in the prevailing atmosphere of "all or nothing".

116. One example of that trend was the protracted discussion on the Israeli attack on a nuclear research reactor in Iraq. If that fruitless debate was to be brought to an end at last, two things would have to be understood: on the one hand, it must be realized that nuclear reactors were not military targets and never should be, and that compensation should be paid for the incident in question; and, on the other hand, that no matter how regrettable and reprehensible the first attack of that kind had been, it should not be used as a pretext to engage in Middle East politics within the IAEA.

117. Another contentious point was the Agency's safeguards system. It was essential to do everything possible to prevent the abuse of nuclear research and development activities for military purposes. Reservations of Governments about the programme were increasing, however, because some felt that a disproportionate amount of resources was being allocated to safeguards. In order to remedy that situation, the Secretariat had launched a praiseworthy rationalization programme which, however, was encountering rather surprising procedural obstacles on the part of some Member Governments. While some suppliers of nuclear material and services were understandably reluctant to disclose sensitive information, there could surely be no reason why financial reports and descriptive information on material balances should not be duly forwarded. A willingness on the part of Governments to co-operate and to compromise was more important than ever at a time when inspections were revealing an increasing number of discrepancies and anomalies. That trend became all the more worrying if there was reason to believe that it indicated a concerted strategy for the diversion of civil nuclear material for military purposes.

118. A related problem was the degree of confidence to be placed in the Secretariat's conclusions on safeguards. That depended not only on the terms of the safeguards agreements with the various States and operators of nuclear facilities but also on the financial and staff resources and equipment available to the Agency. Taken in their entirety, those conclusions presented a surprising degree of uncertainty. The problem therefore consisted in finding the right balance between reducing the uncertainty inherent in the existing system as quickly as possible and avoiding undue budgetary burdens. One possible solution might be to renegotiate some of the safeguards agreements so as to simplify the task of inspectors and thus reduce the Agency's costs. Again, that proposal required a certain amount of good will on all sides.

119. Other areas of disagreement in which both sides were becoming increasingly intransigent were the financing of technical assistance and the proposed amendment to Article VI.A.2 of the Statute. With regard to the latter, it would be useful if the African Group withdrew its demand for three seats on the Board of Governors, with two for South Asia and the Middle East, and agreed to a compromise solution that was more acceptable to some of the European countries.

120. All the problems he had mentioned were amenable to compromise. If it had been possible in the past, there was no reason why it should not be possible again.

121. In conclusion, he repeated an idea he had put forward some years previously, to the effect that the general debate could be considerably shortened if delegations submitted technical details on their nuclear programmes to the Secretariat in writing.

122. Mr. BADDOU (Morocco) welcomed the admission of the People's Republic of China to the Agency and was sure that the Agency would benefit from China's experience in the field of nuclear energy.

123. In 1982, 86% of Morocco's primary energy consumption and 70% of its electricity needs had been covered by imported oil products. The dependence on imported oil was likely to increase as a result of an average annual

increase in consumption of 6% for primary energy and 9% for electricity. Consequently, it was necessary to implement an energy policy adapted to the new situation created by the rise in oil prices.

124. The National Energy Plan had been based on a number of guidelines, among which the most important were (1) rapid mobilization of the country's unexploited hydro potential, representing 2.8 million MWh out of a total 4.6 million MWh; (2) development of research on and exploitation of national coal reserves; (3) exploitation of national natural gas resources and increased research on hydrocarbons; (4) use of imported coal in preference to oil, particularly for producing electricity in thermal power stations; (5) exploitation of bituminuous schists; (6) exploitation of uranium contained in phosphates and introduction of nuclear power for long-term electricity production; (7) development of renewable energy sources such as solar energy, wind energy and biomass to help meet local needs, particularly in isolated areas a long way from electricity grids; and (8) rationalization of energy consumption and encouragement of energy savings in both the industrial and the domestic sector.

125. National energy sources currently exploited had, so far, only been able to meet a small fraction of the country's energy needs. The use of nuclear energy to produce electricity appeared to be a viable alternative and was better than importing coal. The uranium content of Moroccan phosphates was a major asset, and nuclear energy was more economical than traditional forms of energy.

126. Following the two Agency missions which had advised the National Electricity Office on aspects of "planning" and "preparation for site selection studies", Morocco had thought it wise to secure the services of a specialist to deal with all the studies (feasibility, site selection and so on) required up to the point of establishing the call for tenders to build, on a "turnkey" basis, the first power station in the country's nuclear power programme. To that end a site and feasibility study agreement had just been signed with the Société Française d'Etudes et de Réalisations Nucléaires (SOFRATOME).

127. Morocco attached great importance to research on and the extraction of uranium. Uranium prospecting had revealed promising areas. Research carried out by OCP (the national phosphate authority) since 1974 on uranium extraction from phosphates during the production of phosphoric acid had enabled an ambitious programme to be set up which aimed, in the medium term (by 1990), at an annual extraction of 500 tonnes of uranium oxide in yellow-cake form, rising to 1000 tonnes by the end of the century.

128. Morocco's Ministry of Energy and Mines had acquired a TRIGA MARK I research reactor of 100 kW which later on could operate at much higher power levels. That reactor, designed for teaching and fundamental research as well as training national staff, was now to be installed at the Rabat National School of the Mineral Industry. Morocco would be wanting the Agency's assistance at different stages of the project, and particularly at the final stage when formulating the safety report, putting the reactor into operation and arranging any necessary staff training. Studies on the project, which obviously would have an essential role to play, particularly in view of the long-term nuclear power programme, had been given to the National Electricity Office.

129. A successful interregional seminar on nuclear law and regulatory matters had been held at Rabat from 30 May to 4 June 1983; it had dealt in particular with the regulatory questions involved in preparing and implementing a nuclear power programme.

130. The introduction of atomic energy in Morocco covered many vital sectors of the national economy such as agriculture, health, geology and electricity production. Morocco would require the Agency's assistance in implementing its nuclear programme, particularly in the areas of research and training, and the framing of safety regulations for its nuclear installations.

131. He hoped that all countries in a position similar to Morocco's would be supported by the Agency, and by all advanced countries, without threat or constraint.

132. Morocco shared the concern of previous speakers that the Agency's technical and scientific vocation should not be disrupted by extraneous issues.

133. However, one could not help observing Israel's continuing refusal to make any amends for the outrage to the world's conscience and the damage to the credibility of the Agency's safeguards system caused by its attack on the Iraqi nuclear research reactor, and its threat to repeat such aggression against Iraq or any other Arab State if that was deemed to be in Israel's interests. The consequences of not resolving the issue satisfactorily could be very serious. The request of the Iraqi delegation to bring the issue before the Conference had been prompted not by any desire to disrupt the Conference's work but by the belief that Israel's aggression remained a matter of contemporary concern. Israel's aggressive intentions could hardly be better illustrated than by an article in the magazine "Jeune Afrique" of 19 September reporting an interview with Mr. Begin, in which the latter had said that the destruction of the Iraqi nuclear research reactor was the action, during his six years as Prime Minister, to which he attached the greatest importance and in which he took the greatest pride. Thus the issue of Israel's military attack must remain open until a just solution, in keeping with international moral sensibilities, had been found to protect the rights of the victim of the aggression and the credibility of the Agency.

134. The General Conference was called upon, for the third time, to assume its responsibilities in putting an end to the arrogance of a country which, like South Africa, sought to benefit fully from the advantages offered by the Agency without submitting to its fundamental principles.

135. Mr. ZANGGER (Switzerland) said that his delegation welcomed the admission of the People's Republic of China to the Agency, an event which represented a major step towards the universality of the international nuclear community.

136. As in most other countries, the most serious obstacles to nuclear development in Switzerland were the misgivings of some sections of the public, economic stagnation and restricted access to various fuel cycle services. However, his Government had achieved some success in dealing with those problems. For instance, 30% of Switzerland's electricity needs were covered by its four nuclear power plants, a further nuclear power plant - with a capacity of 1000 MW(e) - was to be commissioned, at Leibstadt, in 1984, and progress had been made in the geological research programme for the storage of radioactive waste.

137. However, it was expected that a referendum consequent on an anti-nuclear initiative aimed at banning all construction of nuclear power plants in the future would be conducted in 1984, five years after the first referendum of its kind. That initiative was also, by implication, directed against the planned construction of a plant at Kaiseraugst. The Swiss Government had firmly rejected the initiative, which it felt would seriously restrict its freedom of manoeuvre in shaping an energy policy.

138. Turning to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), he noted that three years previously INFCE's results had been published and submitted to the Committee on Assurances of Supply, whose main task it was to harmonize non-proliferation guarantees and assurances of supply in a dynamic equilibrium; at the same time, the Second NPT Review Conference had come to an end after narrowly avoiding a complete impasse. The poor results of the latter were due chiefly to its failure to achieve the balance foreseen by NPT, namely that between non-proliferation on the one hand and, on the other, the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and the development of international co-operation in nuclear affairs. While it was undeniable that the parts of the Treaty concerning non-proliferation had operated well during the first decade of its existence, fresh, increasingly restrictive non-proliferation measures applicable to both parties and non-parties were continually being introduced and inevitably hampered the development of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Furthermore, there seemed to be no real hope of a substantial improvement in the situation.

139. His delegation felt obliged to point out that proliferation was primarily a political issue. No non-proliferation system could prove successful without offering the participating States convincing benefits in return. Those benefits should take on tangible form, both in peaceful nuclear co-operation and in nuclear disarmament, as provided by NPT.

140. The Swiss delegation wished to commend the Agency on its success in applying the safeguards system.

141. Referring to the Director General's statement, he noted his delegation's satisfaction at the appeal which it contained to ratify Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions, the aim of which was to improve the protection of civilian populations in the event of an armed conflict. The Swiss

Government, which was the depositary of the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols and which had convened the diplomatic conferences resulting in those instruments, hoped that as many States as possible would ratify the Protocols.

142. The Agency's work in nuclear safety was valuable, and he was particularly pleased to acknowledge the importance and usefulness of the safety codes and guides for the commonest types of nuclear power plant, the preparation of international assistance measures to be taken in the event of a nuclear emergency (of interest to small countries and to those with plants located near a frontier), research into the risks presented by nuclear power as compared with other energy sources and, lastly, the international exchange of information and experience on incidents at specific facilities.

143. International co-operation in radioactive waste management was also particularly important. The first task facing the Agency was to establish as quickly as possible the feasibility of disposal systems of proven long-term reliability. His delegation was actively encouraging the initiatives already taken by the Agency. Joint demonstration projects should then be carried out with a view to enhancing public acceptance of nuclear power. Finally, the long-term aim of international co-operation should be to construct multinational waste repositories in areas offering the best technical safety conditions.

144. Turning to nuclear research and development in Switzerland, he outlined the work being carried out by the Federal Reactor Research Institute, at Würenlingen, which was mainly concerned with three areas: safety and the environment, the technology of advanced reactor concepts and the fuel cycle. In the first area, the Institute was endeavouring to determine with greater precision the safety margins of present-generation reactors and to gain a deeper understanding of various specific phenomena. As to the technology of advanced concepts, work was in progress - using the PROTEUS reactor - on the physics of advanced pressurized-water reactors with a view to improving fuel utilization and the recycling of plutonium in light-water plants. Other research related to high-temperature reactors and breeder reactors.

145. In the third area, the Institute at Würenlingen had developed a new type of fuel, consisting of mixed uranium and plutonium carbides in the form of microspheres.

146. With respect to radioactive waste management, the National Co-operative for Radioactive Waste Storage (CEDRA) was currently engaged in drilling boreholes in crystalline subsoils with a view to identifying suitable sites for the construction of deep repositories for high-level radioactive waste. Three shallow-ground sites were also under study, for the disposal of low- and intermediate-level radioactive wastes.

147. The most important task facing the Federal Institute of Atomic Engineering, at Lausanne, was to design a hybrid "fusion-fission" reactor operating with an intense fast-neutron source and producing uranium-233 and tritium. That experiment had been made possible through a loan by the Bhabha Centre of 1600 barrels of thorium oxide, for which his delegation wished to thank the Indian Government.

148. In the field of thermonuclear fusion, a priority area in Swiss research, investigations were being carried out within the context of the EURATOM programmes, the JET (Joint European Torus) project and IEA (International Energy Agency) programmes. Switzerland's nuclear industry was closely associated with the work of the Federal Institutes and would be delivering one of the six large superconductor coils for the "Large Coil TASK" project being conducted by IEA at Oak Ridge.

149. Swiss industry was also active in the promotion of fission energy and had been primarily engaged in the development of the high-temperature reactor in collaboration with the Federal Republic of Germany. In that connection, it hoped to concentrate on the new HTR-500 project.

150. In conclusion, he stated his delegation's view that the best approach to resolving the many problems facing the international community in the nuclear sphere lay in multilateral co-operation on the widest possible scale. The Agency was the most appropriate forum for such co-operation. The interdependence of countries in nuclear affairs should serve to promote the cause of international co-operation and, ultimately, a rapprochement among the peoples of the world.

151. Mr. WANGURU (Kenya) congratulated the People's Republic of China on its admission to the Agency. China's great human resources, its nuclear capability, and its contribution to peace in Asia, Africa and other parts of the world, were familiar to all.

152. Technical assistance received from the Agency had enabled Kenya to set up the Centre for Nuclear Techniques at the University of Nairobi, and also a department of nuclear medicine at Kenya's National Hospital which had developed diagnostic techniques and advanced methods of cancer treatment. Kenya hoped to receive further assistance in establishing two more centres. Agency assistance had also proved valuable in connection with the introduction of non-destructive quality control tests for highway and building materials, which had reduced testing times and hence the cost of road construction. Nuclear techniques were being used more intensively in agriculture, too, notably in animal health control and veterinary science.

153. As to the Agency's accounts for 1982 (GC(XXVII)/685), statement V.B. on the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund showed unliquidated obligations amounting to US $11 098 791 at the end of 1982, which represented approximatley 74% of total obligations for the year - a high figure, linked presumably with the problem of recruiting experts and placing fellows. For some fellowships awarded in Kenya back in 1980 or 1981 suitable institutions had still not been found. He accordingly wanted to appeal to Member States with appropriate facilities to give as much assistance as possible, so that Kenya could place its fellows and develop its nuclear science activities.

154. The six-year delay in reaching a decision on the question of increased representation on the Board of the geographical areas at present under-represented was most regrettable, and he urged that the question be resolved rapidly. A point to be noted was that certain specialized agencies of the United Nations had larger governing bodies than the Agency.

155. Kenya, with no evidence of any fossil fuel of its own and limited hydro and geothermal capacity, was anticipating an energy shortage in the near future if population growth continued as expected and if it tried to maintain the planned economic growth rate and improved the quality of life as desired. The Agency's assistance would be most valuable in any analysis of the feasibility of introducing nuclear power in Kenya.

156. The Agency did not appear to have been very successful in securing public acceptance of nuclear power. An organized campaign with that goal might relieve Member States of heavy expenditure associated with national

legislative measures and public relations efforts. Public confidence and the confidence of legislative bodies, particularly in operational safety and the management of nuclear wastes, were essential.

157. While accepting complete and universal safeguards, all parties to NPT should have full access to nuclear material, equipment and information. The right to fuel cycle services guaranteed under NPT needed a clear, internationally acceptable definition.

158. The Agency's technical assistance and co-operation activities had been very successful, but more emphasis should be placed on multi-year programmes to encourage forward planning, as that would give projects a better chance of success.

159. Kenya welcomed the work of the Committee on Assurances of Supply. However, the mechanisms evolved to govern fuel supply should not be subject to political considerations nor to any compulsion in respect of quality, quantity or geographical location.

160. Kenya appreciated the efforts being made to recruit Secretariat staff in accordance with the principle of broad geographical distribution, and believed that the training of safeguards inspectors from developing countries would help rectify the regional imbalance in that important department of the Agency.

161. Mr. IONESCU CAZANA (Namibia) welcomed the admission of the People's Republic of China to membership of the IAEA. China was both a permanent member of the Security Council and a member of the United Nations Council for Namibia, and as such had a significant role to play in the preservation of world peace and security.

162. He was sure that at its twenty-seventh session the General Conference would declare its resolve - a resolve that had been reaffirmed by the international community on many occasions - to work towards the self-determination and independence of Namibia. He was sure that the Conference would also condemn the fact that the people of Namibia, in an age in which mankind had achieved mastery of the atom, was still the victim of colonial exploitation by the racist régime of Pretoria. The march of history might be delayed, but it could never be halted, and one day it would record in its annals the victory of the valiant fighters of SWAPO and the Namibian people.

163. Referring to the section entitled "Matters of special interest to the Agency discussed by the General Assembly of the United Nations" in the introduction to the annual report for 1982 (GC(XXVII)/684), he noted that the General Assembly had welcomed the approval by the General Conference of Namibia for membership of the Agency. Namibia had in fact become a Member of the Agency on 17 February 1983, five months after the adoption of resolution GC(XXVI)/RES/393. In regard to the Agency's technical co-operation activities, he stressed the important role the Agency had to play in promoting and developing technical assistance projects in Namibia before independence, during the transition period, and after independence.

164. The United Nations Council for Namibia, since its inception in 1967, had done its utmost to persuade the South African Government, by means of negotiations, to withdraw from the occupied territories. However, the racist régime of Pretoria, in defiance of the wishes of the international community, had hardened its position, thanks to the complicity of certain foreign economic interests which were reaping rich profits from the development of Namibia's natural resources. The growing demand for uranium had strengthened the determination of those foreign interests to manipulate the future of the territory in order to have a free hand in developing Namibian uranium. The Pretoria régime, which had no uranium resources, regarded it as of crucial importance to keep perpetual control over Namibian territory and its uranium reserves.

165. The Paris Declaration on Namibia, adopted in April 1982, had strongly condemned the pillage of Namibian uranium, and had urged Governments whose nationals or companies were engaged in uranium trade or uranium enrichment to take immediate steps to prohibit any dealings in Namibian uranium, including any prospecting activities in Namibia. A decree issued by the United Nations Council for Namibia in 1974 on the protection of Namibia's natural resources provided that any contravention of the decree might lead to a demand for reparations on the part of any future government of an independent Namibia.

166. At the hearings on Namibian uranium conducted by the United Nations Council for Namibia in July 1980, evidence had been presented that multinational companies in Namibia, such as those controlling the Rossing Uranium Mine, had no concern for the health and safety of Namibian

workers or for the long-term effects of uranium mining on the health of the local people or on their environment. The lack of proper safety measures to protect black workers against the effects of radiation made the extraction, processing and transport of uranium extremely dangerous in Namibia. Those health risks also affected the population as a whole because of the ease with which pollution spread to the environment. The most common health risks were lung and skin cancer and genetic diseases.

167. It had also been indicated in the course of the hearings that the owners of the Rossing Mines practised apartheid in the field of health care. Whereas the white workers had regular medical check-ups and proper health facilities, such was not the case for the black workers. The absence of proper protection created a very dangerous health situation for uranium miners, and the risk of genetic disease posed a threat to future generations of Namibians.

168. As Legal Administering Authority for Namibia, the Council was continuing to monitor the activities of all States which maintained military and nuclear relations with South Africa, as well as the activities of all States and multinational companies which were contravening the obligatory arms embargo. It was aware that South Africa's membership of the IAEA, and in particular its participation in groups concerned with uranium under IAEA auspices, was facilitating that country's pillage of uranium and thus strengthening its nuclear capability. Since the development of that capability constituted a threat to the African region as a whole in view of the highly aggressive attitude of South Africa towards its neighbours, the Council wished to see Africa established as a nuclear-weapon-free zone under the terms of the Decalaration on the Denuclearization of Africa adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity in Cairo in July 1964.

169. In conclusion, he drew the attention of the Conference to General Assembly resolution 37/233, which again requested all specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system which had not yet done so to grant a waiver of the assessment of Namibia for as long as it continued to be represented by the United Nations Council for Namibia.

170. Mr. LEVRERO PUIG (Uruguay) said that Uruguay had pursued its efforts to set up a nuclear research and teaching centre in the near future. He noted with pleasure the assistance given by the Agency and the Argentine National Atomic Energy Commission in conducting feasibility studies.

171. The Uruguayan National Atomic Energy Commission had continued to develop the use of nuclear techniques in medicine, agriculture and industry and to promote research and staff training. He thanked the Agency, Argentina, Chile, Spain and the United States of America for their help in providing specialists and teams as well as fellowships and study visits.

172. As a result of that help, Uruguay could say with pride that its research and teaching institutes had been able to instruct fellows from other Latin American countries in nuclear medicine and radiochemistry.

173. In return for aid received, Uruguay was now placing its experts at the disposal of the Agency for the implementation of technical assistance programmes and would continue to spread the knowledge and technology with which it had been so generously provided.

174. Uruguay firmly supported the Agency's regional programmes. The activities of its National Atomic Energy Commission had been co-ordinated with those of Uruguayan industrial organizations and undertakings, and Uruguay was actively participating in the regional programme on non-destructive testing in Latin America.

175. He believed that such regional programmes should be enlarged and a Regional Nuclear Co-operation Agreement set up, as had first been proposed by Uruguay in 1979 at the twenty-third session of the General Conference. Such an agreement could, in Uruguay's view, be realized in the near future, and it would enable Latin America to emulate the work of the Agency and of Member States in other regions of the world.

176. Article III of the Statute stated clearly that the Agency's main efforts should relate to technical assistance. Nevertheless, whereas safeguards were financed from the Regular Budget, technical assistance was still dependent on voluntary contributions. One must hope that consultations between the Director General and the Board of Governors would lead to equal treatment of safeguards and technical assistance, especially as the latter was of particular importance to developing countries.

177. Uruguay continued to believe that the various regions should be properly represented on the Board. That meant that, if Article VI of the Statute was to be amended, it should be revised in its totality, and no new version of the Article should reduce the existing proportion of seats occupied by Latin American countries. In fact, Uruguay also believed that the Latin American countries were insufficiently represented in the Secretariat, but it appreciated the efforts being made by the Director General to give preferential treatment to candidates from developing countries or other under-represented areas whose qualifications matched those of candidates from developed countries. Uruguay supported training programmes for young graduates from developing countries, which would increase the number of qualified candidates from such countries available for filling posts in the Agency.

178. Before the admission of the People's Republic of China into the Agency, Uruguay had expressed its approval of making all international organizations more universal so that they would be better able to fulfil their objectives.

179. In conclusion, he reiterated Uruguay's continuing support of the Agency and its gratitude for the help the Agency and other countries had given to Uruguay.

180. Mr. de CASTELLO BRANCO (Portugal) welcomed the People's Republic of China to membership of the Agency. During the past year the Agency had achieved important results in the three principal areas of its activity, namely safeguards, nuclear safety and technical assistance. Portugal endorsed the Agency's efforts to bring more countries under the control of its safeguards system; it was in the interests of all mankind that those efforts should be continued and that the Agency should have the wholehearted support of the international community in its endeavours to build up an atmosphere of confidence and credibility in the field of safeguards.

181. He was glad to note that according to the annual Nuclear Safety Review there was no need for any substantial change in the current approach to nuclear safety. As far as technical assistance was concerned, he considered the Agency's programme for the planning and implementation of nuclear energy activities to be well attuned to the needs of developing countries, not only from the technical but also from the economic point of view.

182. The Agency's work in the field of assurances of supply was to be commended; although some had objected that progress had been slow, the task of the Committee on Assurances of Supply (CAS) was a difficult one, and it was no small achievement to have reached agreement on emergency and back-up mechanisms. As far as radioactive waste management was concerned, he welcomed the conclusion reached by the Seattle Conference held in May 1983 that nuclear energy had advantages over other forms of energy from the ecological viewpoint. However, he had serious reservations as to the wisdom of dumping radioactive waste in the sea, a practice which was bound to antagonize public opinion.

183. Portugal continued to be largely dependent for its energy on imported oil, but was meanwhile continuing to prospect for and to produce uranium. If a National Energy Plan shortly to be submitted to Parliament was adopted, and it was decided to introduce nuclear power plants in Portugal, the first of those plants might come into operation by 1995. A survey was being carried out to establish the best sites for such plants, and the Agency could be of great assistance in that survey. Further studies were being carried out on types of reactor, the participation of national industry in the nuclear power programme, the disposal of radioactive wastes, nuclear legislation, the training of personnel, and public information.

184. Portugal was grateful for the technical assistance it had received from the IAEA in the form of expert advice, help with training and research, and support for projects concerned with nuclear energy planning, nuclear safety, and uranium prospecting and production, and looked forward to the continuation of that assistance in the future.

The meeting rose at 10.50 p.m.