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President: Mr. MANOUAN (Côte d'Ivoire)
later: Mr. HIREMATH (India)

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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) (continued)

1. Mr. MADRID GONZALEZ (Spain) said that under Spain's current National Energy Plan provision was being made over the period 1983-1992 for an average annual increase in electricity demand of 3.3%, and that by 1992 the total installed capacity would have reached 43 GW, 7.7 GW of which would be accounted for by nuclear power. On 31 December 1984 the installed nuclear capacity had amounted to 4760 MW. During the year, two 900 MW units had reached full capacity and the 975-MW Cofrentes nuclear power plant had been commissioned in October.
2. In 1984, Spanish nuclear facilities had operated satisfactorily in terms of nuclear safety and radiation protection. Construction of nuclear power plants had continued under the guidance of the regulatory body, and the draft of a basic national plan for off-site emergencies had been drawn up. Nuclear power generation had increased by 126.9% over the previous year and had amounted to 21 346 GWh, with nuclear power accounting for 18.8% of the total electricity generation.
3. In 1984, uranium prospecting work had continued with some 30 000 m of exploratory drilling; reserves were estimated at 39 000 t of U_3O_8 . Moreover, construction of the Juzbado fuel element fabrication plant in Salamanca had been completed and the first fuel elements had been produced. Quite recently - September 1985 - the second unit of the Asco power plant, with a capacity of 930 MW, had gone critical. Construction work on two other nuclear power plants, Vandellos II and Trillo, had continued; they were to be commissioned in 1988 and 1989, respectively.
4. The Spanish Government attached the highest importance to radioactive waste management. Spain was one of the countries opposed to dumping radioactive wastes in the sea. It had set up a national agency for radioactive waste management, which was financed by a system under which the costs were transferred to those generating the wastes. In accordance with the forecasts of the National Energy Plan, during the next thirty years Spain would produce some 5000 t of spent fuel elements, which it classed as high-level wastes, and some 200 000 m³ of low- and medium-level wastes,

including waste material produced in hospitals and through scientific and industrial research. His country believed it was vital to approach the problem of wastes in a realistic way, both by means of research, which would be intensified in the coming years, and by the establishment of an appropriate legal framework. In that spirit the Government would shortly be tabling a bill in Parliament on radioactive waste disposal sites.

5. Spain believed it necessary to improve the composition of the Board of Governors. It was for that reason that Spain, without renouncing its right to sit as a designated member on the Board as constituted at present, wished to place on record its belief that Article VI of the Statute should be modified as a whole in such a way that the Board reflected the current state of development of nuclear technology in Member States and the increase in their number.

6. Given the present economic situation, Spain considered that there should be zero real growth in the budget, and it appreciated the efforts made by the Secretariat to that end. Within that context, what needed to be done for the budget as a whole also needed to be done for the safeguards budget, so that sufficient funds would be available for the Agency's other activities. During the past year, Spain had been pleased to support technical assistance and training activities as far as it could, by providing training for a large number of fellows and expert services for various Agency activities.

7. Mr. CHRISTENSEN (Denmark) recalled that his country had always been a strong supporter of the Agency, which was called upon to play a leading role in a number of fields such as safeguards, technical assistance, research, nuclear safety, international trade in nuclear materials, waste management and environmental protection. Denmark wished to demonstrate the favourable stand it took towards technical assistance by pledging its full share of the target for voluntary contributions to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund for 1986. Apart from that, the Risø National Laboratory had recently hosted the IAEA Seminar on Applied Research and Service Activities for Research Reactors.

8. Only credible and effective verification measures would make it possible to attain the goal of safeguards, which was to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The safeguards system needed to be expanded

continually, and all nuclear facilities without exception should be subject to Agency safeguards. His delegation hoped that all unsafeguarded nuclear facilities in non-nuclear-weapon States would be placed under Agency safeguards in the very near future. The Danish Government had noted with grave concern that there were still five or six non-nuclear-weapon States in which unsafeguarded nuclear facilities were either under construction or in operation. On the other hand, it was greatly appreciated that several nuclear-weapon States had voluntarily offered to place under Agency safeguards all or some of their civil nuclear facilities, and, in particular, that the Chinese Government had decided to submit to safeguards all its civil nuclear plants. Non-proliferation of nuclear weapons was of equal importance to all States. For that reason his delegation saw no need for any change in the system of financing the Agency's safeguards operations.

9. With regard to waste management, there were differences from one country to another, not only in types of radioactive material and equipment, but also in the procedures and techniques applied. The Danish Government was strongly opposed to the sea dumping operations carried out by some States. It wished to appeal, not only within the Agency but also at other international levels, to countries which dumped radioactive waste in the sea to cease that practice.

10. His Government recognized the importance of the joint FAO/IAEA programme and, in particular, welcomed the emphasis placed on biotechnology in activities devoted to food and agriculture.

11. Noting that, in recent years, most countries had been obliged to impose budgetary restrictions and that international organizations, including the Agency, had been facing a difficult budgetary situation, his delegation welcomed the fact that the Secretariat had submitted for 1986 a budget reflecting the objective of zero real growth. He fully realized that the policy of zero growth had its negative side but felt that the Agency's main objectives could be achieved even under those conditions. The Secretariat should continue to evaluate all activities critically so as to ensure that they were cost-effective and that the costs and benefits of individual programmes stood in reasonable proportion. There would be need, in that respect, to find a budgetary system which allowed the Secretariat more flexibility in re-allocating budgetary resources within the framework

established and approved by the competent bodies. Such flexibility should not cover only a given budgetary year: the Secretariat should also be able to transfer appropriations from one year to the next.

12. In March 1985, the Danish Parliament had asked the Government to draw up national energy plans on the understanding that nuclear power would not be resorted to in Denmark. It had to be stated, however, that the Riso National Laboratory was at the same time expanding its energy research activities. That Laboratory would continue to be at the forefront of research and development in a number of areas.

13. In conclusion, he quoted the statement made on 11 August 1945 by the Danish physicist Niels Bohr: "Against the new destructive powers no defence may be possible, and the issue centres on world-wide co-operation to prevent any use of the new sources of energy which does not serve mankind as a whole. It is obvious, however, that no control can be effective without free access to full scientific information and the granting of the opportunity of international supervision of all undertakings which, unless regulated, might become a source of disaster". Forty years later, that statement remained entirely valid.

14. Mr. UMAR (Nigeria) said that the statistical information contained in the introduction to the annual report (GC(XXIX)/748) showed that in 1984 34 nuclear power plants with a total capacity of 31.8 GW(e) had started generating electricity, representing the largest annual increase, in both absolute and relative terms, since the beginning of the large-scale introduction of nuclear power. Also in 1984, one major power had suspended indefinitely the construction of nuclear power plants, in particular, for reasons of excess generating capacity and lower growth rates in electricity demand. That confirmed the supposition that the acquisition of nuclear power plants was based mainly on advanced technology.

15. In the case of the developing countries, however, it could only be hoped that small and medium power reactors would bring about an expansion in nuclear technology. Unfortunately, the annual report showed clearly the widening gap between those whose technological maturity had enabled them to

benefit fully from the use of atomic energy and whose membership of the Agency had a concrete and visible impact on their way of life, and those whose presence in the Agency represented merely a symbolic expression of hope for the future.

16. Many delegates from developing countries had stated that it was an urgent matter for their countries to acquire nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. There was therefore irony in the fact that only twelve, or less than one third, of the least developed countries (LDCs) were Agency Members. Eight of those countries belonged to the least developed continent, namely Africa. That gloomy picture hardly reflected the relevance or importance of the Agency's potential for the technological and socio-economic advancement of the continent. Paragraph 26 of the technical co-operation activities report contained in document GC(XXIX)/INF/226 mentioned measures adopted by the Agency, namely exemption from assessed programme costs, pre-project assistance, technical co-operation programming and intercountry co-operation. Those measures were all geared towards the goals of the "Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries (SNPA)" and they demonstrated that the Agency was making special efforts to respond to the needs of the LDCs. However, the small degree of participation by those countries in Agency activities raised the question of the way in which the Agency could use the resources to improve that situation. His delegation urged all Member States to give serious consideration to a mechanism appropriate to that purpose.

17. Participation in the work of the Agency presupposed mutual advantages and, for most developing countries, and especially Nigeria, technical assistance could speed up the introduction of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. That was why the technical assistance and co-operation programme was the most important Agency activity for all developing countries. In that connection, the BIGOT project at Vom in Nigeria, remained the most tangible proof of the Agency's technical assistance to his country. The project had been a great success and had been of direct help in overcoming some of the practical problems, for example, in animal husbandry.

18. Predictable financing of technical assistance had become an annual plea on the part of all developing countries both in the Board and at the General Conference. The widening gap between the industrialized countries and a group of crumbling societies with a shaky technological base was a matter of grave concern which deserved serious and urgent attention. His delegation had been glad to note the target fixed for the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund for 1986 and the pledges made so far. The recent agreement on indicative planning figures would help in some measure to allay the fears of developing countries. None the less, the true solution of the problem lay in a more reliable and predictable mechanism, such as the incorporation of the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund into the Regular Budget. It was therefore imperative for industrialized Member States of the Agency to show the political will to aid developing countries in acquiring nuclear technology for peaceful purposes in medicine, agriculture, power generation and other areas.

19. Nigeria was a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and believed that the concept of the nuclear-weapon-free zone should be respected. The solemn declaration by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1963, which had been supported by the United Nations, that the continent of Africa undertook to remain a denuclearized zone, had been undermined by the development of South Africa's nuclear-weapons capability. The horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons by the selective transfer of technology and of fissile material to the illegal, irresponsible and racist régime in South Africa seriously jeopardized the credibility of those who preached the principles of NPT. There was no lack of proof of the role played by certain major powers in assisting South Africa to develop its nuclear-weapons capability in order to threaten and blackmail African States. However, Africa had friends. It knew who had supplied South Africa with a range of items, including a Cyber 750/170 computer designed for nuclear weapons and also helium-3, camouflaging that flagrant violation of a United Nations resolution with ridiculous terms such as "dual use". Africa knew who was actively involved in the construction of the Koeberg power plant. The fuel for the reactors of that plant would be supplied under contract by a major Power until 1992, and an unholy consortium of companies from three prominent Agency Member States would be supplying the pressurized-water

reactors. In order to evade sanctions more easily, South Africa was building strategic plants with the assistance of companies such as Linde, Lugi, Deutsche Babcock and Siemens. One of those companies was responsible for constructing the SASOL II and SASOL III coal liquefaction plants, which were to manufacture explosives and fuel.

20. Against that background and in view of the grave situation developing in the region, the General Assembly had at its thirty-seventh session adopted resolution 37/223 A, in which it wholeheartedly condemned the collusion between the Governments of certain Western and other countries and the racist régime of South Africa in the construction of facilities enabling it to produce enriched uranium, plutonium and other nuclear material and military equipment. The United Nations General Assembly had also called on those Governments to exclude Namibian uranium from the Treaty of Almelo, which regulated the activities of Urenco. That company represented another conspiracy against the African people, and Africa knew who owned it.

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21. African countries, which were the potential victims of nuclear blackmail by the racist régime in South Africa, had long foreseen that danger. They had been pointing out that the emerging situation constituted a threat to the stability of the region and a contravention of the revered principles of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. It was against that background and in order to express their genuine concern and fear that Africa and its friends had voted in favour of resolution GC(XXVII)/RES/423, which, inter alia, called upon South Africa to submit immediately all its nuclear installations and facilities to inspection by the Agency and urged Member States which had not yet done so to end all nuclear co-operation with the South African racist régime and halt the exploitation and purchase of Namibian uranium.

22. On 26 July 1985, the United Nations Security Council had adopted resolution 569, which urged Member States to take measures against the racist régime of South Africa, including the suspension of all new contracts in the nuclear field. The limited sanctions against South Africa, more especially in respect of nuclear technology, that had recently been announced by the President of the United States, could be regarded as a step in the right direction, but they did not come up to the expectations of African countries.

The latter hoped that the United States Government would compel South Africa to submit its nuclear installations and facilities to Agency safeguards immediately. They believed that the United States, the United Kingdom, the Federal Republic of Germany and other nuclear countries were in a position to induce South Africa to halt its nuclear-weapons programme. African countries had also noted the statement by the nine EEC Ministers on the suspension of new contracts relating to nuclear facilities with South Africa. The African countries, however, were very perturbed by the dissenting view of one member of the Community. They hoped that the pledges by the EEC Ministers would soon be fulfilled faithfully. South Africa must be forced to realize that, although it had fooled some of the people some of the time, it could not fool all the people all the time.

23. Turning to the Agency's budget for 1986 (GC(XXIX)/750), he noted that, under "Nuclear Applications", priority had rightly been given to "Food and Agriculture" and "Human Health". However, still further increases in funds for those activities were desirable. In that connection, he commended the Director General for the importance he attached to joint IAEA/FAO programmes. With regard to the staffing of the Secretariat, it was gratifying to note the efforts made by the Director General to comply with paragraph 3 of resolution GC(XXVIII)/RES/437 with a view to redressing the imbalance in the staffing of the Secretariat. The Nigerian delegation would continue to co-operate with him in order to meet the objectives of that resolution.

24. Finally, he assured the General Conference that, despite the unfavourable economic situation in his country, the Nigerian Government was taking steps to settle all its outstanding payments where both the Regular Budget and voluntary contributions were concerned. The Agency would soon be receiving the total sum, amounting to US \$345 454. On behalf of his Government, he also pledged \$57 000 for the technical assistance programme for 1986. Moreover, he was pleased to announce that the Nigerian Government was taking the necessary steps to conclude a safeguards agreement with the Agency.

25. Mr. MIHULECEA (Romania) noted that the current session was taking place at a moment in time marked by the complexity of the international political and economic situation. As a result of inequalities in international trade and finance, more especially, extremely high interest

rates, the position of developing countries had become much more serious. Hence it was essential for agreement to be reached between developed and developing countries on a new world economic order, since the current economic crisis could only be overcome if the problems of underdevelopment were solved. In that connection, Romania was in favour of strengthening the role of the United Nations and the organizations associated with it, including the Agency, in the interests of co-operation, development and peace. At present, the most important issues were those of disarmament, including nuclear disarmament, and defence of the supreme right of peoples to life, freedom and peace. As had been stressed in a statement by Mr. Nicolae Ceausescu, action must be taken before it was too late to halt the dangerous course of events towards a nuclear catastrophe, to save humanity from destruction and to guarantee the right of all mankind to development and to the benefits arising out of the achievements of science and knowledge exclusively for peaceful purposes.

26. The current session of the General Conference had a particularly important responsibility in that it followed the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which had been called upon to propose viable solutions and to give a new impetus to the efforts of States to obtain concrete results in respect of disarmament - notably nuclear disarmament - and international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, especially the transfer of technology. His delegation was convinced that all Member States party to the Treaty, whether nuclear-weapon States or not, would take specific action to meet their obligations under the Treaty. In that context, he stressed the importance of the statement in the Agency's report that so far it had not detected any anomaly which would indicate the diversion of a significant quantity of safeguarded nuclear material - a conclusion which showed that Article III of the Treaty had been strictly complied with. Romania believed that the current session of the General Conference should attach particular importance to such matters, so that they would be reflected in the programmes of the Agency.

27. His delegation had by and large been satisfied with the Agency's activities during the previous year, more especially with regard to achievements in technical assistance, training, nuclear power, nuclear

applications, nuclear safety and quality assurance. The Agency had likewise made efforts to promote the transfer of technology to developing countries. Its programme for 1986 reflected the main trends in the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, while bearing in mind the relative degree of importance which Member States accorded to nuclear power and other applications, and also to the safety of nuclear facilities. In addition, more attention had been given to the legitimate needs of developing countries which wished to see an increase in the Agency's contribution in the form of technical assistance. Romania had further noted that safeguards occupied a prominent position in the programme as compared with the Agency's basic function, which was to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to support the efforts of developing countries in that sphere.

28. Under Romania's national programme for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the country was to acquire independence in energy matters. With respect to social and economic development over the period 1986-1990, stress was placed on the development of the energy base through the use of all primary resources and acceleration of the nuclear power plant construction programme. In 1990, out of a total of 95-96 billion kWh, some 21-22 billion would be produced by nuclear power plants, so that the share of nuclear power in electricity production would be approximately 20%. To that end Romania had started an ambitious nuclear power programme and had succeeded in acquiring the appropriate technology and in producing nuclear fuel as well as materials and equipment for its nuclear power plants under construction. In order to support that high-priority programme, Romania had set itself certain research objectives. The scientific research programme related, in particular, to new generations of reactors, including fast reactors and other advanced types.

29. Stressing the importance of the resolutions adopted by the General Conference on the staffing of the Secretariat, he believed that efforts to apply their provisions should be redoubled, with particular stress on the requests made by under-represented countries, including Romania. The representation of his country within the Secretariat should be improved to

reflect its level of advancement in the nuclear sphere, namely the large number of experts available and the Romanian contribution to the Agency's activities as a whole. His delegation was confident that the Director General and those in charge of recruitment would follow up the requests that had been made and which would be made in the future.

30. In conclusion, he welcomed the fruitful co-operation that had taken place between his country and the Agency and was satisfied with the productive work of the organization; his delegation was sure that the Agency would continue in the future to fulfil its noble purpose and to discharge the highly responsible duties entrusted to it by Member States.

Mr. Hiremath (India) took the Chair.

31. Mr. BADRAN (Jordan) noted that the twenty-ninth session of the General Conference coincided with the fortieth anniversary of the explosion of the first atomic bomb. It also coincided with the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which had affirmed the absolute need to free mankind from the threat of nuclear war. The proliferation of nuclear weapons was not only horizontal but also vertical, thereby making the risk involved even greater. There was also indirect proliferation, which was both vertical and horizontal and which took the form of a transfer of nuclear weapons from a nuclear-weapon to a non-nuclear-weapon State when such was authorized under military and strategic agreements, whether declared or undeclared. That fact led to the expansion of areas threatened by nuclear destruction, thereby giving rise to fear and anxiety in various parts of the world, and, which was even more dangerous, possibly leading to armed international confrontation.

32. The situation in the Middle East was very uncertain. Apart from the regional and political problems there, Israel had continued to put nuclear programmes into effect without submitting them to Agency safeguards. That fact was arousing concern and shaking the foundations of peace throughout the region. The Israeli threats to destroy peaceful nuclear facilities in the area persisted and, unfortunately, efforts to remove or have them withdrawn had been unsuccessful. His delegation requested the Director General to continue his intensive efforts to implement resolution GC(XXVIII)/RES/425 of the General Conference, which stipulated that Israel should withdraw its threats to attack nuclear facilities under Agency safeguards.

33. In his address to the symposium of the Belerev Group held in Geneva as part of the preparations for the Third Review Conference of the Parties to NPT, Prince Hassan of Jordan, Co-Chairman of the International Committee for Human Rights, had pointed out that the Agency, in its capacity as the organization entrusted by the international community with the resolution of one of the most vitally important issues in the history of humanity, that of nuclear technology, and the international community itself, concerned as it was to achieve peace and security in the world, were both responsible for preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons in the Middle East as well as nuclear terrorism and nuclear blackmail in that sensitive area of the world.

34. The Agency's responsibility arose from the principle of the submission to its safeguards system of all nuclear facilities in the region and as a result of that it had acquired international credibility which all Member States in the region should respect. Those States should undertake to meet the requirements laid down by the system, more especially as concerned the inspection of nuclear facilities.

35. The responsibility of the international community stemmed from the fact that it was called upon to make intensive efforts to help transform that region into a denuclearized zone free from all nuclear proliferation, whether horizontal or vertical, direct or indirect. The continuing attempts by Israel and South Africa to develop their military nuclear capabilities constituted a standing threat to the peoples of two regions urgently in need of peace: the Middle East and Africa. It was time for the international community to take action to remedy that increasingly perilous situation.

36. Jordan associated itself with those countries which had welcomed the results of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to NPT, and it also supported the Conference's Final Declaration concerning the importance and the vital role of the international safeguards system, both in the cause of peace and stability in the world as well as to dispel the fear and mistrust inherent in the transfer of nuclear equipment and technology. The international community should implement the Treaty and endeavour to extend it and remedy its weaknesses instead of denouncing it, denying it or ignoring the noble humanitarian aims which could be achieved through it.

37. His delegation paid tribute to the Agency for its increasing efforts in the sphere of technical co-operation and for sponsoring peaceful nuclear technology programmes in the areas of power production, agriculture, medicine, geology, hydrology, and industry. It approved the decision to increase technical co-operation funds by 12% each year. However, a large number of developing countries, in particular the smaller ones, had serious energy problems to overcome. Those countries were either incapable of procuring the energy needed at a cost commensurate with their level of socio-industrial development, or their expenditure on energy consumed the bulk of their national income. That was reason enough to make a far-reaching review of the system of assistance as well as the training programmes offered by the Agency. Assistance and training programmes should be more comprehensive and much more detailed if they were to help qualified national staff to absorb nuclear technology and to build up teams capable of tackling specific tasks.

38. The apprehensions of developing countries, especially the smaller ones, with regard to the risk of military action - whether of the nuclear or conventional kind - against their peaceful nuclear facilities under Agency safeguards was one of the main reasons for the slow - or even total absence of - progress in peaceful nuclear technology. Half of the world's population was thereby being deprived of access to that important source of energy.

39. At a moment in time when the Agency was playing a notable role in efforts to develop commercial small and medium power reactors (SMPRs), it was legitimate to wonder how the smaller countries could have confidence in the future of their nuclear facilities and take the technological and financial decision to acquire the low-power reactors recently developed if those reactors continued to be subject to enemy attack. Jordan was convinced that it was the duty of the Agency and the international community to find a solution to that problem, which in effect took the form of an undeclared, unofficial and unfair embargo on the development of peaceful nuclear technology and a denial of the Agency's objectives.

40. Jordan believed that the time was ripe to conclude an international treaty on the protection of peaceful nuclear facilities, to which all Agency Member States should be parties and which would be complementary to NPT. The

signatories of such a treaty would bind themselves not to attack any nuclear facility designed for peaceful purposes that was under Agency safeguards. It was in the interests of neither the Member States of the Agency nor the international community to wait for years before SMPRs were developed and then to have to wait even longer for the conclusion of an international treaty on the protection of peaceful nuclear facilities which would allay the fears of smaller countries and encourage them to take the right decisions. The absence of such a treaty was in fact a way of inviting direct or indirect proliferation of nuclear weapons, since it obliged countries deciding on the nuclear option to protect their own facilities, possibly by appealing to a nuclear-weapon State. Jordan thus associated itself with countries which were studying that important question and called on the Agency to undertake preparations immediately, in collaboration with the competent United Nations bodies, for an international conference with a view to concluding an international treaty on the protection of peaceful nuclear facilities.

41. In any case, the utilization of nuclear power by developing countries required substantial and rapid progress in the field of SMPRs, and Jordan welcomed the Agency's efforts in that direction. At the same time, the Agency and Member States should study the problem closely, since the commercial opportunities for the development of that type of reactor, which were favourable at the present juncture (in fact a buyers' market) would probably be only temporary. If the demand for high-power reactors recovered, the market would most probably become favourable to sellers, and the question of low-power reactors would have to take second place. Moreover, reactors of approximately 600 MW were still much too powerful for the needs of most developing countries, especially smaller countries, which needed reactors in the 150-250 MW range. The Director General's report on that subject was valuable. The Jordanian delegation believed that the Agency had an important role to play in assisting countries which were particularly interested in gaining some idea of the economics and availability of low-power reactors. It might therefore be useful to expand the SMPR programme and to set up a special task force to help countries interested in technical and economic feasibility studies to take the right decisions at the right time.

42. The financing of nuclear power plants was of paramount importance. The symposium held on that subject had made for a better understanding of the problem. The idea of establishing a joint venture between the suppliers of power plants and local utilities was a novel approach and deserved encouragement. Developing countries, however, needed the aid of the Agency in resolving the legal, technical and financial problems posed by that type of partnership. Jordan was convinced therefore that the idea could be put into practice more quickly if the Agency, through the intermediary of a special section, played the more active role of a third party who would guarantee compliance with the commitments entered into by the two others.

43. With regard to nuclear waste management, the international community and the Agency should strive to find an acceptable solution without long- or short-term harmful effects with a view to allaying the unjustified fear of nuclear waste, which represented a considerable obstacle to the development and application of nuclear technology; they should also seek to ensure that nuclear waste management was as economical as possible.

44. The question of the amendment of Article VI.A.2 of the Statute had been under consideration for seven years. Certain delegations now wished to amend that Article as a whole. The Agency would thereby be drawn into prolonged discussion, for it would then be necessary to alter the representation of all geographical areas on the Board. The result might be an increase in the number of Members but with the same type of imbalance; such would be contrary to the spirit and the letter of the resolutions adopted by the General Conference, the aim of which had been merely to improve the representation of the areas "Middle East and South Asia" and "Africa". His delegation called on the General Conference to confine the amendment to Article VI.A.2, without revising the Article as a whole.

45. The Secretariat's endeavours to enable nationals of developing countries to occupy posts of responsibility in the Agency deserved every encouragement. His delegation noted, however, that that process was taking place less quickly and less extensively than had been expected. He hoped the Director General would give due attention to the question so as to afford developing countries, within a reasonable time, the appropriate opportunities, bearing in mind the principles of equity and competence.

46. Jordan approved the Agency's Annual Report for 1984 and pledged a voluntary contribution to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund.

47. Mr. FISCHER (Austria) recalled that the year since the twenty-eighth session of the General Conference had been a fruitful one as far as the development of the Agency was concerned. During that period, many of the problems between countries and groups of countries had been jointly resolved, and objective discussions had taken place as part of the Agency's work. Austria therefore hoped that it was seeing the beginning of a phase of consolidation, during which the variety of interests of the different countries, areas and groups would be recognized. Those observations were in keeping with the optimism which had prevailed in the Agency since its inception and which had been instrumental in giving it a special place in the United Nations family. As a guardian of peace, it had prevented the diversion of nuclear material and had assumed the responsibility for promoting manifold opportunities for the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes; in that context, it had created throughout the world the technical prerequisites for minimizing the risks that the application of nuclear technology involved for mankind.

48. In its role as a guardian of peace, the Agency had become aware that international tension could be reduced only if, among other things, problems lying at the root of economic inequality could be alleviated. In that sphere, the Agency had a very important role to play by encouraging international co-operation and enabling the least developed countries to benefit equally from the peaceful applications of nuclear energy.

49. His delegation welcomed, for example, the active participation of the Agency in the preparations for the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (UNCPICPUNE), in which Austria was co-operating with considerable interest. It was to be hoped that that Conference would also identify specific mechanisms by which such international co-operation could be improved for the benefit of smaller countries and, in particular, developing countries.

50. In his opening address, the Director General had said that Agency safeguards had played a particularly important role in the organization's work over the previous year, which he had ascribed to the fact that the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) had taken place during that year. However, it should not be forgotten that the task of that Conference had been not only to take stock of the present status of Agency safeguards, but also to explore new ideas for making headway towards the objectives set forth in the Treaty. In that connection he (Mr. Fischer) was referring, in particular, to proposals which went even further than the demand for full-scope safeguards in non-nuclear-weapon States and were aimed at the application of safeguards to all civil nuclear activities in nuclear-weapon States; within the overall context of nuclear disarmament, the necessary conditions would thereby be created for safeguarding nuclear facilities made over at a later stage to peaceful uses. Austria was aware that the process would take time and therefore proposed that it should begin immediately so that that aim, which was by no means utopian, could be achieved. His country was seeking the co-operation of all countries like-minded in that respect. It supported the Agency's safeguards work and was aware of the important contribution which the organization made to the cause of world peace. The Agency was responsible for maintaining and further improving the credibility of its safeguards system. His delegation realized that the Secretariat was doing all it could to utilize budgetary resources effectively and economically, and in that connection he wished to pay tribute to the Director General and his staff.

51. With regard to technical assistance, Austria had signed a large number of bilateral agreements relating chiefly to training and scientific aid. For many years Austria had welcomed the efforts of multilateral organizations active in that sphere and had made its own contribution to them. In addition, it had stepped up its co-operation with the Agency by providing cost-free expert services for Agency programmes and by making large numbers of places for training courses available to Agency fellows. The fact that the Agency's Headquarters was situated in Austria was certainly significant in that respect.

52. His country had recently signed another agreement with the Agency which established a new legal framework for all the work performed at the Seibersdorf Laboratory and which should facilitate its operation. In the next year a new laboratory devoted exclusively to the application of nuclear techniques in agriculture would be completed. Unfortunately, no decision had yet been taken in respect of the possible construction of a training centre at Seibersdorf, but it was hoped that the relevant authorities would soon come to a decision on that matter.

53. The Agency's important contribution to the preservation of world peace through the efforts it deployed in the field of technical co-operation was well known. He welcomed the flexibility demonstrated by the Agency in its programme, which enabled it to adapt its priorities rapidly in accordance with changing needs throughout the world. In addition, the Agency was placing emphasis on the problem of hunger in Africa under its food and agriculture programme, and was thereby contributing to the current efforts of the United Nations to assist that part of the world, which had been beset by so many disasters.

54. He recalled that the Austrian Research Centre at Seibersdorf, which was the country's largest interdisciplinary laboratory, was to celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary in the coming week. The establishment of that Centre, which from the beginning had been devoted to nuclear research and applications, had been in the spirit of the times. It had successfully brought together all the branches of science associated with nuclear energy and had enabled Austria to take part in international co-operation projects, such as the Dragon, Halden and Eurochemic projects of OECD. It had helped Austrian industry to take its first steps in that sphere and thereby to develop high standards.

55. The ASTRA research reactor, which had begun operation twenty-five years before, had played a decisive part in that connection. During its 63 000 hours of operation the performance had been outstanding and it had fully served its purpose as a safe and reliable tool in the service of science and research.

56. Austria had long been actively concerned with the transboundary problems involved in operating nuclear facilities. It had, as a result, concluded an agreement on matters of mutual interest relating to nuclear facilities with Czechoslovakia . That agreement provided for a regular exchange of views on general aspects of the co-operation involved and for special missions before the commissioning of nuclear power plants in border zones. A mission of that kind had taken place in connection with the first unit of the Dukovany nuclear power plant. The discussions between experts had been held in a very good atmosphere of co-operation and had afforded an opportunity to acquire a detailed knowledge of the way in which the operator and the competent Czechoslovak authorities met their safety, safeguards and security goals. That example showed how easy it was to co-operate with a neighbouring country, even in a region in which interests were so divergent, provided the parties concerned recognized that each State had the right to protect its own population against any nuclear hazard from, a source beyond the frontier.

57. The physical protection of nuclear material was an aspect of safety to which Austria attached considerable importance, and since 1972 it had been attending the meetings at which the relevant directives and recommendations of the Agency had been drawn up. It had also taken an active part in the drafting of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, which had been opened for signature on 3 March 1980. The Austrian Government was awaiting the necessary parliamentary approval and hoped to ratify the Convention in the near future.

58. In his opening address, the Director General had pointed out the economic viability and ecological advantages of nuclear power plants. As was well known, a nuclear power plant had been completed in Austria but could not be commissioned because of the 1978 referendum on nuclear power, in which only 49.6% of the votes had been cast in favour of it. Since then, the situation had changed radically. He therefore believed that the Austrian public should be given a further opportunity to decide on that question in a democratic fashion. In recent months, the Federal Government had on a number of occasions explored the problems of peaceful uses of nuclear energy in Austria and had unanimously reached a number of conclusions. First, the Federal

Government's recent Report on Energy to Parliament had indicated that it would be economically viable for Zwentendorf to be commissioned. Second, according to reports by the Austrian Reactor Safety Commission, the safety of a plant such as Zwentendorf could be considered to have been dealt with satisfactorily. Finally, the controversial question of waste disposal could be solved for Austria in the same way as for other States which had met their electricity needs by means of nuclear power. It was therefore in the interests of Austria to convince a sufficiently large majority of the Austrian Parliament that it was essential to ascertain what the Austrian public now thought about that matter and that it would be reasonable to propose a new referendum. In his delegation's opinion, it would be possible to make headway within the next two years since that idea was increasingly gaining ground.

59. None the less, there was need to continue working on the so-called alternative energy sources, although the initial and unduly optimistic hopes for the speedy application of such sources had not in fact been realized, and might never be. It was true that Austria had major hydroelectric resources; it also had a certain amount of coal. But there, too, the Government was constantly confronted with the problem of public acceptance. The public was more and more critical and had become sensitive to power plant projects, even in the case of conventional plants. From a sociological point of view that might be desirable, but it did not make life easier for politicians.

60. In conclusion, he hoped that the Agency would continue to discharge its functions as effectively as possible and that it would remain, above all, a forum for the exchange of expertise.

61. Mr. VYLKOV (Council for Mutual Economic Assistance) said that 1985 marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the CMEA's Permanent Commission on Co-operation on the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy. During that time CMEA member States had acquired a wealth of experience in the establishment of multilateral co-operation, and solutions had been found to major scientific, technical and economic problems involved in the industrial introduction of nuclear power, nuclear instruments and techniques, underground disposal of radioactive wastes and the safe and reliable operation of nuclear facilities.

62. In accordance with decisions by the CMEA's Economic Conference held in June 1984, the organization was attempting to speed up scientific and technical progress by placing emphasis on scientific, technical and economic co-operation. In that connection, CMEA member States were drawing up a joint programme on the scientific and technical progress to be achieved over the next 15-20 years. That programme would reflect the anticipated scientific and technical policies of the various countries, their objectives and the material and organizational resources with which those objectives could be met. The programme provided for the following developments as a matter of priority: introduction of electronics into the national economy, extension of automation, development and utilization of different types of equipment and technology, biotechnology and acceleration of the expansion of nuclear power, which was playing a dominant role in overcoming the energy problems of CMEA member countries.

63. The aims of the nuclear power programme were as follows: to acquire a more effective and more reliable energy supply; to obviate the need for continued use of scarce fossil fuels for electricity and heat production; to obtain new structural materials; to automate monitoring and control processes; to improve the qualifications of experts; and to explore problems of standardization and those associated with test facilities.

64. In CMEA member countries, nuclear power was being introduced mainly in the form of WWER (water-cooled and-moderated) reactors with capacities of 440 and 1000 MW. The Soviet Union had also begun to develop graphite-moderated boiling-water reactors with capacities of 1000 and 1500 MW. At present, 24 WWER-440 units were operating in CMEA member countries, and by 1990 some 20 further units would be commissioned. The first standardized WWER-1000 reactors were already operating in the Soviet Union, and Bulgaria was completing the construction of a reactor of that type. Others were under construction in the German Democratic Republic, Romania and Czechoslovakia. Currently, CMEA member countries were drawing up, for the period up to the year 2000, construction programmes for nuclear power plants producing electricity and heat. The total capacity of the nuclear power plants of CMEA member States would attain 100 000 MW over the next ten years, amounting to

some 20-30% of total electricity generation in those countries and over 40% in Bulgaria. Scientific and technical co-operation in the construction of reactors was geared to improving the physical and thermohydraulic parameters of reactors, as well as to developing new types of plant components and to formulating standards and regulations ensuring safe and reliable plant operation. To that end, joint efforts were being made to devise diagnostic systems for reactor cores, to develop rigs for studying critical heating and thermal safety, and to improve command and control systems for nuclear power plants.

65. Taking as the point of departure Soviet dual-purpose and district heating plants (500 MW), CMEA member States were drawing up an agreement, together with research and development programmes, for the period up to 1990, with a view to the widespread use of nuclear power for the district heating of large towns. With regard to fast reactors, co-operation covered the development of 800 and 1600 MW industrial reactors. The co-operation programme provided for joint research on physics and thermohydraulics, for the development of different types of plant components and devices, and for ways of overcoming safety and reliability problems.

66. With regard to the most promising form of nuclear power, namely thermonuclear fusion, the co-operation programme of the CMEA member countries covered the design and manufacture of components and systems for the Tokamak 15, and also for joint scientific and technological research on that device. The programme was part of the international INTOR programme for the development of an experimental thermonuclear reactor.

67. The speed-up in the expansion of nuclear power in CMEA member countries called for joint efforts to resolve problems associated with the fuel cycle, underground disposal of radioactive wastes and, in particular, the nuclear and radiological safety of nuclear power plants. Regulations had been devised, a huge amount of research had been done on radioactive waste disposal in geological formations, and problems entailed in the transport of spent fuel over long distances had been effectively solved. Copious use had been made of the technical documents published by the Agency in tackling those problems.

68. Under the aegis of its Permanent Commission, CMEA had engaged in widespread co-operation, in addition to nuclear power, on the development and application to different branches of the economy of radioisotope instruments for monitoring industrial processes and power plant control and for medical diagnosis; such co-operation also related to the establishment of industrial complexes and medical treatment centres using particle accelerators. Co-operation of that kind had made it possible to agree on special arrangements for the production of radiopharmaceuticals and of RIA instrumentation.

69. CMEA member countries were working together on the production of equipment for the nuclear industry as part of an international economic association called "Interatominstrument". There were already 187 different items of equipment belonging to 17 different categories and amounting to over 50% of the trade turnover between member countries in that sphere. "Interatominstrument" also provided many services through its branches in the various member countries.

70. CMEA was also working with the Agency in many areas under the agreement concluded between the two organizations. It was prepared to expand and consolidate that co-operation with a view to placing nuclear energy at the disposal of peace and progress throughout the world.

Mr. Manouan (Côte d'Ivoire) resumed the Chair.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS (GC(XXIX)/766)

71. The CHAIRMAN reminded the General Conference that to ensure that the Board would be constituted in accordance with Article VI.A of the Statute, 11 Members had to be elected from the geographical areas specified in paragraph 2 of document GC(XXIX)/766.

72. A vote was taken by secret ballot to elect 11 Members to the Board of Governors.

73. At the invitation of the President, a member of the Argentine delegation and a member of the Indian delegation acted as tellers.

74. The CHAIRMAN said that the counting of votes would take some time and therefore suggested that consideration of item 12 of the agenda be deferred until the tellers had reported to him.

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.

