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President: Mr. KEBLÚŠEK (Czechoslovakia)  
later: Mr. MIYAZAWA (Japan)

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\*/ A provisional version of this document was issued on 8 December 1983.

\*\*/ GC(XXVII)/700.

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

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

1. Mr. DHARMAWARDENA (Sri Lanka) first welcomed the admission of the People's Republic of China to the Agency.
2. Sri Lanka, one of the founder members of the Non-Aligned Movement and a firm supporter of its principles of territorial sovereignty and integrity, non-aggression, non-interference in the internal affairs of other States, equality, mutual benefit and peaceful coexistence, was convinced of the need to protect and preserve the Agency's integrity so that it could play its role of encouraging co-operation in the nuclear field and helping developing countries to enjoy the benefits of nuclear energy. For that reason, his delegation believed that the work of the present session of the General Conference should adhere strictly to the Agency's Statute.
3. As the General Assembly of the United Nations had stressed in its resolutions 32/50 and 32/112, and as the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy had reaffirmed, the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes played an important role in the social and economic development of all countries, particularly developing countries. But those countries lacked the knowledge and nuclear material necessary to exploit nuclear energy for the benefit of their peoples, in combating poverty and raising their standard of living. It was therefore regrettable that the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference had reached a deadlock. Any financial, technical or tactical obstacles to the transfer of nuclear technology to developing countries could only increase human suffering.
4. Nevertheless, the study on small and medium power reactors which the Agency had recently launched would help to bring the benefits of nuclear energy to those developing countries which lacked energy resources and were suffering from the continued increase in the price of oil and coal, which they were forced to import, and whose electricity grids were not big enough to incorporate nuclear power plants of the sizes used in advanced countries. That study deserved high priority in the Agency's programme, and he asked the Director General to ensure that it was completed as soon as possible.

5. The electricity demand had increased rapidly during the last six years in his country, where production was based exclusively on hydraulic resources and imported coal and oil. That situation would remain unchanged for at least the next ten years; that was why his country's atomic energy programme, which had been developing rapidly during the last three years, was restricted to the use of isotopes and radiation. From 1970 to 1980, the number of institutions in his country using nuclear techniques had increased from six to 20 (of which 12 were using them in research, three in clinical medicine and five in industry). Since then, nuclear techniques had spread to other areas, and 17 other institutions were using them (six of them in research, five in clinical medicine, five in industry and one in training); five institutions were to be added in 1984 (one for medical diagnosis and four for industry). The fact that the first applications of atomic energy were primarily for research and that the new applications related to industry and medicine showed that in his country atomic energy was already contributing directly to industrial production and health care. The majority of institutions using atomic energy had received assistance and advice from the Agency. He thanked the Agency and reiterated his country's interest in the Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (RCA) in Asia.

6. Sri Lanka regularly paid its voluntary contributions and its assessed share of the Agency's Regular Budget, and hoped that it would go on being in a position to do so.

7. His delegation would support any measures aimed at prohibiting attacks on nuclear facilities placed under Agency safeguards. In that connection, it acknowledged the importance of safeguards and appreciated the Agency's role in implementing them. However, the Agency's activities in the field of safeguards should not override its promotional activities and its aid to developing countries. He believed that resources allocated to safeguards should not increase faster than those assigned to technical assistance, and was also opposed to application of the principle of zero growth in the case of technical assistance and co-operation.

8. In conclusion, he congratulated the Indian Atomic Energy Commission on putting into operation the first nuclear power plant built entirely by indigenous effort.

9. Mr. BADRAN (Jordan) welcomed the admission of the People's Republic of China to the Agency. China's entry and the voluntary offer made by the USSR to place some of its civilian nuclear facilities under Agency safeguards were examples of the international community's increasing confidence in the Agency. That confidence was to be welcomed at a time when the nuclear arms race and the fact that some countries, such as Israel and South Africa, were building up their nuclear capacity for military purposes without any form of international supervision were a matter of grave concern for the international community.

10. An increasing number of countries were employing nuclear techniques in the fields of food production, water resources development and medicine, but progress was slow in solving the energy problems of countries which did not yet have nuclear programmes, especially the developing countries. According to the annual report for 1982, nuclear power production in developing countries would not account for more than 7% of total electricity output by the year 2000, whereas the figure would be about 30% for industrialized countries. In view of the precarious situation now prevailing with regard to fossil fuel supplies and the possibility of sudden changes, the developing countries might well be faced with a new energy crisis that would adversely affect their development plans and economic growth rates.

11. The inability of developing countries to make full use of nuclear technology in order to overcome their energy problems and attain their development goals was the result of a number of factors, which had remained much the same for many years without any serious efforts to remedy the situation. Those factors were reactor size and profitability; problems concerning technology transfer and licences; political and military issues; questions of international law; and increasing costs and lead times in nuclear power plant construction. Hence, the study on small and medium power reactors was important. His delegation believed that increased technical co-operation

in the nuclear field, developed through the intermediary of the Agency, would narrow the gap between the two groups of Member States - those interested in technical co-operation and those, the advanced countries, interested in the safeguards system.

12. The Agency's efforts to develop the international safeguards system should be encouraged, together with its efforts to unify safety concepts and regulations for the prevention of exposure to radiation. Although it was difficult, or even impossible, at the present time to draft standard international safety regulations, Jordan would support Agency efforts directed towards the harmonization of nuclear safety philosophies, criteria and concepts at the State level as a first step towards formulating an international safety system.

13. It had to be stressed, however, that the international safeguards system alone was not sufficient to create confidence, but needed to be coupled with international laws to protect nuclear facilities from armed attacks that might transform them into highly dangerous sources of radioactivity. The Israeli armed attack on an Iraqi nuclear reactor under construction, and the destruction of it in defiance of all international norms and the international safeguards system, regardless of the Agency's neutrality and denying its credibility, demonstrated that the danger was not imaginary. Israel's threat to destroy nuclear facilities in the Arab world still persisted.

14. It was therefore necessary to adapt the present international safeguards system to take account of the threats of destruction hanging over some nuclear facilities. He proposed that the international safeguards system be transformed into a "dual responsibility system" whereby, on one hand, Member States would guarantee, and assume responsibility for, the peaceful use of nuclear facilities and, on the other, the international community would guarantee to protect Member States' nuclear facilities placed under Agency safeguards against destruction and threats of destruction by nuclear or conventional weapons. Such a development would remove one of the main obstacles to the use of nuclear energy for the advancement of Third-World countries, inasmuch as the nuclear facilities would be protected.

15. The international community - including the developing countries, and especially the smaller ones among them - attached particular importance to spent nuclear fuel storage and waste management. The Agency should therefore continue its work on the legal and practical aspects of waste management so that small countries could use nuclear energy without being exposed to the hazards that nuclear wastes involved or being subject to unwarranted international pressure.

16. The concept of international plutonium storage, even if well-intentioned, was fraught with risk. There was risk of monopoly or control of nuclear fuel markets and risk of pressure on developing countries. It might perhaps be more practical and effective for small countries or countries with special regional links to find a regional solution and to introduce, for example, plutonium storage systems on a regional scale.

17. Jordan joined other countries in requesting the Agency and the General Conference to take a firm decision which would force Israel to comply with its international obligations and to undertake not to attack or threaten to attack the nuclear facilities of neighbouring States. That would be a way of guaranteeing some stability in the Middle East and creating some sort of confidence as an initial stage in freeing the area from nuclear weapons and direct or indirect nuclear threats.

18. Like other delegations, the delegation of Jordan regretted that the representatives of South Africa continued to participate in some of the Agency's activities despite the adoption of resolutions banning South Africa from that privilege. He urged the General Conference to take a clear decision on that issue and put an end to such participation, and requested the Director General to report on the matter to the General Conference in 1984, it being borne in mind that South Africa's nuclear activities were a very grave danger, jeopardizing the future of the African continent as a whole.

19. His delegation noted that nothing had been done regarding the amendment of Article VI.A.2 of the Statute. It was to be hoped that the Article would be amended in order to increase the membership of the Board of Governors, especially by giving more seats to the areas of Africa and the Middle East and South Asia, thereby guaranteeing fair distribution and regional homogeneity, which were essential conditions for co-operation in energy and technology.

20. He welcomed the Agency's continued efforts to serve the interests of the international community and hoped that its role would be strengthened and made more comprehensive in both its legal and its technical aspects.

21. It was certain that, if the Agency, with the support of Member States, succeeded in reducing the technological gap between developing and developed countries so that developing countries could utilize nuclear energy to meet their energy needs, it would have achieved one of its most important objectives, which was to develop the peaceful uses of nuclear energy for the benefit of all countries and the prosperity of mankind, and would be in a better position to establish co-operation based on international equality. The Agency's history justified such confidence and hope.

22. Mr. HONG (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) welcomed the People's Republic of China as a Member of the Agency. China had established a nuclear industry and was starting out on the application of nuclear science and technology to economic development.

23. His delegation was pleased to note that, despite the complex situation, the Agency had made some progress in promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy. The International Conference on Nuclear Power Experience, held in 1982, had proved that nuclear power was a reliable, economic source of energy.

24. The Agency had always laid great stress on questions of nuclear safety, which was essential to the use of nuclear energy. The Nuclear Safety Standards (NUSS) programme was progressing and the revised edition of the Basic Safety Standards for Radiological Protection was an aid to Member States.

25. The Agency had also given attention to the problem of radioactive waste management, and the international community was looking forward to some positive results in that area in the near future.

26. Technical assistance was one of the main Agency functions of benefit to developing countries. His own country had received Agency assistance, including assistance with uranium ore analysis and the production of radioisotopes. The Agency's technical assistance, however, fell far short of

the needs of developing countries owing to lack of funds. The problem of financing technical assistance, which had already been under discussion for some years, had still not been settled. The consensus on indicative planning figures for Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund targets up to the end of 1986 constituted some kind of progress. Nevertheless, the Fund should be increased and a reliable source of funding be found.

27. The safeguards system was another of the Agency's principal functions and one of the major instruments of non-proliferation. His delegation believed that it would be more effective to concentrate inspections on projects and sites where the risk of nuclear arms manufacture and proliferation was greatest.

28. His country's rapidly expanding economy required an increase in energy production. The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had therefore embarked upon a large-scale construction plan for hydraulic and thermal power stations and was actively engaged in exploiting new energy resources. Also, the Sixth Congress of the Workers' Party had decided to construct nuclear power plants in the 1980s, and scientific research and professional training was now being directed towards that goal. In addition, research was aimed at introducing nuclear techniques into other sectors of the economy to improve the people's welfare. As a result, radiation and radioisotopes were already being used in industry, agriculture, medicine, biology and elsewhere.

29. He believed that the Director General's statement, in which he had pointed out that States forming part of a nuclear-weapon-free zone formally committed themselves not to acquire nuclear weapons, was a very important contribution to the maintenance and consolidation of world peace. The world was on the brink of another war, which would be a nuclear conflict, as a result of the adventurist military activities of imperialist States. In order to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and save mankind from the dangers of such a war, his delegation called for an end to the testing, manufacture, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons in all parts of the world and urged that efforts be stepped up to abolish nuclear weapons completely.

His Government had proposed that north-east Asia, including the Korean peninsula, be made a nuclear-free zone and had done its best to bring about implementation of that proposal, which would involve, first and foremost, the withdrawal of all nuclear weapons from the area. Unfortunately, however, the turn taken by the situation since the previous Conference session was a source of deep concern to peace-loving peoples in Asia and in the rest of the world. According to the "Washington Post" of 2 May 1983, the United States had already installed more than 1000 nuclear weapons in the southern part of the Korean peninsula and had again tried to deploy neutron bombs in that area. Action of that kind could only weaken the Agency's safeguards system. If the United States genuinely wanted peace in Korea and world security, it should withdraw its nuclear weapons from the southern part of the Korean peninsula and not deploy neutron bombs there.

30. The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea attached great importance to the Agency's work and wished it success.

Mr. Miyazawa (Japan) took the Chair.

31. Mr. CASTRO DÍAZ BALART (Cuba) noted that, even though the fact that certain items always remained on the agenda of the General Conference showed that there was not always uniformity of opinion among the different groups of delegations, the Agency could, after 25 years of existence, demonstrate positive results in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In that respect, the admission of the People's Republic of China, which Cuba had always hoped would be represented in all international organizations, was an important fact not only because that country represented a quarter of the world's population but also by virtue of its level of development in the nuclear field.

32. Everyone wished the Agency to concern itself essentially with its scientific and technical activities, but it was difficult to believe that it could remain aloof from the social situation facing mankind at the present time. The annual report for 1982 stated that the current economic recession

was the cause of the lower-than-forecast demand for nuclear-generated electricity and the fact that nuclear power development plans had not materialized in various countries. It was predicted that by the year 2000, nuclear power would account for only 7% of the total electricity generated in developing countries, whereas the corresponding figure for the developed countries would be 30%. Up to the present time, only 29 countries had opted for nuclear power, a figure which represented only 25% of the total number of Member States of the Agency. The reason was that the state of the economy in the majority of developing countries was becoming more of a challenge with every year. There were, for example, 1100 million people living in abject poverty, more than 430 million people seriously undernourished, some 1100 million people without proper housing, some 1300 million people without drinking water and some 814 million illiterates. A number of countries were consequently in no position to contemplate the possibility of establishing a nuclear energy programme for their development.

33. The ever-increasing poverty of certain States contrasted with the amount of money devoted to military expenditure, which was more than 600 billion dollars. The escalation of the arms race had been caused by those whose policy was based on coercion and intimidation and who tried to disrupt the balance of existing forces by developing and deploying new types of weapons of mass destruction; by using space for belligerent purposes; and by declaring that the use of tactical nuclear weapons was possible. At the present time, stockpiles of nuclear weapons were so large that their destructive capacity could annihilate the whole of mankind; that was why the primary objective which all countries should endeavour to achieve was to abolish the threat of nuclear war.

34. In face of such a situation, international co-operation was essential, but such co-operation was possible only if there was a genuine will to resolve the serious economic and social problems confronting mankind. Those problems and others of a political nature were multiplying the sources of friction, particularly in Central America, in Africa, in the Middle East and in South East Asia. A situation of that kind, which inexorably affected the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in developing countries, was

exacerbated by industrial underdevelopment and poor technological infrastructure as well as lack of qualified experts. That was why Cuba believed that the Agency should actively promote the use of nuclear energy in the poorest countries with the same resolve it had shown in fostering the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

35. His delegation noted that nuclear power had made considerable headway during the last 25 years. With 297 reactors in operation or 2800 years of reactor operating experience, nuclear power production was now an established industry. Cuba appreciated the Agency's work under the Nuclear Safety Standards (NUSS) programme and also the creation of an Incident Reporting System. Member States could thereby profit from one another's experience in the safe operation of nuclear facilities. Among the Agency's activities, feasibility studies for the use of small and medium power reactors would benefit those countries which were least developed in the nuclear domain.

36. As far as technical co-operation was concerned, he noted that it had become one of the major activities of the Agency and that it had enabled many developing countries to acquire the resources necessary to launch their national programmes. His country had paid in full its contributions to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund.

37. Some States attached less importance to safeguards since they were applied to equipment which those countries were not in a position to either acquire or exploit. There was a close link, however, between the acquisition of nuclear techniques and the need for international guarantees to prevent non-proliferation; there should therefore be a just balance between the needs of economic development involving the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and safeguards. The main cause for concern in that area was that some countries were getting together, without the knowledge of the international community, in order to collaborate in the use of nuclear energy for military purposes. Such was the case of Israel and South Africa, whose belligerent and discriminatory actions and policies were a matter of concern and had been condemned by various bodies and international conferences within the United Nations system.

38. In Cuba, scientific and technical development was proceeding at a modest rate inasmuch as national policy in that area did not consist only in acquiring technical experience and knowledge, but also in meeting existing social needs so that the application of that knowledge would not be fruitless. The construction of the first nuclear power plant was continuing with the co-operation of the USSR. The Agency's technical assistance helped in applying nuclear and radioisotope techniques in various sectors of the national economy. Cuba had recently concluded a new safeguards agreement with the Agency, in connection with a zero-power reactor for training purposes. In addition, the second meeting of co-ordinating countries of the Non-Aligned Movement on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy had been held in Havana in April 1983. That meeting had aimed to establish co-operation between member countries of the movement. Cuba had been nominated by the Latin American group as a candidate for the Board of Governors. If elected, it would be the first time that Cuba had held a seat in that policy-making body of the Agency.

39. In conclusion, his delegation noted that the twenty-seventh session of the General Conference showed that nuclear energy would remain a keystone in achieving the goal of the economic and social development of Member States of the Agency.

40. Mr. DIVUNGI DI NDINGE (Gabon) pointed out the relevance of the Agency's objectives and the general satisfaction to which the Agency's work gave rise.

41. The twenty-seventh Conference session was taking place at a time when the world was facing tensions essentially created by the deep-seated egoism of a few nations. That egoism lay at the root of the world economic crisis as well as the cold war. The inevitable consequences were the destabilization of whole areas of the world, the emergence of trouble-spots, and the unbridled nuclear arms race.

42. In view of that situation, his delegation warmly welcomed the admission of the People's Republic of China to the Agency and was convinced, from the outset, that China would make a major useful contribution to the Agency's work.

43. He wished to stress the vital need to maintain unity and objectivity in the Agency's work, both at the level of conception and at that of implementation. All Member States should unanimously decide upon and formulate activities, whether of a general nature or directed to the specific needs of a particular group of countries. That was essential to the Agency's universality. In the light of that conviction, Gabon, as a developing country, wished to reaffirm its equal interest in all the different sectors of the Agency's activities. Safeguards, essential in ensuring the exclusively peaceful use of nuclear energy and thereby creating confidence, were just as much an area of special interest to Gabon as was technical assistance and the application of nuclear techniques, particularly in food production, water resources development and health. Perfected methods of radioactive waste management were of interest even to developing countries since, without them, some of the industrialized countries might be tempted, as they already had been, to seek extra-territorial sites as a result of compelling spatial and psycho-political pressures. The primary concern should be to distribute resources in the way best suited to priorities. In that connection, his delegation wished to pay a just tribute to countries which, through voluntary contributions over and above their statutory obligations, had donated additional financial support to various Agency activities.

44. As a uranium-producing country, Gabon made, as far as it was able, a modest contribution to the Agency's efforts to establish international co-operation. It was preparing to host the Seminar on Radiation Protection in Exploration, Mining and Milling of Radioactive Ores for Developing Countries in Africa from 14 to 24 November 1983.

45. Energy remained the essential problem affecting the economic growth and social progress of developing countries. In the long run, even if population growth slowed down by the year 2020, the per capita energy consumption in the developing countries would virtually double, increasing from 0.55 tonnes equivalent oil in 1978 to 1.1 in 2020. During the same period, the per capita consumption in industrialized countries would increase from 4.4. to about 6.5 tonnes equivalent oil. Although the percentage increases gave a favourable impression, the absolute levels indicated an enormous disparity

that was continually on the increase. In addition, whereas during that period industrialized countries would rely increasingly on coal and nuclear power and less and less on oil, the developing countries would not be able to free themselves from dependence on hydrocarbons; the share of hydrocarbons would increase from 34% in 1978 to about 45% in 2020, whereas that of nuclear energy would increase from 0 to 4%.

46. In the light of those facts, his delegation wondered at the only modest penetration of the developing African countries by nuclear energy, which had now reached maturity in technological terms. There were three main reasons. The first was the high technical standard required for maintaining and monitoring nuclear power plants. Yet that was not really an insurmountable obstacle since it should be possible to train local staff, particularly under Agency programmes. The second reason was the structure of the demand in the developing countries. Their industrial activity and their domestic energy needs were still small. Moreover, geographical conditions made interconnection of the grids very difficult in terms of both investment and maintenance, and it was not feasible to export nuclear technology in its present form to a number of developing countries. Only the technical experts in the industrialized countries could remedy the situation. Under the circumstances, the basic power output would have to be adjusted to demand, in other words, small units would have to be made as profitable as possible. His country looked forward to positive results from the Agency's study in that area.

47. However, the real problem facing developing countries was how to finance their growth. Their debts were increasing and vital investments in energy, particularly nuclear energy, were becoming increasingly capital-intensive, making it impossible for some developing countries to finance even the local share of such investments. To break the vicious circle, there was need for consultations and co-operation between the main parties involved, i.e. the multilateral financial organizations, commercial lenders, Governments of industrialized countries, the international oil industry and the developing countries themselves, who should improve the management of their economies, particularly in the field of energy.

48. The end of the twentieth century was marked by a conflict between the absolute imperative of the economic and social growth of developing countries and an international environment characterized by increasingly expensive and increasingly scarce energy. Perhaps the only possible solution to the present situation was a complete review of current systems of thinking in wealthier countries, particularly as far as their trade and financial relations with poorer countries was concerned. Man's genius should manifest itself in those areas just as much as in science and technology.

49. Mr. VIVERO (Ecuador) thanked the Director General for the annual report on the Agency's work during 1982.

50. He welcomed the admission of the People's Republic of China to the Agency, which was of particular significance and importance for the international community.

51. The political and economic crisis which the world was facing highlighted the precariousness of peace; that was why his delegation wished to reiterate its deep desire to see all countries of the world united in their efforts to exploit nuclear energy for the benefit of mankind and avoid, at all costs, the use of it for belligerent purposes. In that connection, Ecuador was well aware of the importance of the safeguards system. Efforts should be made to ensure that all States, without discrimination, participated in its implementation, for it was a suitable way of avoiding the uncontrolled growth of nuclear energy and of guaranteeing its use for peaceful purposes. Nevertheless, his delegation wished to point out that the technical assistance and co-operation from which developing countries benefited, in the form of technology and materials, should grow in parallel with the safeguards system, in line with the principle of interdependence which existed in the modern world. The United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy would be a very important event, and Ecuador was taking an active part in the work of the Preparatory Committee. For that reason he was concerned at the postponement of the Conference and hoped that the various "blocs" would show the political will necessary for its success.

52. He welcomed the achievements of CAS and was convinced that the flexibility shown by industrialized countries in agreeing on an emergency and back-up system was an example of what could be achieved, given the political will to overcome differences, in the interests of the international community.

53. The Latin American region was proud that, thanks to the Tlatelolco Treaty, it was the first nuclear-weapon-free zone in the world. As indicated in the message to the General Conference from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, it was essential and a matter of urgency that the few eligible countries which had not yet done so should sign and ratify the Tlatelolco Treaty or its Additional Protocols so that the process of denuclearization of the region could be completed as soon as possible. The establishment of other nuclear-weapon-free zones in the world would be one of the most effective ways of geographically limiting nuclear-weapons proliferation and of protecting non-nuclear-weapon countries from a nuclear holocaust. In that connection, his delegation was pleased to note that the one commitment which the People's Republic of China had so far made in the nuclear field had been its accession to Protocol II of the Tlatelolco Treaty.

54. He welcomed the steps mentioned by the Director General in his report concerning the appointment of a larger number of nationals from developing countries to senior posts.

55. As far as Article VI of the Statute was concerned, he recalled that, if it was decided to amend that Article, the amendment should not reduce the relative representation of Latin America on the Board of Governors.

56. Turning to activities related to nuclear energy in Ecuador, he pointed out that nuclear energy was envisaged as part of the long-term national energy plan. His country was promoting the application of nuclear techniques in various areas of national interest, such as basic research aimed at resolving pressing problems of nutrition, the improvement of livestock breeding and avoiding environmental pollution by pesticides. In the area of public health, his country was applying the Basic Safety Standards for Radiological Protection, which were based on the ICRP dose limitation system;

it had launched a national programme of personnel thermoluminescence dosimetry and had put into operation a secondary standards dosimetry laboratory which formed part of the IAEA/WHO laboratory network. Since it had been opened to experts from countries in the Andean sub-region, the laboratory functioned as a centre of national and international co-operation. He took the opportunity of expressing his country's gratitude for assistance given by the Agency's Laboratory. In the industrial sector, an electron accelerator and accessory equipment for developing industrial irradiation techniques had been set up. In that area, quality control by non-destructive testing had also made rapid progress, ensuring thereby that the quality of installations such as oil pipelines and other types of duct could be guaranteed. In the area of teaching, Ecuadorian universities now had departments of nuclear science and were laying greater emphasis on applied research. In 1984, Ecuador would host a regional course on radiochemistry and nuclear assay techniques. It was successfully continuing its programme of uranium prospecting with the support of UNDP and the Agency. Also, it hoped to complete, in the near future, the Centre of Nuclear Studies and Research, which would be equipped with a 3-MW reactor for research, training and the production of radioisotopes.

57. He welcomed the initiative taken by the Joint FAO/IAEA Division to reinstall in its laboratories equipment for the culture of in vitro tissues. His country was interested in participating in ecological studies in the Amazon Basin, and the Government was ready to give the necessary backing for them to be carried out. Ecuador had made progress in formulating, jointly with the nuclear energy commissions of the Andean sub-region, specific nuclear energy programmes.

58. As it had said the year before, his delegation believed that the Agency should continue to act as a catalyst, consultant and guide; it should upgrade its systems of technical assistance programming and evaluation so that technical assistance was better suited to national and regional needs. It very much hoped that, despite the present problems, constructive decisions and negotiation would make it possible to meet the current world needs in a more balanced way.

59. Mr. OBIAGA (Nigeria) thanked the Director General for his efforts to implement the resolutions of the last sessions of the General Conference as well as for his very constructive opening address and the annual report for 1982 (GC(XXVII)/684), which touched on issues of great concern to the Nigerian delegation, more especially those relating to the staffing of the Secretariat, nuclear safety, waste management and nuclear trade. Such questions were important for a developing country like Nigeria, whose intention was to employ nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

60. He recalled that the Agency's objectives, as set forth in Article II of the Statute, were to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world. At the same time, the dangers inherent in technological progress, which had been and could still be applied for purposes detrimental to the human race, could not be ignored. Irresponsible application of nuclear technology could only lead to incalculable human and material destruction, in fact to a holocaust. It was, therefore, to prevent such a tragedy that the General Assembly of the United Nations had adopted resolution 35/146 on 12 December 1980 and had once again expressed its concern on 16 December 1980, in adopting resolution 35/206, which called upon all States, corporations, institutions and individuals to put an end to all forms of co-operation with the racist régime of South Africa in the nuclear field and to refrain from purchasing uranium or enriched uranium from South Africa. His delegation was deeply perturbed by the way in which certain Member States had flouted the decisions taken by the General Assembly by collaborating with South Africa, thereby encouraging the discriminatory social system by supplying it with nuclear technology, which enabled it to spread war to its neighbouring countries and to use its weapons as a means of blackmail; such collaboration negated the declared objectives of the Agency. All delegations should abide by the spirit and letter of the Agency's objectives.

61. At the same time, it had to be recognized that the danger posed by the racist régime in South Africa was only part of the danger threatening peace, since, on a world scale, the super-Powers continued to stockpile nuclear warheads which were a threat to the continued existence of human civilization. The 5000 weapons in those arsenals had a destructive power estimated at 1.5 million bombs of the Hiroshima type, in other words a minute fraction of the stock of weapons would be sufficient to destroy human civilization on the whole of the planet. His country continued to support the disarmament talks and to urge both parties to take up meaningful discussions so as to safeguard human civilization and its very existence.

62. The Agency's role in that area was clear: it should not only ensure both vertical and horizontal non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, but also encourage the application of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). In that respect, his delegation regretted the indefinite postponement of the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, which was to have been held at Geneva in 1983. The postponement was a result of the Preparatory Committee's inability to agree on an agenda for the Conference; that inability stemmed from a lack of political will on the part of certain groups. It was hoped, however, to be able to hold the Conference in the near future in order to ensure that nuclear energy would ultimately be used solely for peaceful purposes.

63. The delegation of Nigeria fully supported the decision of the People's Republic of China to join the Agency; that was an encouraging sign at a time when doubts were being cast on nuclear power as a whole.

64. It was to be noted, furthermore, that the Director General's report showed encouraging progress concerning the implementation of various General Conference resolutions, particularly resolution GC(XXVI)/RES/401, on the staffing of the Secretariat, in which the Director General had been requested "to continue to take steps speedily to increase the number of staff members drawn from developing areas in accordance with General Conference resolution GC(XXV)/RES/386, at all levels" and "to make maximum efforts to rectify the existing imbalance" by the end of the period specified in that resolution.

65. As far as the Agency's promotional activities were concerned, it was gratifying to see the training opportunities placed at the disposal of young graduates from developing countries to improve their knowledge in nuclear technology.

66. The gradual improvement in nuclear safety and the continuing research into radioactive waste management would be relevant to projects under way in Nigeria. With regard to waste management, his delegation wished to appeal, as it had done last year, for the suspension, or even the prohibition, of the dumping of radioactive waste in the sea, which was extremely hazardous for marine fauna and flora as well as human life itself. He therefore urged the authorities concerned to exercise restraint and to step up scientific research in order to find the most satisfactory ways of managing radioactive waste.

67. Electricity consumption would inevitably increase with urbanization, particularly in developing countries, where forecasts indicated that electricity would account for 16 to 26% of total energy consumption, while the nuclear component was not expected to exceed 7% by the end of the century. However, by then, at the present pace, the developing countries would have barely laid the foundations necessary to benefit from the immense potential of nuclear power, as a result of inadequate manpower, financial resources and national infrastructures. It was to overcome those obstacles to development that the Department of Technical Co-operation had been set up. In resolution GC(XXV)/RES/388, the General Conference had recognized the need to finance technical assistance from the Agency's Regular Budget or from other similar predictable and assured resources. However, the present arrangements regarding the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund did not reflect enough concern on the part of the majority of developed countries for the Fund to meet the growing needs of developing countries in terms of projects and the transfer of nuclear technology.

68. Comparison of the financing of technical assistance and of safeguards, which were funded from the Regular Budget, suggested that the Agency's regulatory function was more important than its promotional activities. That should not be the case, for a situation of that kind might lead to the emergence of two opposing groups within the Agency. His delegation

sincerely hoped that the twenty-seventh session of the General Conference would mark the beginning of a new era and that, as the Director General had said, it would be possible to strike a balance between the interests of different States and groups of States.

69. Referring to item 13 of the agenda, his delegation wished to recall that in February 1977 it had co-sponsored an amendment to Article VI.A.2 of the Statute intended to rectify the under-representation of two areas - Africa and the Middle East and South Asia. Since then, the matter had become a perennial item on the agenda of the General Conference and six resolutions had already been adopted. In 1977, four seats on the Board had been available for 26 African Member States; since then Zimbabwe and Namibia had joined the Agency, but the representation of the African group had not changed. It was disconcerting to see the persistent lack of agreement on that issue and the fact that current consultations had not led to any change in the position of those who opposed the amendment. His delegation therefore wished to state, as in the past, that the proposed amendment, if adopted, could only improve the Board's efficiency. It was to be hoped that the General Conference would achieve clear-cut progress in the matter of the under-representation on the Board of the areas concerned.

70. In the area of information and technical services, his country had decided to join the Agency's International Nuclear Information System (INIS).

71. In conclusion, he wished to state that his Government had pledged its full contribution (\$42 750) to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund for 1984.

Mr. Keblůšek (Czechoslovakia) resumed the Chair.

72. Mr. LYIMO (United Republic of Tanzania) noted with satisfaction the admission of the People's Republic of China as the 112th Member of the Agency. China's admission was an important contribution to world peace and it was to be hoped that Member States of the Agency would extend to the People's Republic of China the co-operation it needed and deserved.

73. An increase in the number of seats on the Board of Governors and technical co-operation were two points of major significance for developing countries, especially those in Africa, which required comment.

74. With regard to Article VI.A.2 of the Statute, despite the admission to the Agency during the last 20 years of 25 new Member States, of which 21 were developing countries, the composition of the Board of Governors had not changed and the areas of Africa and the Middle East and South Asia still had the smallest representation. He did not understand why developing regions were denied that fundamental right on the pretext that enlarging the present membership of the Board would make it less efficient when in fact the increase called for was a small one and the total number of seats on the Board would not exceed that of the policy-making organs of other specialized agencies of the United Nations, which were no less efficient as a result. He urged all delegations to make a real effort to find a lasting solution to the problem.

75. As to the financing of technical assistance, his delegation noted with pleasure that that issue was receiving constant attention. He thanked the Agency for the assistance it had given and supported a target of \$22.5 million for voluntary contributions to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund for 1984. However, only 12% of the Agency's technical co-operation activities were funded from the Regular Budget, although technical co-operation was one of the Agency's two major activities, the other being safeguards. His delegation was concerned about the financing of technical assistance: firstly, the total of the resources available each year fell far short of the needs of developing countries, as was shown by the increasing number of footnote a/ projects; secondly, since the resources for technical co-operation were mainly composed of voluntary contributions and extrabudgetary resources, the Agency could not exercise full control over technical co-operation activities nor show much flexibility in the implementation of programmes. The Agency ought to assume greater responsibility in that area and, in order for it to do so, the bulk of the resources for technical assistance should stem from the Regular Budget. Ninety-two per cent of the Agency's safeguards programme would be financed from the Regular Budget in 1984, whereas the corresponding percentage for the technical assistance programme would be only 12%. It was political will that was needed to solve the problem.

76. As to nuclear power and safety, at the moment his country's electricity needs were covered by its hydroelectric resources, but, as demand increased, alternative energy sources would have to be envisaged in the long term. His delegation was satisfied with the efforts being made by the Agency to help developing countries evaluate the potential of nuclear power in their national energy plans and hoped that the maximum number of developing countries would benefit from such assistance.

77. He deplored the fact that the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes did not arouse the same enthusiasm as before, and called upon the international community - and in particular the nuclear-weapon States - to foster a climate which would revitalize the use of nuclear energy and regain public confidence through measures concerning accident prevention and waste disposal.

78. In the field of safety, the Agency's information exchange programme in support of implementing the NUSS codes and guides and the Basic Safety Standards for Radiological Protection was to be welcomed. In July of the current year, his Government had decided to set up a National Radiological Protection Commission, which would also be responsible for all promotional activities concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. He invited interested Member States to co-operate with his country in making the Commission effective; his delegation was ready to start preliminary discussions on the subject during the current session of the Conference.

79. As far as safeguards were concerned, he was happy to see that there had been an increase in the number of safeguards agreements in 1982 and welcomed the contribution made by some Member States to developing and testing equipment that would aid the Agency in implementing its safeguards programme. However, he was concerned at the limited possibilities afforded by the safeguards system for effectively ensuring nuclear non-proliferation and the safety of mankind, since the safeguards covered only a small fraction of existing facilities. In view of the build-up of nuclear arms in nuclear-weapon States and the deadlock in the disarmament talks between the major Powers, it was essential to encourage all parties concerned to place a greater number of their facilities under Agency safeguards.

80. Mr. PECCI (Paraguay), expressing his satisfaction at the admission of the People's Republic of China to the Agency, which was a technical and scientific organization that should be open to all interested countries, said he was sure that China's entry would contribute to the development and practical application of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

81. Following China's entry, the question of the composition of the Board of Governors and, in particular, the under-representation of Latin America was particularly relevant. He believed that Article VI of the Statute was no longer in keeping with present needs and that the new Board of Governors should examine the question and submit the results of its work to the General Conference at its twenty-eighth session.

82. He thanked the Agency for the support which it had given in the form of equipment, experts, fellowships and study tours.

83. His country, which had participated in the drafting of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and which had immediately acceded to it (ratification of it was currently being discussed by Parliament), was greatly perturbed by the fact that the world was insufficiently protected against acts of terrorism.

84. Reviewing Paraguay's activities in 1983 in the nuclear field, he said that his country had set up a provisional nuclear centre to use items of equipment supplied by the Agency; had started construction of the future nuclear research centre; had launched a feasibility study for a zero-power research reactor, to be used by a technical training centre to produce radioisotopes for nuclear medicine and agriculture; had set up new radiocobalt-therapy laboratories; had put an X-ray linear accelerator into operation; and had trained technical staff for work in agriculture and stock-breeding.

85. Recalling that his country was fulfilling its financial obligations to the Agency, he expressed his appreciation both to the Agency and to friendly countries which had provided technical assistance in the form of equipment, fellowships or experts to help Paraguay continue its nuclear development. In conclusion, he wished for peace for the whole of mankind and hoped that progress would be achieved in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

86. Mr. PINEDA PAVÓN (Inter-American Nuclear Energy Commission) welcomed the admission of the People's Republic of China to the Agency.

87. The Inter-American Nuclear Energy Commission (IANEC), a technical commission of the Organization of American States (OAS), acted in a consultative capacity for OAS Member States and facilitated co-operation between them in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Also, it was authorized to make recommendations in the field of nuclear energy to Governments and different bodies of the OAS. The Commission held a regular session every two years. During the next one, which was to take place at Caracas in January 1984 and to which the Director General of the Agency had been invited, the Commission would review its plans for the 1980s. Its work was carried out through two committees. The Consultative Committee was essentially concerned with the application of radioisotopes and radiation, staff training for nuclear energy programmes, radiological protection and the development of uranium prospecting programmes, in particular the programme for the evaluation of uraniumiferous zones, for which the Peruvian Nuclear Energy Institute was responsible. The Legal Committee made comparative studies of nuclear energy legislation in force in different Latin American countries. It had carried out, among others, studies on harmonizing official standards relating to radiological protection, and intended to examine problems of civil liability for nuclear damage and the legal side of technology transfer. The Agency had not missed out on those activities and had been represented at the latest session of IANEC.

88. Although the Commission's programmes had been curtailed for budgetary reasons, various regional seminars had been held on different topics during the current two-year period: nuclear techniques, the eradication of harmful insects by the sterile-male technique, and a code of practice for radiosterilization. In addition, as a result of co-operation between organizations in the countries in the region, there had been meetings of co-ordinators of national programmes for radiological protection and nuclear safety, meetings of directors of nuclear training programmes, and also meetings of the Consultative Committee of IANEC and a workshop on comparative law as applied to prospecting for and the mining of radioactive ores.

89. With regard to the Andean sub-regional arrangement about which the Director General had spoken in his statement<sup>1/</sup>, the Commission would do everything to ensure the smooth running of that arrangement, which opened up new prospects for technical co-operation between countries in the same region and at the same level of nuclear development. The Executive Secretary of the Commission had been invited to a meeting of directors of nuclear commissions of the Andean countries held at Caracas in April 1981 and, since then, had followed with the greatest interest the discussions concerning development of the arrangement, which were beginning to yield interesting results.

90. The Commission intended to continue its co-operation with the Agency and was particularly interested in the course which the Agency organized in Latin America on the role of nuclear energy in national energy plans. Also, it had been negotiating with the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (OPANAL) with a view to co-ordinated action, particularly in the implementation of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America.

91. Like all products of science and technology, nuclear energy was fraught with risk, but in view of the energy crisis it was at present indispensable, and the development and progress of humanity depended upon the proper use of it. The nuclear peril was real: according to the United Nations, the nuclear arsenals existing today were equivalent to one million bombs with the strength of those used at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which was enough to destroy the planet six times over. The arms race and the military use of nuclear energy should be condemned and all countries should work together so that nuclear energy would be used in the service of humanity. To achieve that end, developing countries, which had only 3% of the 500 reactors at present in operation or being planned, should have better access to nuclear energy. A new world nuclear order should guarantee the sovereign right of all countries in the nuclear field; regional, bilateral and multilateral co-operation in that area; and the availability of a strict safeguards system that would abolish horizontal and vertical proliferation and eliminate the risk of universal conflagration.

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<sup>1/</sup> GC (XXVII)/OR.247, para. 80.

92. For reasons of both safety and economic viability, nuclear energy had to assume increasing importance. The Inter-American Nuclear Energy Commission was working to that end; it was pursuing the same objectives as the Agency - in other words, increasing the contribution of nuclear energy to peace, health and prosperity in the whole world.

93. Mr. CHO (Republic of Korea), exercising his right of reply, said that it was deeply regrettable that the representative of North Korea was seeking to use the Agency's General Conference as a platform for his propaganda. First of all, the allegations made by the representative of North Korea on the subject of the Korean peninsula were slanderous and extravagant, and his delegation rejected them categorically. Secondly, if North Korea was sincere when it said it was seeking peace and wished to prevent war in the Korean peninsula, instead of making absurd accusations and giving full credence to an article in an "imperialist" newspaper it should cease perpetrating its insane, barbaric terrorist provocations against the Republic of Korea.

94. Mr. LABOWITZ (United States of America), exercising his right of reply, said that the remarks made on the previous day by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran were groundless and did not merit a reply. He wished to state, however, that the work of the General Conference was too important to be disrupted by irrelevant political declarations and exaggerated language such as that used by the Iranian delegation and the delegations of some other Member States.

95. Mr. PAK (Democratic People's Republic of Korea), exercising his right of reply, said that the South Korean delegation did not appear to know what a general debate was nor the purpose of the right of reply. His delegation had simply stated that the United States had already set up a thousand nuclear warheads in South Korea. He had numerous documents to prove it, including a 1976 Pentagon report which stated that there were already at that time 686 nuclear warheads in South Korea. He had also said that the United States was now trying to install neutron bombs in that area. His delegation had simply set forth the facts. He could also have said a lot about propaganda and terrorist activities, but he had not wanted to depart from the issues of interest to the General Conference, namely how to increase co-operation and technical assistance and prevent nuclear war.

96. The South Korean delegation had alluded to the Rangoon bomb explosion. That incident had nothing to do with the work of the General Conference, but he felt obliged to clarify his position on that matter. According to foreign reports, Burmese authorities had conducted a detailed inquiry after the explosion, no details of which had yet been released. However, immediately after the explosion, the South Korean authorities, without any justification, had tried to blame the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. As a result of anti-communist hysteria, American troops occupying South Korea and the whole South Korean army had been put on a full military alert. A wild campaign of slander had been launched against his country. Each time there was trouble in South Korea, the authorities tried to divert attention by attempting to blame the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

97. Mr. CHO (Republic of Korea), exercising his right of reply after he had risen to a point of order, said that at that late stage of the Conference's session the majority of delegations would clearly not wish for a pointless, manifestly political polemic of that kind to continue. He wished to make it clear that the preposterous accusations just reiterated by the North Korean speaker were nothing but groundless fabrications and malicious propaganda in preparation for another horrible, sinister scheme. His delegation strongly condemned North Korea for its deceitfulness and urged it to stop calling out "wine" and selling poisoned vinegar.

The meeting rose at 13.10 p.m.