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on Wednesday, 25 September 1985, at 8.10 p.m.

President: Mr. MANOUAN (Côte d'Ivoire)
later: Mr. CASTRO DIAZ-BALART (Cuba)

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The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document
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GENERAL DEBATE AND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1984 (GC(XXIX)/748 and Corr.1) (continued)

1. Mr. KOREF (Panama) said that considerable progress and expansion had taken place in all the Agency's activities, especially technical assistance which was of particular importance for his country. Panama was receiving technical assistance with a view to benefiting from the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in the fields of agriculture, medicine, training and mineralogy. Since it had sufficient hydropower resources, it would not be needing nuclear power plants in the foreseeable future.
2. The whole world was rightly concerned about the enormous debts of developing countries which had been contracted with industrialized countries when the former had required funds for industrial and agricultural development and the World Bank had been seeking ways of investing the large amounts of money deposited with it in the 1970s. The only solutions to that problem were the industrialization of the Third World, the improvement of its capacity for producing raw materials in agriculture and mining, and the opening of international markets to Third World products so that the income countries earned could be used for paying their debts and the interest on them. The Agency was, with other international organizations, certainly assisting most effectively with the development of Third World countries, and such activities should be expanded. In that connection he greatly welcomed the statement by the President of the United States of America against the restriction of imports into his country; that statement would certainly assist the Third World. He thanked the Secretariat and the Director General for their co-operation with Panama, which also appreciated the extrabudgetary contributions in cash and kind received from certain donor countries, enabling it to carry out projects not covered by the budget or by contributions to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund.
3. The Agency's Annual Report for 1984 showed a further gratifying increase in funds available for technical assistance and also an increase by \$6 million in technical co-operation disbursements as a result of streamlined procedures. He welcomed the fact that there had been some increase in the proportion of technical assistance received by Latin America and hoped that

that trend would continue. There had also been a considerable increase, by \$3 million, in assistance with agriculture. The fact that the evaluation system was now covering 65% of projects, with positive results, was a further source of gratification.

4. Panama was greatly interested in the Agency's involvement in the regulation of sea dumping of radioactive wastes since it had extensive coastlines on two different oceans, and fishing represented an important source of income for it. Other environmental aspects of nuclear energy were also of importance, since further nuclear power plants would doubtless be needed in the future; their contribution to the fight against pollution caused by other types of power plant needed to be demonstrated.

5. His country was grateful to the Agency for assisting it with agricultural development with respect to soil fertility and irrigation, phytotechnics and plant genetics, and also the reproductive efficiency of cattle.

6. Panama was also interested in food conservation by irradiation, especially for products with a limited shelf-life with a view to making them available throughout the year and to exporting tropical fruit and sea food.

7. Although his country did not as yet have facilities requiring safeguards, he recognized their importance at a world level and thanked the Agency for its efforts to prevent nuclear catastrophe. Panama also appreciated the Agency's co-operation with it in order to prevent accidents in those of its facilities which used radioisotopes and to train its scientists both at home and abroad, especially at Seibersdorf. His delegation agreed that the facilities at Seibersdorf should be extended in order to accommodate technicians from developing countries who would not otherwise be able to receive training for lack of space. Even if the Secretariat's staff needed to be increased for that purpose, he considered that it would be a good investment if it resulted in the training of further Third World technicians.

8. In that context his Government welcomed the fact that, according to document GOV/INF/467, the definition of developing country used by the General

Assembly related only to the staffing of international organizations and not to those countries of the Third World which received technical assistance.

9. The new format for the 1986 budget was to be welcomed since it provided a considerable amount of information in a form which was easy to understand. Panama was in favour of multi-year projects; the Secretariat should also be prepared to assist with the identification of priorities and with the drafting of technical assistance requests, which would save both time and money for all concerned. The budget showed the important place occupied by non-power nuclear applications and a modest increase in the assessment on Members as compared with the increase in miscellaneous income. With regard to the exchange rate, Panama was in favour of a large proportion of contributions being paid in Austrian schillings or in dollars with the amount varying as a function of the dollar-schilling rate.

10. It was gratifying that efforts were being made to recruit more nationals of Third World countries to the Secretariat and as experts; it was only regrettable that those efforts were not being successful because of the lack of applications from appropriate candidates. Panama agreed that, as stipulated by the Statute, only well-qualified candidates should be appointed.

11. The Committee on Assurances of Supply had been making progress, albeit slowly, and he hoped that a consensus on the matter of principles of international co-operation in the field of nuclear energy would be reached in October 1985.

12. His delegation had welcomed the following recommendations of the Third NPT Review Conference, which had recently ended in Geneva: that negotiations should continue on the permanent banning of tests of nuclear explosions by nuclear-weapon countries; that a treaty on total nuclear disarmament should come into being; that further nuclear-weapon-free zones should be established; that assistance should be provided by nuclear-weapon States with the establishment of such zones, inter alia, in the Middle East, Africa and Asia; and that there should be co-operation between Member States in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. It would be appropriate for the General Conference to associate itself with those recommendations.

13. Mr. CASTRO DIAZ-BALART (Cuba) expressed the conviction that, in the present complex international situation, marked by the dangers of the armaments race and an atmosphere of global and local confrontation generated by certain warlike circles, the Agency's General Conference would embody the spirit of peace, dialogue and collaboration.

14. The worst consequences of the international economic crisis were felt by the countries of the Third World, which had a huge and irremediable external debt. Such factors as trade imbalances, high rates of interest, dumping, and protectionism on the part of the major industrial Powers served only to dash the hopes of those countries. The struggle for a new international economic order, the fundamentals of which had been agreed upon in the United Nations General Assembly, had never before been so urgent.

15. That worsening economic situation was also reflected in the pattern of world nuclear development. Only 4.3% of the world's installed nuclear capacity was in Latin America, Africa, the Middle East and South Asia. By the year 2000, when nuclear power was expected to provide 20% of the world's energy, those vast areas, containing 80% of the world's population, would still have no foreseeable access to the increased energy resources which would enable them to meet basic human requirements. Statistical reports had indicated that any increase in the Third World's nuclear power resources up to the early 21st century would remain limited to the ten countries at present possessing or constructing nuclear power plants. Leading scientists had calculated that the underdeveloped world would need at least US \$450 000 million between 1980 and 1990 to carry out energy programmes and to meet the challenge to their own survival.

16. However, how would they be able to obtain such resources, when they already owed twice that amount and were not even capable of servicing that debt at US \$100 000 million annually? How, for example, was Latin America to mobilize such amounts, when over ten years the interest alone on its debt would amount to US \$400 000 million? The situation had become so serious that it called for constant analysis and attention.

17. The technical assistance and co-operation programme should be maintained and broadened. It was thus essential to guarantee the necessary financial resources and appropriate increases in the programme's budget. His country could neither understand nor accept that certain Governments, which had undertaken to co-operate for the benefit of those States most in need of assistance, should now call for "zero growth" in the budget, basing their argument on various pretexts and threats for the future.

18. Cuba categorically rejected those arguments and considered them unfounded. It opposed the budgetary freeze and condemned the attempt to curtail the right of developing States to participate more fully and effectively in the development of nuclear power.

19. As to the financing of safeguards - which were very important for the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in non-nuclear-weapon States - he pointed out that the Agency had so far, in that respect, accorded preferential treatment to developing countries. It was to be hoped that that would continue in the future. No proposal in regard to that matter should be to the detriment of developing countries, whose economies, in the majority of cases, were close to bankruptcy.

20. The long-standing problem concerning the amendment of Article VI.A.2 of the Statute had now been further complicated by the inclusion in the agenda of an item aimed at revising Article VI as a whole. Cuba was ready to consider any proposal for resolving that matter, provided it was realistic and took into account the affected regions, including Latin America.

21. With regard to South Africa's nuclear capabilities, his Government felt that the steps thus far taken by South Africa were insufficient and far from satisfying the basic requirement of resolution GC(XXVIII)/RES/423 that South Africa should place all its nuclear facilities under safeguards. The partial measures adopted by South Africa were simply a means to gain time, to try to improve the image of apartheid in the eyes of the international community and to avoid the application of operative paragraph 7 of resolution GC(XXVIII)/RES/423. South Africa was subjecting its black population to

barbarous repression. It was continuing its illegal occupation of Namibia and preventing that country from gaining true independence. It continued to threaten and attack neighbouring independent States. There remained the possibility that the racist régime might use nuclear weapons, rather than permit its shameful system to come to an end. Pretoria's room for manoeuvre and false reforms, carried out with thinly disguised support on the part of certain western countries, was decreasing daily. The demand should therefore be firmly reiterated that South Africa comply fully with resolution GC(XXVIII)/RES/423.

22. Referring to the Israeli attack on the Iraqi nuclear installation, he hoped that the General Conference would adopt effective measures to oblige Israel to respect and obey resolution GC(XXVIII)/RES/425 of the previous year. No pressure or threat of reprisals against the Agency should be an obstacle to that.

23. He was pleased to inform the General Conference that Cuba's peaceful nuclear energy programme had continued to develop at a rapid pace. Work on his country's first nuclear power plant, which would reduce present oil consumption by over 20%, was proceeding according to plan. Preparations were in hand for the establishment of a nuclear research centre, while progress had been made with nuclear techniques in the fields of medicine, agriculture, industry and construction, and on the establishment of radiological protection and control services.

24. Cuba was also actively involved in the training, both at home and abroad, of hundreds of specialists, professionals and technicians.

25. With regard to its work in the nuclear field, Cuba acknowledged the co-operation given by the Soviet Union and other Socialist countries, Governments of friendly Third World States, and also that given by the IAEA and other specialized agencies within the United Nations system. The Cuban nuclear programme was a modest example of what could be achieved by bringing together independence, a just social system and effective international co-operation.

26. In conclusion, he recalled that the twenty-ninth session of the General Conference coincided with the year which marked not only the fortieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War and the establishment of the United Nations organization, but also the explosion of the first atomic bombs over Hiroshima and Nagasaki, an event which had unleashed the post-war drama of the Cold War, nuclear blackmail, the arms race and the balance of terror, which had continued to the present day.

27. The Agency represented the rational and realistic face of nuclear energy, and he expressed the hope that the ideal of deriving from the atom only peace, well-being and prosperity for all the peoples of the world would triumph.

28. Mr. HOSSAIN (Bangladesh), congratulating Mr. Blix on his reappointment as Director General and welcoming his statement at the Conference, was pleased to note that the latter had separately treated the needs of the least-developed countries in his report on "The Agency's Technical Co-operation Activities in 1984". Those countries were subject to continued crises, both man-made and natural. Owing to the protectionist policies in international trade, they were faced with a shrinking export market, deteriorating terms of trade and a dwindling employment situation. The scarce foreign exchange which they earned was spent mostly on food and fuel imports.

29. In highlighting the problems of the least-developed countries, the Director General had referred to the Agency's technical assistance to them in priority fields such as agriculture, health, basic physics, nuclear engineering and technology and nuclear applications planning. It had also awarded fellowships and organized scientific visits. The Director General's report had underlined a very positive trend among the least-developed countries, namely their greater involvement in the Agency's technical co-operation programme. Some of them were in a position to play the role of suppliers of services to other developing countries, and had hosted training courses and provided experts for project assignments. He was further happy to note that the Agency was already implementing some of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit, especially those relating to technical co-operation programming.

30. His delegation greatly appreciated the Director General's detailed account of the development of nuclear energy, and considered that the Agency should make concerted efforts in order to find a lasting solution to the energy requirements of the developing countries.

31. The growth of nuclear power in the world had not been as encouraging as had been projected earlier. The programme had suffered especially in some developed countries because of a slower rise in electricity demand, high capital costs due partly to regulatory activities and delays. That, in its turn, had affected decision-making in developing countries. However, recently there seemed to be a gradual swing in favour of nuclear power. As the Director General had stated, despite the pessimism about nuclear energy, the total installed nuclear capacity in the world had increased by 17%, 34 new nuclear power units having been connected to the grids in 13 countries.

32. In Bangladesh, where primary energy resources for electricity production were very limited, nuclear power was essential. Efforts to implement the first nuclear power project had not succeeded mainly for want of necessary funds. It seemed that the efforts of other developing countries with prospects for using small and medium power reactors (SMPRs) were suffering owing to various technical and financial problems.

33. In that connection, the Agency's SMPR project initiation study was very relevant and useful to developing countries. Bangladesh was especially happy that the study was based on its 1982 proposal on establishing an international demonstration reactor. A number of meetings had already been held and some technical issues had been clarified. The Agency had recently organized a seminar on costs and financing of nuclear power programmes in developing countries. The holding of a scientific afternoon and technical committee meeting on SMPRs during the Conference should also be mentioned.

34. The Agency's concern for SMPRs and its role in finding answers to many unresolved issues was laudable. However, a lot more remained to be done about the cost of SMPRs and the financing of nuclear plants in developing countries. The Agency might especially take up the financing issues separately with international financial institutions. The latter's opinion on

the role of nuclear power in general and SMPRs in particular might facilitate decision-making in many developing countries. At the same time, suppliers might also be encouraged to provide reasonably acceptable figures on the cost of SMPRs built in their own countries, which could be a basis for calculating the cost of such plants in buyer countries.

35. On the question of financing he drew attention to resolution GC(XXVIII)/RES/439 and to the request to the Agency by the Third NPT Review Conference to provide, upon request, assistance in securing financing from outside sources for nuclear power projects in developing countries and in particular the least-developed countries. He expressed his appreciation of the Agency's renewed efforts in assisting developing countries with nuclear power programme planning and infrastructure development.

36. The reaffirmation by States party to NPT in the Third NPT Review Conference with regard to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and their commitment to Agency safeguards was a testimony to their support for what the Agency stood for. He was confident that the future programmes of the Agency would take into account the report of that conference wherein the latter had reaffirmed the undertaking of the Parties to the Treaty in a position to do so to co-operate in contributing, alone or together with States or international organizations, to the further development of the applications of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, especially in the territories of the non-nuclear-weapon States party to the Treaty, with due consideration for the needs of the developing areas of the world and in that context, recognized the particular needs of the least-developed countries.

37. Referring to his country's activities in the peaceful uses of atomic energy, he said that research and development work in the various branches of atomic energy was continuing and that Bangladesh was actively participating in all programmes sponsored by the IAEA and other agencies. In some fields like food preservation, it was concentrating on using the research findings in the commercialization programme. Moreover, the Atomic Energy Research Establishment (AERE) at Savar had developed a number of other facilities. It

had installed the major components of a 3-MW TRIGA Mark-II research reactor, which was to become critical and operational by the year end. A radioisotope production laboratory was under construction and was expected to be completed the following year. He was grateful to the Agency for its generous technical assistance in the utilization of the research reactor and for the technical advice which its staff members had provided from time to time. He hoped that the quantum of technical assistance to Bangladesh would continue to increase in the future also.

38. The Institute of Computer Science had been established in order to conduct research and development programmes in computer science and technology and to cater for the computational needs of the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission and of other users in the country. Those facilities were centred around a newly installed mainframe IBM System 4341 computer along with the required peripherals. Lastly, the neutron generator supplied by the Agency had been installed and tested and was being utilized for collecting nuclear data using 14 MeV neutrons.

39. Bangladesh was supporting the Agency programmes under the Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology (RCA), and appreciated the financial assistance extended by some countries in the region as well as by UNDP and the Agency. He was pleased to note that the food irradiation programme had been further extended with the aim of technology transfer to the local industry. It was expected that the programme would soon have practical application with the support of the Agency.

40. His country had made considerable progress in its food preservation programme and was interested in the commercialization of irradiated foods. In that connection, it would welcome financial support and co-operation from international financing agencies.

41. It was high time that due consideration be given to the Bangladesh proposal concerning the establishment of a regional centre for research, development and application of nuclear science and technology in one of the Member States under the auspices of the RCA for South and South-East Asia, the

Pacific and the Far East, to be called the Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology for Asia (INSTA), which had been discussed at several RCA working group meetings since 1980 and also at the meetings of Government representatives held in Vienna in 1984. Such a centre would help in the cross fertilization of ideas on research, development and training among the participating Member States. It was worth mentioning that the UNDP industrial project under the RCA had been in operation for five years and that the Agency had established three regional centres in Italy, Monaco and Austria.

42. His delegation was looking forward to the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (UNCPICPUNE) to be held in 1986, for which Bangladesh had proposed some items for inclusion in the agenda and submitted a paper.

43. By adhering to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty a vast majority of countries in the world demonstrated their commitment to the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. However, the fear of proliferation was still very real and had resulted in the unwillingness of developed countries to transfer nuclear technology to the developing ones. An atmosphere of mutual trust was required for assurances of supply of nuclear materials, especially in the field of nuclear power and the Agency might help in creating such an atmosphere. In that connection, one could not ignore that South Africa's unsafeguarded facilities posed a danger, and world-wide condemnation seemed to have no effect on that country.

44. In conclusion, his delegation wished to renew its pledge to co-operate with the Agency which, despite occasional difficulties, had been able to march forward towards its goal.

45. Mr. CHAGULA (United Republic of Tanzania) commended the Director General for his statement and congratulated him on his unanimous re-election.

46. His delegation wished to make a few remarks in connection with the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) which had recently ended. When the NPT was being negotiated in the 1960s, great care had been taken to ensure a balance of obligations and

responsibilities among the parties concerned. Under the Treaty, the non-nuclear-weapon States party to the Treaty had renounced the nuclear-weapons option. While those States had respected that obligation and others contained in the Treaty, the nuclear-weapon States had not adhered to their undertakings and had deliberately violated some of the key articles of the Treaty, particularly Articles I, II and VI. The number of strategic nuclear weapons belonging to the nuclear-weapon States had risen from 6000 in 1970 to the current total of almost 20 000. In addition, research into space-based anti-ballistic missiles was now under way and, if such missiles were deployed, that would constitute a further flagrant violation of the NPT. The conclusion of a comprehensive test ban treaty, which, in the view of the majority, constituted the minimum condition for the super Powers to comply with Article VI of the NPT, had not yet been achieved, and in the meantime bilateral technical assistance in nuclear technology continued to flow to the South African régime and to Israel which in turn threatened the peace and security of their regions.

47. The nuclear-weapon States were no longer the sole suppliers of nuclear technology. A number of other countries, including those which had not signed the NPT, now supplied nuclear technology and materials, sometimes on attractive terms. In view of that and the violations of the Treaty by nuclear-weapon States, there was little incentive for non-NPT members, particularly the "threshold" nuclear States, to sign the Treaty, while States already party to the Treaty might even be tempted to renounce their adherence to it. Thus, the world was not very far from the frightening situation where nuclear weapons proliferation would be out of control. Nevertheless, his delegation felt strongly that one last chance remained and full use should be made of it by universalizing the Treaty and ensuring the adherence of all to all its articles. The conclusion of a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty would contribute significantly towards that goal and would pave the way for nuclear disarmament as well as comprehensive general disarmament. By not strongly condemning the nuclear-weapon States for their violations of Articles I, II and VI of the NPT, and by not agreeing unequivocally that the nuclear-weapon States party to the NPT should forthwith proceed to conclude

negotiations for a comprehensive test ban treaty, the Third NPT Review Conference had again failed, which did not augur well for the future of either the non-proliferation regime or the NPT itself.

48. When the Committee on Assurances of Supply (CAS) had been set up five years previously to formulate principles for international co-operation in nuclear energy, it had been envisaged that the principles would, among other things, provide a non-discriminatory guarantee of nuclear fuel and equipment supplies and promote the provision of assistance to Member States and facilitate the comprehensive application of safeguards in all their peaceful nuclear facilities. While welcoming the progress that had been made in some areas, his delegation was concerned that the Committee had not been able to produce practical results in all areas within its mandate. With another major effort and good will, however, he was hopeful that the Committee could complete its work in those areas.

49. His country attached great importance to the Agency's technical co-operation activities. He welcomed the overall increase in the funds available for those activities, especially the rise in extrabudgetary resources which had enabled more footnote a/ projects to be implemented. Sincere thanks were due to those countries which had provided generous resources for the technical assistance programme. The overall increase in the technical co-operation programme fell short of the requirements of the developing countries, however, a fact which was demonstrated by the sharp rise in the number of footnote a/ projects. It was not surprising that the needs of the developing countries were increasing rapidly since most of their nuclear programmes were still in their infancy when assistance was needed most. Donor States should note, however, that as those programmes matured, the need for assistance would drop considerably. That had already been proved by those developing countries which were now providing assistance to other developing countries in the nuclear area. Also, the valuable catalytic effect of the money spent on technical assistance should not be forgotten.

50. The twenty-fifth session of the General Conference had adopted a draft resolution requesting the Board to take the necessary measures so that technical assistance could be funded through the Regular Budget or through

other comparable predictable and assured resources. It was regrettable that no progress had been made to implement that resolution to the satisfaction of all Member States. The interim system of indicative planning figures did not fulfil the requirements of that resolution since resources continued to be offered voluntarily. None the less, he warmly welcomed the consensus reached by the Board on a 12% annual increase in the target for contributions to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund for the three-year period 1987-1989 and urged the Board to intensify its efforts to fulfil all the objectives of the General Conference resolution to which he had referred.

51. With regard to the programming of technical assistance, his delegation welcomed the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit that the Agency should aim at establishing with each Member State a multi-year programme covering all Agency-supported projects in that State and that the present system of annual voluntary contributions for technical co-operation should be gradually changed so as to cover longer periods. He also commended the introduction of dynamic programming which had released funds for the implementation of footnote a/ projects and for general fellowships. The increasing participation of other Agency Departments in the technical co-operation programme was a trend which should be encouraged. He strongly commended the attention given to the training of nationals from developing countries which would undoubtedly enhance the ability of such countries to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

52. His Government wished to express its gratitude to the Agency for the training, experts and equipment so far provided following his country's decision to establish a National Radiation Commission. He trusted that such assistance would continue to be given until the Commission was firmly established and fully functioning.

53. It was now more than eight years since the legitimate request for the amendment of Article VI.A.2 of the Statute had first been brought to the attention of the Board. During those years, there had been a long process of laborious and extensive consultations backed up by eight consecutive General Conference resolutions, each of which stressed the urgency of amending that Article in order to ensure the just and equitable representation of the two

under-represented regions on the Board. The issue was still far from being resolved and, in an effort to kill it, the champions of the status quo were now fighting hard to block any further discussions of it by refusing to agree on the establishment of a mechanism which would carry the matter forward. Those parties were attempting to obscure the original issue by suggesting that the whole of Article VI be revised in order to meet the concerns of the under-represented regions as well as those of the advanced regions which wished to maintain the so-called technical and political balance of the Board. His delegation was ready to take part in an exchange of ideas on that question, provided such a revision did not detract from the revision of Article VI.A.2, which should continue to be given top priority.

54. Mr. AAMODT (Norway) said that the current session of the General Conference was meeting following the successful outcome of the Third NPT Review Conference in Geneva, which had agreed by consensus on a final declaration. That Conference had emphasized the key role of Agency safeguards in preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the role of the Agency in global nuclear co-operation.

55. Subject to parliamentary approval, his delegation accepted the budget proposed and the target of US \$30 000 000 for voluntary contributions to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund for 1986. That Fund, together with the Regular Budget, provided a reasonable balance between the Agency's regulatory and promotional activities. The substantial growth in the technical co-operation programme in recent years was a source of satisfaction to his delegation, which would be prepared to accept further reasonable increases in the future. He found considerable merit in the concept of indicative planning figures and saw no need to switch to any other method of financing.

56. By 31 December 1984, 92.1% of the target for voluntary contributions had been pledged compared with 92.7% in 1983. He hoped that Member States would pay the contributions outstanding not only for 1984, but also for 1983 and earlier years. He was disappointed that, by the end of 1984, 45 Member States had not pledged a voluntary contribution for 1984 and 14 Member States had pledged amounts smaller than their calculated shares. The rapid increase in the arrears of assessed programme costs in recent years was also a matter of concern, and every effort should be made to collect the outstanding amounts.

57. He noted with satisfaction that the implementation of technical assistance had increased by 44% in 1984 over the 1983 level and that there had been a substantial rise over the last few years in the amount of technical assistance provided to the 12 Member States belonging to the group of least developed countries. In addition to its regular contribution to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund, Norway intended to contribute to the financing of footnote a/ projects. Norway had a strong commitment to non-proliferation and its main aim in contributing to selected footnote a/ projects would be to offer assistance and encouragement to countries which had foregone the nuclear-weapons option by signing the NPT and to support technical programmes.

58. His delegation supported the trend towards more direct Agency participation in safety work through advisory missions and assistance to national regulatory bodies, and noted with satisfaction that the incident reporting system had become operational in 1984. The Agency's efforts regarding nuclear power and the fuel cycle were also important. The exchange and dissemination of Member States' experience through publications, symposia, panels and so forth were beneficial for all Member States. Among the highlights of the Agency's programme were the small and medium power reactor project, which might be of direct interest to a considerable number of Member States, and the INIS programme, which was an outstanding example of real international co-operation.

59. Norway, together with several other countries, had consistently expressed the view that sea dumping of any type of radioactive waste should be avoided. His delegation trusted that the Agency would give proper attention to studying the effects of sea dumping.

60. His country was pleased to note that a number of countries had signed the NPT in 1984 and that additional safeguards agreements pursuant to NPT or the Tlatelolco Treaty had been concluded. At the end of 1984, however, there were still 39 non-nuclear-weapon States party to the NPT which had not concluded safeguards agreements. After a long period of rapid increase in workload, the safeguards system had now entered a period of consolidation. The quantity of material controlled had not changed much from 1983 to 1984 and slightly fewer inspections had been carried out in a smaller number of nuclear installations. There had been a remarkable increase from 1983 to 1984 in the

number of major facilities for which inspection goals had been fully attained, although the situation had not improved for all types of installations. There were many possible reasons for the non-attainment of inspection goals, some outside Agency control. He hoped Member States would be more co-operative by submitting reports on time, by being more flexible in designating inspectors and by speeding up the shipment of analytical samples, since that would result in a more reliable and cheaper safeguards system. It appeared that a number of facilities with an annual throughput or presence of more than one significant quantity of nuclear material had not been inspected in 1984. Since the available man-years of designated inspectors had risen by 19% from 1983 to 1984, all important facilities should have been inspected. His delegation was aware of the efforts being made within the inspectorate to improve efficiency but doubted whether the abolition of the "Country Officer" concept had been a step in that direction. The former arrangement had given his country better and more direct contact with the Agency in the safeguards field.

61. All countries participating in international nuclear trade must be able to feel confident that the material and equipment they exported could under no circumstances be put to nuclear explosive or military use. He urged the few non-nuclear-weapon States having nuclear installations not subject to Agency safeguards to conclude full-scope safeguards agreements with the Agency either within or outside the NPT framework.

62. Four nuclear-weapon States had concluded voluntary safeguards agreements with the Agency. He welcomed the recent announcement by China that certain Chinese installations would be placed under Agency safeguards.

63. His delegation supported in principle the Swedish proposal that steps be taken towards separating the civilian and military nuclear sectors of the nuclear-weapon States party to the NPT and that Agency safeguards be applied in the civilian nuclear sector in those countries. It was his Government's position that all Member States should participate in the financing of safeguards which were a collective responsibility and which benefited all countries. The extension of the safeguards system to cover the total peaceful sector of the nuclear-weapon States would result in a considerable increase in the Agency's safeguards budget. That should be taken into consideration in the discussions on the future financing of safeguards.

64. His delegation was pleased to announce that Norway had ratified the International Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material on 15 August 1985.

65. It was to be hoped that the Committee on Assurances of Supply (CAS) would soon reach satisfactory conclusions. It was in the interest of all to promote nuclear trade, the basic conditions for which were reliable supplies and a smoothly functioning non-proliferation regime. Finally, with regard to the composition of the Board of Governors, he noted that both equitable geographical representation and the degree of technological advancement should be taken into account. An agreement on changes in the Board's membership would most likely be achieved by revising Article VI as a whole.

66. Mr. PRIBICEVIC (Yugoslavia) noted that the Conference was being held at a time when international political and economic relations were fraught with many negative trends adversely affecting the stability of the international situation and making the global picture very complex. The arms race was continuing, ever more sophisticated weapons for mass destruction were being developed and there was a dangerous tendency towards the militarization of outer space. Policies of force and pressure were being persistently applied, endangering the independence and stability of many countries. Despite new possibilities of scientific and technological development, the gap between developed and developing countries was further deepening and becoming one of the most dramatic contradictions of the contemporary world. Such a situation caused serious concern among all peace-loving forces, particularly in non-aligned and other developing countries which, at their recent ministerial meeting held in the capital of Angola, expressed their resolve to struggle for peace and for the democratization of international relations.

67. The significance of nuclear power as the most reliable alternative energy source was indisputable. Although there had been a certain decline in the construction of new nuclear power plants in some developed countries, primarily due to surplus of capacity, some of them were already meeting over 50 per cent of their energy needs from their nuclear plants and had ambitious plans for the future. Faced with a continuous energy shortage, developing countries, due to their economic difficulties and unfavourable conditions of

international co-operation, were not in a position to carry out their plans for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. It was significant that of the 34 nuclear plants which had begun operation in 1984 only one was located in a developing country. International efforts should be intensified to create more favourable conditions which would result in the more rapid introduction of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in developing countries.

68. Co-operation between Yugoslavia and the Agency had developed successfully in various fields of peaceful uses of nuclear energy during the past year and it was hoped that such co-operation would be continued and expanded.

69. Studies had shown that available classical energy resources were insufficient for his country's growing energy requirements. Therefore, notwithstanding the enormous burden involved, his country had adopted a long-term plan of nuclear power plant construction. That programme would help to satisfy his country's needs only if all other available energy sources continued to be exploited at the same time and only if economies were also made.

70. His country particularly supported the Agency's activities in the areas of nuclear safety, waste disposal, the information system, the uses of nuclear energy in agriculture and so on, as well as other fields of its activities in the transfer of know-how and technology. In view of the growing needs of the developing countries, it was necessary for the Agency to intensify its activities in that important area. However, the maintenance of the Agency's budget on the same level for several years had made it difficult for the Agency to keep up its activities and even more difficult to increase them in accordance with the growing needs, especially those of developing countries.

71. There was still a lack of balance between the promotional and regulatory activities of the Agency, since the Agency's assistance to developing countries was not at an appropriate level. As a result, some projects had to wait for additional resources from individual developed countries. Efforts should be made to ensure that all technically sound projects were financed in the same way and from the same sources.

72. His country firmly supported the views which had been expressed by the Group of 77 regarding the functioning of the Agency during the period following the previous regular session of the Agency's General Conference.

73. With regard to South Africa, the events in the past months had shown that the racist régime and the policy of apartheid constituted a constant and dangerous threat to independence, stability and peace in South Africa. His country shared the concerns regarding South Africa's nuclear capabilities and was in favour of vigorous international action to ensure rapid full implementation of all relevant resolutions.

74. It was also necessary that all resolutions concerning the consequences of the Israeli military attack on the Iraqi nuclear research reactor and the standing threat to repeat that attack be implemented fully and without further delay.

75. It was to be hoped that the progress achieved at the fifth meeting of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (UNCPICPUNE) would create the basis for a successful and fruitful sixth meeting of the Preparatory Committee, in accordance with the interest of all the countries concerned. A successful outcome of the Conference would create more scope for the further promotion of the meaningful activities of the Agency which remained an irreplaceable instrument of international co-operation in that important field.

76. In conclusion, he was pleased to inform the Conference that the Federal Assembly of Yugoslavia had ratified the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material.

77. Mr. THOMPSON (Ireland) said that his country attached great importance to the work of the Agency, even though it had no plans to acquire a nuclear electricity generating capacity.

78. Since nuclear power now generated 13% of the world's electricity, it had an increasingly important and indispensable role to play in the world economy and in relations between States. Despite its manifold advantages, nuclear power also raised certain problems, such as nuclear safety, waste management, and the risk of nuclear proliferation. Since more than half of

the world's nuclear reactors as well as a number of major fuel cycle facilities were located in Europe, his country was inevitably affected by such questions. It therefore greatly valued the regulatory work carried out by the Agency in the area of nuclear safety, such as the Incident Reporting System, the revision of the regulations for the safe transport of nuclear materials, and its work in connection with the London Dumping Convention. It had taken a special interest in the guidelines for mutual assistance among States in the event of a nuclear accident or radiological emergency.

79. Developments in nuclear non-power uses were of particular interest. The promotional work carried out by the Agency in the areas of agriculture, food irradiation, environmental studies, and life sciences would in time be of great benefit to his country's economy and people. A seminar on food irradiation which had been held in his country had attracted a great deal of attention from the food processing industry and industrial irradiation was already being used on a large scale in his country for the sterilization of prepacked medical equipment. The Agency's work for developing countries was very important, especially in the areas of insect eradication and improvement of food supplies. In recognition of the importance of that work, his country was pledging US \$30 000 to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund for 1986.

80. The Agency also played an extremely important role in the application of safeguards to nuclear installations. The Third NPT Review Conference had recognized that without the safeguards provided by the Agency it would not have been possible to agree on the NPT non-proliferation regime, nor subsequently to check the spread of nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices. The primary purpose of safeguards was to provide mutual assurances of good faith in compliance with political commitments to the use of nuclear energy for exclusively peaceful purposes. All Member States, nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States alike, should demonstrate that commitment by submitting all their peaceful nuclear facilities to Agency safeguards. It was a cause of grave concern that there were still six non-nuclear-weapon States with sensitive unsafeguarded installations. Those unsafeguarded installations posed not only a proliferation risk, but also exacerbated regional instability.

81. Many of those who had attended the NPT Review Conference had been convinced not only that the NPT regime had shown its viability, but also that the Conference had demonstrated the willingness of the parties to see the safeguards system develop to meet the challenges posed by the nuclear arms race. The NPT Review conference had recognized that the safeguards system ought ultimately to acquire a role in limiting vertical proliferation by providing assurances that stocks of plutonium in the nuclear-weapon States were not being diverted from peaceful to military purposes. Moreover, the safeguards system provided a model for international inspection and verification in the fields of arms control and disarmament. The recently concluded safeguards agreement with the Soviet Union could prove to be of special significance in that context, and it was hoped that it would be enlarged to cover a greater number of facilities. If that and the other voluntary offers could be extended to cover safeguards inspection of all civil nuclear plants in the nuclear-weapon States, as the Review Conference recommended, the nuclear-weapon States would be in a better position to fulfil their obligations under Article 6 of NPT.

82. It was regrettable that insufficient attention had been given to international plutonium storage, and the NPT Review Conference's recommendation that the Agency should now establish such a system was very welcome. The growing use and movement of plutonium posed a serious proliferation risk and an IPS system was the best way to deal with that problem. All States should exercise due restraint in the separation of plutonium and recognize the importance of minimizing stocks surplus to civil requirements.

83. It was pleasing to note that the Committee on Assurances of Supply (CAS) had made some progress towards reaching agreement on the establishment of principles governing nuclear supply. A universal consensus on the principles of non-proliferation would ease any problems of nuclear supply. The non-proliferation regime had been strengthened at the NPT Review Conference by the agreement reached there on the application of full-scope safeguards to all nuclear supplies. The confidence that the Agency's safeguards role was being fully and properly carried out was a necessary

prerequisite for the development of technical exchanges and nuclear trade. Discussions in CAS and the preparations for the forthcoming United Nations Conference on the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (UNCPICPUNE) had become more intense in the past year and it was to be hoped that those efforts would enable a wider consensus to be reached on the problems involved.

84. In conclusion, he noted that the control of nuclear power for peaceful purposes had a direct bearing on international security and any undermining of the principle of universality would ultimately affect the well-being of all Member States.

85. Mr. LE BA CAP (Viet Nam) said that the General Conference was taking place at a tense moment in international relations; the imperialist forces were intensifying the arms race, especially the nuclear arms race, by conducting major programmes and projects of a new and unprecedented nature which threatened humanity with a war of extinction. Through their aggressive and hegemonic policies, the imperialist and reactionary forces were increasing both their military presence throughout the world, particularly in the Asian and Pacific regions, as well as their efforts to sow discord amongst peoples. That was a grave threat to international peace and security, and to the independence, national sovereignty and economic development of States.

86. The fundamental task of all peoples was to preserve peace, avert the danger of nuclear war and oppose all policies of aggression and hegemony on the part of the warmongering forces. It was more than ever necessary to encourage co-operation and friendship between peoples and to pursue a policy of peaceful co-existence rather than one of confrontation.

87. His country particularly supported the initiatives taken by the Soviet Union with regard to a unilateral halt to nuclear-weapons testing, seeking rapid agreement on a halt to such tests and the demilitarization of space. Viet Nam also welcomed the initiatives taken by other countries aimed at ensuring that all disarmament talks should achieve positive results. A relaxed international climate could create favourable conditions both for friendly co-operation between peoples and for the development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

88. The Agency, with its respect for national sovereignty, justice and non-discrimination, and with its particular emphasis on serving the needs of developing countries, had been highly successful in its work since it was first created.

89. Viet Nam had recovered from its ruins after 30 years of war for national independence. Through its own efforts and with the help of the Agency and friendly countries, it was now embarking upon a peaceful nuclear energy programme and was successfully applying nuclear techniques in agriculture, medicine and public welfare.

90. His country had acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and had signed a Safeguards Agreement in 1981. Its first research reactor, with a capacity of 500 kW, had come into operation in 1984. Viet Nam supported the proposal aimed at establishing a nuclear-free zone in South East Asia.

91. In conclusion, he wished to stress that Viet Nam's foreign policy was based on the principles of preserving world peace, maintaining friendship with all peoples and promoting international co-operation. Together with other South East Asian countries, Viet Nam was continuing in its endeavour to make that region an oasis of peace, stability and co-operation, free from foreign interference. His Government believed that the conditions were ripe for the achievement of that end.

92. Mr. ROSARIO (Philippines) said that the present year was the fortieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. Looking back over those years one could recall many significant achievements in which the United Nations and the Agency had co-operated in their efforts to make the world a better place for mankind. Both organizations continued to co-operate, providing in that manner an important forum for countries of the world to settle their differences amicably and find optimum solutions for their bilateral and multilateral problems. His delegation pledged its full and lasting support for the work of the Agency and the United Nations system.

93. The present year was also the thirtieth anniversary of the creation of the original committee set up to co-ordinate the series of conferences on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, as well as the fifteenth anniversary of the

Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). The coincidence of those two anniversaries with the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations were surely significant. The Super Powers continued to negotiate the limitation of nuclear weapons and other sensitive issues related to non-proliferation within the relevant framework and his delegation wished to express its support for those international efforts, aimed at ending the nuclear arms race.

94. In the present year, co-operation between the Philippines and the Agency had been intensified. Apart from the traditional activities related to technical assistance, research contracts and safeguards inspection, the Agency had been involved in the safety aspects of the first Philippine nuclear power plant (PNPP-I), which was now ready to go into full operation. The two Operational Safety Review Team (OSART) missions in June/July 1984, and February 1985, were a response to the request by the Philippine Government to look into the safety of PNPP-I and to allay public concern regarding the risks involved in nuclear power production. The Agency missions had proved very useful.

95. The public hearings conducted by the Philippines Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) had ended on 22 August 1985, with a ruling in favour of the plant's entry into operation. The ruling, however, was being appealed against by a small group of opponents for purely political reasons. It was hoped that the Philippine High Court would uphold the original decision.

96. As a developing country with its first nuclear power plant, the Philippines attached great importance to the Agency's activities in nuclear safety and radiation protection, in particular the NUSS and operational safety programmes. The Agency's codes of practice and safety guides had been of very great value to the Philippines in deciding on its approach to safety matters affecting PNPP-I, especially as far as siting, design and construction, and the physical protection of the plant were concerned.

97. His delegation wished to express its appreciation for the technical assistance and co-operation received in 1984. It was especially grateful for the Agency's efforts to work out a financial arrangement with the Government

of the United States for the purchase of equipment needed for conversion of the Triga research reactor, which used low-enriched uranium as its fuel.

98. It was heartening to see that in 1984 the adjusted programme for technical assistance had exceeded US \$50 million. That development was very welcome and in conformity with Article II of the Agency's Statute. The 44% increase in the implementation of technical assistance over the 1983 figure was impressive. It was regrettable, however, that the extrabudgetary resources available in 1984 had declined slightly as against the 1983 level, and that the share of footnote a/ projects made operational had dropped from 71.8% in 1982 to 65.4% in 1983, and then to 62.1% in 1984.

99. His delegation appreciated the study made by the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) of the Agency's technical assistance programme; it contained important recommendations for improving the Agency's technical assistance and co-operation programme. The Philippines supported those recommendations and also welcomed the decision by the Board of Governors in September 1985 to make the IPF (indicative planning figure) for 1987 12% higher than the target, and also to make the IPF for 1988 and 1989 12% higher than the figure for the preceding year.

100. The problem of financing the Agency's safeguards programme was more serious than it might seem in view of the marked diversity of views and the political issues involved. His delegation was sorry to see that the Board of Governors had so far not been able to reach any agreement on financing safeguards that was applicable for a period of more than two years.

101. The present financing system was clearly unsatisfactory and had to be reviewed every time the United Nations Contributions Committee reviewed the base rate of assessment. Hence there was need for a new and more stable system, especially in view of the increasing number of nuclear facilities in Member States being safeguarded. He therefore wished to reiterate his delegation's view that it was time for the nuclear-weapon States to decide whether the political, military and commercial value of the international safeguards system was worth more than their share of a few million dollars of the Agency's annual safeguards budget.

102. His country supported the Agency's programme for 1986, and a target of US \$30 million for voluntary contributions to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund. While it was acceptable to maintain the Working Capital Fund at a level of US \$2 million in 1986, the Secretariat should nevertheless study the need to increase the Working Capital Fund from 1988 onwards. At the present time the necessity for a higher Working Capital Fund might not be evident on account of the large annual unliquidated obligations and substantial savings.

103. He associated himself with other delegations in expressing concern at the continuing zero-growth approach to the Regular Budget. The right approach would be to determine first the programme required by Member States and then provide the necessary resources. His country had only agreed to the zero-growth approach so far because of the stable increases in the technical co-operation funds. In 1984, however, the total resources available for technical co-operation had increased by only 4% over the previous year.

104. A further point was the problem of the assessed programme costs; it was hoped that the Board of Governors would be able to approve, at a future meeting, the Secretariat's proposals contained in document GOV/2193. The variation in the level of technical assistance for specific countries from one year to another made it extremely difficult for those countries to include their assessed programme costs for a particular year without knowing the amounts at the beginning of the preceding year, when their respective national budgets were being drafted.

105. The Philippines was convinced that the General Conference would reaffirm the value of universality in membership of the Agency. That principle, however, had to be reflected by equitable representation of Member States on the Board of Governors and equitable representation of their nationals in the Secretariat. It was therefore regrettable that since 1977 there had not been any solution to the problem of equitable representation on the Board of Governors. Even the proposal for an extra seat for Africa and one for Middle East and South Asia no longer seemed to command the required support.

106. Although the representation of the developing countries had increased from 74 in 1981 to 125 in 1985, an improvement that had been made in conformity with resolution GC(XXV)/RES/386, those States made up two thirds of the Agency's membership and could not be expected to accept a 22% representation in the Agency's professional staff; they should have at least 30%.

107. The Third Review Conference of Parties to NPT had just ended in Geneva; it had to be borne in mind that the basic quid pro quo of the Treaty was that in return for full-scope safeguards all parties to the Treaty must have full access to nuclear material, equipment and technology. There was, however, need for a clearer definition of the extent to which countries had a right to fuel cycle services guaranteed under NPT, with consideration for the special needs of the developing countries. With regard to the physical protection of nuclear material, it was hoped that all Member States would accede to the convention as soon as possible.

108. In conclusion; he wished to express his congratulations to the Director General on his reappointment for a further term of office.

109. Mr. PATUMASOOTRA (Thailand) said that, as a peace-loving country, his country firmly believed that while the final objective of NPT should be general and complete disarmament under effective international control, the immediate goal must be the elimination of the danger of nuclear war and the implementation of measures to halt and reverse the arms race. The Agency's Statute and the NPT Treaty both sought to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to impede its military use. His delegation shared the view expressed by the Director General in his statement at the Third NPT Review Conference that the Agency system for on-site inspection could serve as a model for the development of a system for the verification of arms control and disarmament agreements.

110. His country was very interested in the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (UNCPICPUNE) which would be held in 1986 and had also taken part in the Regional Expert Group Meeting for that Conference which had been organized by ESCAP in Bangkok early in 1985.

111. As a small and non-nuclear country, his country welcomed the fact that the world continued to have confidence in the Agency's safeguards system. The General Conference as well as the Board of Governors had discussed the financing of safeguards for several years and it had been decided at the previous year's General Conference that the arrangements of the assessment of Members' contributions towards the Agency's Regular Budget should be applicable for 1985 and 1986. Unless it was decided otherwise at the present General Conference, his delegation would continue to support the decision taken by the General Conference in 1984. Despite the arguments between developing countries and developed countries regarding the share of the burden for the financing of safeguards, it was a matter of satisfaction to note that all Members of the Agency agreed in principle that the safeguards system must continue to function properly and recognized the great value of safeguards in creating a climate of international confidence.

112. It was perhaps appropriate to mention that his Government was in the process of preparing legislation similar to the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage.

113. With regard to the Agency's technical assistance programme, his country recognized that the application of isotopes and radiation technology had considerable potential for strengthening the economies of developing countries. It was gratifying to know that the total available resources for the technical assistance and co-operation programme had almost doubled between 1980 and 1984, to reach US \$36 million in 1984. Since becoming a Member of the Agency, his country had received more than US \$4 million worth of equipment, fellowships and expert assistance from the Agency and during 1985 was receiving a total of about US \$608 700 in technical assistance for six projects including the radioisotope production facility project and the nuclear physics project. His delegation was grateful to the Secretariat and especially to the Department of Technical Co-operation for the assistance provided.

114. His country had also hosted a number of meetings and training seminars and had co-operated with the Agency in organizing scientific visits by scientists from Member States to study the use of radioisotopes in

agriculture. The sterile insect technique developed jointly by the Agency and FAO was being used in the north of the country to eliminate fruit flies and was expected to yield some results in 1988.

115. In recognition of the services of the Agency in the field of technical assistance, his country was making a voluntary contribution to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund for 1986 of US \$24 000.

116. He was pleased to note that, during the past few years, the Director General had been gradually implementing General Conference resolutions relating to the staffing of the Agency's Secretariat. It was to be hoped that the trend would continue to permit more experts from developing countries to gain additional experience by serving in the Secretariat.

117. Thailand welcomed the participation of the People's Republic of China in the UNDP/IAEA Regional Co-operation in the Industrial Application of Isotopes and Radiation Technology and hoped that China would soon join other RCA activities. With regard to technology transfer, the large-scale industrial technology transfer effort of nuclear technology under the IAEA/UNDP Regional Industrial Project had promoted industrial development in the region. The project had created an awareness of the benefits of nuclear technology in production processes and plant operation safety among various industries in his country. The private sector had made a major investment on a gamma irradiator for sterilization of medical supplies and the plant had been operational since 1984. There was also considerable interest in the commercialization of food irradiation technology. The Government was initiating a project to meet the needs of the private sector by proposing a pilot multi-purpose irradiation plant and the economic feasibility of the proposal was being considered. The Agency's assistance in that respect had been greatly appreciated. In the light of the widespread success of Phase I of the IAEA/UNDP Regional Industrial Project (1982-1986), his Government strongly supported the extension of the Project in Phase II.

118. In conclusion he said that his country was looking forward to further close co-operation with other countries under RCA as well as with the Agency.

119. Mr. PALOMO SILVA (Guatemala) said that at a time of international crisis it was perhaps the smaller countries which were best able to analyse the danger of the proliferation of nuclear weapons, since it was from a viewpoint of total impotence that the crisis appeared most terrifying. He therefore wished to offer a few thoughts on the subject of nuclear war. The horrors of nuclear weapons were many, and since their first use an atmosphere of fear and death had prevailed. A constant fear of extinction was undermining human life itself and the conditions that sustained it, thereby blighting hopes for the future.

120. But it was not only the existential aspects of the nuclear arms race that affected the less developed countries, beset as they were by political and financial problems. The enormous investments made in nuclear weapons were deeply disturbing. The smallest countries would greatly welcome a reduction in nuclear arsenals and an increase in genuine North-South co-operation, not as a gift but as an expression of the common need to share the world and to eliminate the great dangers which all faced in it.

121. Despite the discouraging world situation, the Agency had been engaged in admirable activities in connection with the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, including its extensive safeguards programme. Although Guatemala was a small country, it had belonged to the Agency since its inception. It had received assistance from the Agency for many years, and had on two occasions been a member of the Board. Guatemala was not able to receive all the types of assistance the Agency could provide and had to make a careful selection of the activities to be supported. At present, through the Directorate of Nuclear Energy, the Ministry of Energy and Mines was carrying out projects with Agency technical assistance on analysis of uranium ores, establishment of a dosimetry laboratory, radioisotopes in agriculture, radiopharmaceuticals, food preservation and eradication of the Mediterranean fruit fly using the sterile insect technique. Legislation on the application of nuclear energy was to be promulgated; in addition, Guatemala was involved in the ARCAL programme and participated in projects on radiation protection, nuclear instrumentation, a radioimmunoassay network for animal reproduction, nuclear analytical techniques, food irradiation, improvement of rice and other cereals

and radioimmunoassay of thyroid hormones. Thus, his country had been actively involved in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and intended to expand those activities with a view to benefiting its population for the future.

122. In conclusion, he urged States at the most advanced stage of nuclear development to do all that they could to eliminate the atmosphere of nuclear terror, replacing it by one in which nuclear technology could be peacefully applied so that energy, health and food problems could be solved, especially in the least-developed countries. The future of humanity was dependent upon a transformation of international relations in the direction of genuine and widespread co-operation and interchange of technology and know-how with a view to enabling all mankind to live together in a truly human world.

123. Mr. RODRIGUEZ CEDEÑO (Venezuela) noted with satisfaction that, despite the present world economic situation, there had been a considerable uptrend in the uses of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Mankind's progress and stability depended to a large extent on nuclear energy, and the Agency was fulfilling a very valuable function in that respect.

124. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) was another framework within which the Agency played an important part. His delegation welcomed the consensus achieved at the end of the previous week's Review Conference of the Parties to NPT, which had made possible the adoption of a final text. However, it had once again been shown that a number of countries had not fulfilled all of their obligations under the Treaty. That situation had persisted since the first Review Conference in 1975, and was progressively eroding faith in the Treaty's credibility.

125. Venezuela fully supported the Agency's technical assistance activities, through which a number of national projects promoting progress in the spheres of agriculture, health, industry and scientific research had been implemented. His country also planned to embark upon a programme for radioactive ore prospecting and a programme for increasing at the same time public awareness of the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

126. Although Venezuela did not intend to introduce nuclear power in the medium term (15-20 years) - its existing energy resources were sufficient - his Government was nevertheless following developments in that field in other countries with close interest.

127. Venezuela had made administrative changes in order to facilitate the receipt of technical assistance from the Agency and international co-operation in nuclear matters. All such activities were now handled at ministerial level and came under the Ministry of Energy and Mines.

128. Regional action was of fundamental importance, and Venezuela had supported the Regional Co-operation Arrangements for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America (ARCAL) from the outset. Caracas had hosted the first meeting in 1981 of the Andean Sub-Regional Committee for the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, in which eleven Latin American countries were now involved. He commended the Agency's efforts to implement the programme in the areas of radiological protection, nuclear instrumentation, radioimmunoassay, nuclear analysis techniques, the use of research reactors, food irradiation, cereal improvement by mutations, quality control and the use of particle accelerators. The programme was noteworthy for its high social content, in which the main element was training, particularly at technician level. Projects of that kind had been successful in other parts of the world, and his Government therefore felt it essential that other States, particularly those more advanced in the nuclear field, should participate in them.

129. With regard to the Agency's safeguards system, there could be no doubt as to its value and importance. Venezuela therefore supported it both morally and materially. The Soviet Union's acceptance of Agency safeguards on some of its peaceful nuclear activities was greatly welcomed. It was of major importance to the international community that nuclear-weapon States should conclude such agreements with the Agency.

130. As to the financing of safeguards, Venezuela's position was clearly reflected in the draft resolution contained in document GOV/2181 of 21 September 1984, and had not changed.

131. The appropriations made by States for financing safeguards should be based, inter alia, on the number, nature and relative importance of the facilities safeguarded, as well as on the State's own financial status. The major financing burden should fall on the most highly developed countries, whose economies, despite the present world situation, were more able to

support a programme of that scope. The developing countries were today faced with serious economic problems which affected their development as a whole. Existing arrangements for the financing of safeguards were therefore the most suitable, and any revision of them should be based on just and equitable criteria.

132. The financing of safeguards had been considered by the Board of Governors in the course of the previous week's session but, despite the determined efforts of the Chairman, agreement had not been reached. His delegation was confident, however, that a more suitable criterion for the financing of safeguards would be defined in the near future.

133. As far as the financing of technical assistance was concerned, he was disappointed that during the recent session of the Board it had been agreed to increase the indicative planning figure by only 12%. Although that meant a relative increase, the figure was not entirely satisfactory and did not meet technical assistance requirements. It was his delegation's view that technical assistance should be funded from predictable sources that ensured that the relevant programmes would be implemented.

134. In conclusion, he wished to state that the Government of Venezuela had pledged the sum of US \$40 000 as its voluntary contribution to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund for 1986.

The meeting rose at 10.55 p.m.

