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President: Mr. MANOUAN (Côte d'Ivoire)  
later: Mr. TAKAHASHI (Japan)

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GENERAL DEBATE AND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1984 (GC(XXIX)/748 and Corr.1) (continued)

1. Mr. OMWONY (Kenya) said that the annual report gave a balanced view of the Agency's activities during 1984.
2. It indicated a steady growth in the allocation of funds to safeguards activities, which were intended to ensure that nuclear knowledge was developed and used for peaceful purposes only. That was essential for the survival of the human race. In that regard, his delegation had noted with interest that South African nuclear facilities would be inspected.
3. In the area of technical co-operation his delegation supported the Agency's activities relating to the transfer of nuclear technology. Kenya had received valuable Agency assistance, especially in radiation protection and nuclear medicine.
4. The report of the Joint Inspection Unit had noted the problems associated with equipment utilization. In that connection, he pointed out that the Agency had provided assistance to Kenya in the maintenance of nuclear equipment and for a nuclear science laboratory.
5. He wished to thank the Member States which had heretofore agreed to finance footnote a/ projects at Kenya's request. The latter now had new projects in the areas of animal reproduction, parasitic infection and non-destructive testing.
6. His country had a particular interest in the possibilities of regional co-operation. He hoped that a Kenyan project on the tsetse fly would be developed as a regional project by the Agency. Under a regional co-operation programme Kenya was offering training facilities at the Food Preservation Laboratory.
7. On the sensitive issue of denuclearization of the African region his delegation wished to draw the attention of Member States to the African group's resolution on sanctions against the racist régime in South Africa. Kenya had endorsed resolution GC(XXVIII)/RES/423 adopted at the preceding session of the General Conference. South Africa had refused to accept safeguards on all its nuclear facilities. South Africa could be developing

nuclear weapons only with the aim of attacking neighbouring nations opposed to the system of apartheid. He urged the General Conference to adopt the resolution submitted by the African group at the present session.

8. His delegation held the view that Article VI.A.2 of the Statute should be amended in order to increase the representations of the areas of Africa and the Middle East and South Asia on the Board of Governors.

9. As for the recently concluded Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), his delegation wished to underline its support for total non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. The nuclear-weapon States were continuing to produce ever larger nuclear warheads. There should be an agreement on banning all production of nuclear weapons.

10. The Agency could not function without funds. His Government had always paid its assessed contributions and would continue to do so since it had great faith in the Agency

11. His delegation strongly believed that nothing should stop the efforts of the General Conference to maintain peace in the world and to ensure that nuclear energy was used only for the good of mankind.

12. Mr. ABBADI (Sudan) recalled the Director General's recent visit to his country in order to discuss with the Sudanese authorities the possibilities of applying peaceful nuclear techniques there. The visit had enabled the Sudan to strengthen its links with the Agency and to open new channels of co-operation with it. Furthermore, the visit had created among the Sudanese scientific community an enthusiasm for intensifying its efforts to make the best use of the technical opportunities offered by the Agency to utilize nuclear techniques for the country's economic and social development. Since that visit, the Sudanese Atomic Energy Commission had been working earnestly to put into practice the ideas which had emerged during the visit and had prepared specific projects on the applications of radioisotopes and radiation in the medicine, agriculture and animal husbandry and in groundwater studies. Funds for those projects still had to be obtained, within the framework either of the Agency or of bilateral co-operation with brother countries which had always helped the Sudan.

13. In recent years the Sudan, like many other countries in Africa, had been the victim of drought and desertification, catastrophes which had aggravated the already heavy burden due to poverty, hunger and ignorance. The Sudan was grateful to the international community for its speedy and efficient help, and hoped that the spirit of co-operation and solidarity shown on that occasion would be maintained. Nevertheless, the major part of the problem persisted. It was necessary to readapt and reorganize the people affected in order to create for them new means of livelihood. His country was relying greatly on the United Nations specialized agencies to provide technical assistance and advice to help overcome the consequences of those natural calamities. The Agency, in particular, could assist in the investigation of the quantity and quality of Sudan's groundwater resources by means of isotope techniques. The tapping of those resources was one of the basic solutions in combating the effects of drought and desertification in certain areas of Africa. His delegation appealed to the specialized agencies and to the international community to join hands and prepare a full and comprehensive programme of water resources survey in the African continent. In the Sudan the National Council for Research had prepared a pilot programme for controlling drought and desertification based on modern techniques, in which radioisotopes could play a crucial role.

14. With respect to the Agency's budget for 1986, the Sudan, as one of the least developed countries in the Third World, considered that the principle of zero real growth was not consistent with the principle of expansion of the Agency's activities. Nuclear energy was destined to become an important source of electricity, and zero real growth would in the near future have a negative effect on the technical assistance and co-operation programme, which was vital for the training of manpower needed by the Third World countries for developing the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In that connection, the General Conference should take into account the very modest request on the part of the developing countries to increase the technical co-operation and assistance budget by 1-2%, especially for help in sectors of interest to the least developed countries. Although it had been decided to increase the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund by 12% annually, a look at future budgets showed that the growth in resources would not exceed 2%.

15. The Director General had referred in his opening statement to the conclusions of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). In that context, he had mentioned Articles III and IV of NPT and had said that, in the opinion of the Review Conference, the Agency's safeguards system played a central role in promoting the peaceful uses of atomic energy. He urged countries which had not yet done so to sign or accede to that Treaty as soon as possible. The Review Conference had reaffirmed the right of all parties to the Treaty to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. It had also called upon all parties to assist the countries in the Third World and in particular the least developed ones. He hoped that the General Conference would take those recommendations into account, in accordance with the Agency's objectives.

16. In the same connection, he expressed Sudan's growing concern over the development of the nuclear capacity of Israel and South Africa. The policy of the racist régime in South Africa posed a continuous threat to the peace and security of the African continent. The Israeli attack against the Iraqi nuclear facility had not only created a threat to Iraq but had also adversely affected the Agency's safeguards system, since the Iraqi reactor had been under Agency safeguards and that should have been sufficient for the protection of the reactor. The safeguards system should be supplemented by measures designed to protect nuclear facilities intended for peaceful purposes by discouraging any aggression against such facilities.

17. In conclusion, he reaffirmed that, as a peace-loving developing country, the Sudan would spare no effort in implementing the Agency's decisions designed to attain the noble objectives for which it had been established. On that basis, his country would collaborate with the Member States at the regional and sub-regional levels and do its utmost at the national level to make the best use of nuclear energy.

18. Mr. WADI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that his country attached particular importance to co-operation with the Agency, since that policy was important for development in general and, in particular, for the acquisition of the technological know-how necessary for the development of the nuclear sector, an area that was vital for all future progress.

19. A praiseworthy example in that respect had been the Seminar on the Use of Research Reactors in Basic and Applied Sciences, organized jointly by his country's Nuclear Energy Secretariat and the Agency, at Tajura from 16 to 20 September 1984. The objective of that Seminar had been to review the present status of the research reactors and the potential for their future in peaceful applications in all branches of science and knowledge. It had also aimed at creating fruitful international co-operation in the use of the Nuclear Research Centre. It had been attended by scientists and research workers from many countries, and its success had been attested by the Agency.

20. Generally speaking, the Libyan delegation was satisfied with the activities of the Agency and its positive initiatives with regard to the provision of technical assistance and co-operation and expert services. In particular, it wished to commend the outstanding role played by the Agency in organizing training courses, in granting and sponsoring fellowships and in providing opportunities for scientific training in the Agency's laboratories and at renowned scientific centres, in addition to the provision of information and equipment. It thus contributed to the strengthening of capabilities and to the mobilization of the resources necessary for peaceful and beneficial applications of nuclear energy.

21. While some obligations and promises with regard to the provision of certain equipment and instruments for the peaceful application of nuclear energy had not been fulfilled, the responsibility did not necessarily lie with the Agency but rather with a certain State which had an interest in obstructing any constructive efforts and any technical co-operation project between the Agency and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. The State in question used its far-reaching tentacles and its transnational monopolistic corporations to achieve that end. The delegate of that Great Power, in an attempt to mislead and generalize, had described technical assistance as generous by quoting meaningless figures. That same country had prohibited the sale of a small and simple piece of equipment for measuring radioactivity to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, a country which had signed and was committed to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and whose nuclear establishments and research facilities were of course under Agency safeguards. Certain

States were acting contrary to the letter and spirit of Articles II and III of the Agency's Statute. Those States, particularly those which were more advanced in the non-peaceful uses of nuclear energy than in its peaceful applications, tenaciously and arrogantly persisted in monopolizing nuclear energy and in using it for inhuman purposes and for blackmail. A certain State had gone so far as to apply pressure on and use threats against other States and even against the Agency itself in order to prevent them from providing technical assistance and materials needed for the operation of peaceful nuclear facilities. Furthermore, that State had not hesitated to close the doors of its scientific institutes and research centres to students from developing countries in search of knowledge, in flagrant violation of both the Statute of the Agency and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

22. In reviewing co-operation in the peaceful applications of nuclear energy his delegation wished to commend and express its gratitude to the Soviet Union for its generous assistance and for the supply of facilities, which had enabled Libya to progress and to strengthen its capabilities in the nuclear field. The construction of the Nuclear Research Centre at Tajura had been the most noteworthy result of that co-operation, and he hoped that the first WWER-440 nuclear power plant would be completed by the end of the year.

23. The same imperialist Great Power, which was plotting to withhold the benefits of technology from peace-loving countries, was providing another intrusive entity with every kind of material and technical assistance and facility, thereby enabling it to practice the same form of blackmail and to pursue terrorism and aggression in the Arab area. It was well known that the Zionist entity had been working with the assistance of a large Western Power towards the acquisition and stockpiling of nuclear weapons in disregard of every international instrument and resolution. That entity persisted in preventing the Agency from inspecting its advanced nuclear facility which was devoted to aggression. That situation had already been exposed and condemned in a number of United Nations resolutions, to such an extent that it was no longer either logical or necessary that that entity should continue to have the honour of membership of an agency against the principles of which it continued to act, while ignoring its resolutions. The destruction of the

Iraqi nuclear research reactor in June 1981 was the clearest evidence for anyone who still needed proof of the intentions of the aggressive Zionist entity. The condemnation by the entire international community of that flagrant and premeditated act of aggression, which had been made possible only by the collusion and open support of a Great Power, revealed yet again the nature of that entity which had been able to perpetrate all those acts with impunity and without sufficient international prosecution. All those things had led his delegation to wonder about the results of the resolution adopted by the Agency on that subject. The report by the Director General on the mandate given to him in that connection did not indicate any genuine response to the resolution but only provided further evidence of disdain for and evasion of all efforts exerted within the United Nations to put a stop to the aggressive acts of that entity.

24. Another entity which maintained material and political relations with the Zionist entity, namely racist South Africa, was also persistently and arrogantly refusing to allow inspection of its nuclear facilities by the Agency. It was actively engaged, with support and assistance from States which were Members of the Agency, in developing its nuclear capability and in acquiring nuclear weapons, which could only be used for aggression and which constituted the gravest threat to the peoples of Africa. That entity, too, had begun the production and stockpiling of nuclear weapons at the rate of, at least, two atomic bombs per year, as Mr. Fischer, the former Assistant Director General of the Agency had stated. The resolutions on the subject, including that adopted by the General Conference at its twenty-eighth session, were still being ignored. His delegation therefore wondered about the results and the outcome of the efforts made by the Agency and by the Director General, and of those exerted outside the Agency, in an attempt to halt the acquisition of nuclear weapons by the racist régime, in pursuance of the resolution adopted by the General Conference at its 1984 session. The brief report given by the Director General did not indicate any change in the attitude of South Africa, which sought means of further evasion with the covert support of a well-known Great Power.

25. His delegation maintained its stand with regard to the need to amend Article VI.A.2 of the Statute so as to ensure an increase in the number of seats on the Board allocated to the developing countries and a more equitable representation of those countries commensurate with their importance and their aspirations. He hoped the other Member States would respond favourably to that just request.

Mr. Takahashi (Japan) took the Chair.

26. Mr. GORITA (United Nations Council for Namibia) said that the United Nations General Assembly had declared time and again that South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia constituted an act of aggression against the Namibian people in terms of the definition of "aggression" contained in General Assembly Resolution 3314 (XXIX) of 14 December 1974 and that it supported the armed struggle of the Namibian people under the leadership of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) to repel South Africa's aggression and to achieve self-determination, freedom and national independence in a United Namibia. The General Assembly had also declared that South Africa's defiance of the United Nations, its illegal occupation of the territory of Namibia, its war of repression against the Namibian people, its persistent acts of aggression against independent African States, its policies of apartheid and its development of nuclear weapons constituted a serious threat to international peace and security. The main obstacle to Namibia's independence was the racist and colonialist policy of South Africa. Another obstacle was that even countries which upheld the rule of law did not abide by their principles and were collaborating with South Africa.

27. The lack of a solution continued to aggravate tension and conflict in the region as well as endanger international peace and security. For 19 years South Africa had been disregarding the decisions of the United Nations with respect to Namibia, for which territory the General Assembly had assumed direct responsibility in 1966; for 33 years, the United Nations had seen South Africa's obdurate refusal to heed the will of the world community to eliminate apartheid. During all those years, South Africa's allies had told the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council that their relations with

that country would provide them leverage over South Africa to bring it under the rule of law, thereby proving that the international community was wrong in demanding the total isolation of the racist and illegal régime. Yet all South Africa had done was to use all sorts of manoeuvres to perpetuate its illegal occupation of Namibia and further entrench apartheid in South Africa.

28. In June 1985, the United Nations Council for Namibia had held in Vienna its sixth Extraordinary Plenary Meeting on the question of Namibia and had issued another fervent appeal for maximum international support for the early attainment of independence by Namibia. The Council had considered that special responsibility lay with the Security Council to act without further delay to secure the implementation of its relevant resolutions, in particular resolution 435 (1978). The Security Council had held 12 meetings on the question of Namibia from 10 to 19 June 1985, at a time when international public opinion had been expressing its increasing support for the oppressed peoples of South Africa and Namibia through campaigns for disinvestment and legislative sanctions against South Africa. The Security Council had met again on 26 July and 20 September to consider the escalation of racial conflict in South Africa and the intensification of unprovoked acts of aggression of the racist régime of South Africa against the People's Republic of Angola. That aggression represented not only a flagrant infringement of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of an independent African State, but also a new attempt of the Pretoria régime to perpetuate its illegal occupation of Namibia.

29. Concrete measures were essential, along with the imposition of mandatory sanctions and complete cessation of relations with South Africa in all spheres, especially in military and nuclear matters. All Member States should also give assistance to the United Nations Council for Namibia and to the Namibian people fighting for their freedom under the leadership of SWAPO. Governmental and public pressure in the countries of Western Europe and North America in favour of economic sanctions against South Africa was necessary.

30. The General Assembly had repeatedly drawn the attention of the world community to the increasing threat to international peace and security posed by racist South Africa's development of a nuclear capability based on the use

of Namibian uranium. In the preceding year, several delegations from African countries, including his own, had referred in their statements to South Africa's plans to dump nuclear waste in the Namibian desert. That news was alarming to the Council for Namibia and his delegation would like to receive emphatic assurance from the Director General that Namibian soil would not be used in any way by South Africa as a dumping ground for radioactive waste of any nature whatever.

31. On behalf of the United Nations Council for Namibia, he wished to express his concern at the rapid depletion of Namibia's natural resources by State-owned and other corporations and enterprises, in violation of the pertinent resolutions of the General Assembly and Security Council, of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 21 June 1971 and of Decree No. I enacted by the Council for the protection of the national resources of Namibia. He urged those countries whose multinational corporations were engaged in the illegal exploitation of Namibia's natural resources, especially its uranium deposits, to put an end to that plunder without delay. Such activities of foreign economic interests in Namibia were illegal under international law and those foreign interests operating in Namibia were liable to pay damages to the future lawful government of an independent Namibia. He wished to draw attention to paragraph 4 of Decree No. I under which "any animal, mineral or natural resource produced in or emanating from the Territory of Namibia which shall be taken from the said Territory without the consent and written authority of the United Nations Council for Namibia or of a person authorized to act on behalf of the said Council may be seized and shall be forfeited to the benefit of the said Council and held in trust by them for the benefit of the people of Namibia". In that regard, the Council intended to initiate legal action in national courts against those corporations which were exploiting the natural resources of Namibia.

32. The United Nations Council for Namibia wished to thank the Agency and its Members which had supported the efforts of the Council in the discharge of its responsibilities. It also wished to reiterate its call to the Agency and its Member States to take all necessary measures to strengthen the

co-operation between the Agency and the people of Namibia. In that connection, it was appropriate to emphasize the important role which the Agency had to play in promoting and developing technical assistance projects before independence, during the transition period and after the independence of Namibia. One of the main areas where the Agency ought to make an increased contribution was training activities, which should be conceived in the form of a consolidated and comprehensive assistance programme, specifically designed to meet the needs of the Namibian people.

33. The Council commended the efforts made by the Agency to assist the Namibian people through the Council's Nationhood Programme. He hoped that the latter programme would be substantially enlarged in order to meet the growing demands of the Namibian people. In so doing the Agency would act in full conformity with the objectives of Article II of its Statute.

34. Commending the efforts which the Director General had made in recent years to increase the representation of developing countries in the Secretariat, he recalled that the United Nations Council for Namibia was interested in one or more Namibians being recruited as staff members in appropriate Departments of the Agency. Reiterating the General Assembly's request to all specialized agencies, he called upon the Agency to continue granting a waiver of assessment to Namibia for the period during which it was represented by the United Nations Council for Namibia.

35. Mr. de MEDEIROS PATRICIO (Portugal) observed that the Agency had proved to be one of the most vital and able international organizations in spite of the problems which were affecting its work to a greater degree at present than in the past. He hoped that the Agency's key role would continue to develop under the able guidance of its Director General, whom his delegation wished to congratulate on his re-election.

36. In 1984 the Agency had continued its efforts to remove obstacles in the way of the installation of nuclear power plants in Member States. He was especially happy to note that it was taking close interest in the work on extending the nuclear market to the small and medium power reactors and that it was trying to intensify its contacts with national and international financing institutions with a view to providing Member States with information on possible financing schemes for installing nuclear power plants.

37. The obstacles were not, however, confined to economic and financial difficulties. There was also the initial attitude of a considerable fraction of the public who were concerned about the problems of disposal of nuclear waste and were particularly worried by the danger – so far not disproved scientifically – of dumping such waste into the sea, on which millions depended for their daily living. Efforts must not only be continued but also be increased in order to solve those issues to the satisfaction of the public and enable nuclear power to gain much wider acceptance.

38. In the matter of safeguards, his delegation noted with satisfaction that some nuclear-weapon States had decided to place some of their civilian nuclear facilities under Agency safeguards. Those measures were important because they contributed to the objectives of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), to which his country attached great importance. The Agency had a vital role to play in implementing the objectives of NPT, but its work alone was not enough. It was essential that all States should accede to the Treaty and – what was no less important – that the depositary States should bring themselves to comply with Article VI of NPT. The word of States must not be taken lightly by those who gave it, nor should it casually be accorded a lesser rank in the hierarchy of matters of honour, especially where the rule "pacta sunt servanda" was much more than a principle of ethics and became a condition for the survival of mankind.

39. He wished to underline the importance of the work done by the Committee on Assurances of Supply (CAS), namely the progress made at the recent meetings towards establishing the principles of international co-operation in matters relating to nuclear energy.

40. Portugal was grateful to the Federal Republic of Germany and the United States of America for their large contributions to the financing of some footnote a/ projects. Within the general framework of Agency technical assistance it had been possible to implement projects on uranium exploration, site survey, nuclear safety, secondary standard dosimetry, research and development, physical sciences, medicine and agriculture.

41. The Portuguese energy plan, which envisaged the possibility of installing nuclear power plants, had been completed in 1984. However, because

of economic difficulties and other factors the activities were confined for the time being to site selection for nuclear power plants, to which activities the Agency had been providing valuable support.

42. Mr. LEYE (Senegal) congratulated the Director General on his appointment as the head of the Agency for another four years. Of the matters dealt with in the annual report for 1984, he wished intentionally to leave aside the problems relating to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), nuclear safety and safeguards. That was not because those problems were unimportant or because his delegation was not concerned or interested. But since many other delegations had already spoken on those subjects, he preferred to concentrate on matters of immediate interest to Senegal, such as technical co-operation, applications of nuclear technology to the areas of food and health, protection of peaceful nuclear facilities and the problem of South Africa.

43. With regard to technical co-operation, his delegation was happy to see that, as far as the resources for technical co-operation were concerned, the high level attained in 1983 had been exceeded in 1984, in which year resources amounting to US \$35.9 million had been available. He also noted with satisfaction that disbursements from the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund had been 20.2% higher than in 1983. It was to be regretted that, although the resources of that Fund had steadily increased from US \$10 632 000 in 1980 to more than \$22 232 000, there had been a steady decrease in funds provided by UNDP, which had declined by more than 50% in five years, and that assistance in kind had stagnated. He appealed to UNDP, whose situation had improved, to make more resources available to the Agency. His delegation considered that technical assistance, which was one of the principal activities of the Agency, should grow at the same rate as its other essential activities such as safeguards and nuclear safety; for that purpose, it needed predictable and assured resources from the Regular Budget so as to comply with the letter and the spirit of resolution GC(XXV)/RES/388 of 1981. There was no doubt that the present system of financing based on indicative planning figures had on the whole worked satisfactorily thus far and the credit for that went to the donor countries. However, an increase in technical

assistance requests could reasonably be expected in the not too distant future. His delegation therefore regarded the 12% increase in 1987-1989 as a reasonable and realistic compromise and wholeheartedly supported that increase.

44. He praised the multifarious help and assistance which the Agency provided to the area of Africa in general and to the least developed countries (LDCs) in particular. Twenty-six out of the 36 countries in that category were situated in Africa. According to the annual report, assistance to LDCs had increased at an annual rate of 31% during the period 1981-1984. Pre-project assistance, country programming assistance and intercountry co-operation, which aimed at assisting the least developed countries in a sub-region, region or regions in applying nuclear techniques in order to solve common problems, were some of the measures designed and developed with much imagination and realism by the Agency to respond to the least developed countries' needs for assistance. In the case of the African area, the Agency should nevertheless envisage greater co-operation and co-ordination with regional organizations such as the Organization for African Unity and the Economic Commission for Africa.

45. The Agency's activities in connection with food and agriculture and with life sciences were of the greatest interest to developing countries. The use of portable radioactive equipment to study the dynamics of water movement in field soils under cropping conditions could effectively help in the attainment of self-sufficiency in food by providing a simple and efficient means of water management in the rural environment and by ensuring high yield and efficient fertilizer use. The seven co-ordinated research programmes on grain legumes, cereals, root crops and tubers could be welcomed as heralding a revolution in agriculture, and it was not accidental that African countries like Ghana, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mali, Sudan and Zaire were already devoting particular attention to those programmes. The application of nuclear techniques in the control of insects and other pests under the BICOT project had provided experience which could be extended profitably and rapidly to other regions in Africa, especially those affected by the tsetse fly.

46. His delegation also commended the Agency's efforts to extend to Africa its activities in the radiation sterilization of medical supplies. The

co-ordinated research programmes on the development of a vaccine against schistosomiasis and on nuclear techniques for monitoring malaria vectors and the work on the establishment of cancer radiotherapy services in some developing countries deserved encouragement and support.

47. In the matter of nuclear power, the small and medium power reactor project initiation study was a laudable undertaking, as a result of which information on 24 designs of nuclear power plants with power levels below 600 MW(e) had been obtained from manufacturers. His delegation considered that those miniplants were still prohibitively expensive for small countries with modest means, and that further research should be carried on so that the LDCs, island and land-locked countries and those poorly endowed with fossil fuel reserves, could benefit from the peaceful use of the atom.

48. The Senegalese delegation was aware of the very high cost of financing safeguards. While he recognized the extreme usefulness of safeguards and was in favour of their widest and universal acceptance, he felt that the system should be financed primarily by those States which derived the greatest benefit from it. Small States, for their part, should only make a purely token contribution to the costs.

49. The Israeli attack against the Iraqi research reactor had, apart from its numerous other consequences, dealt a severe blow to the credibility of the safeguards system and, at the same time, compromised nuclear safety. The Director General had reported to the Board of Governors that he had had contacts with Israel in pursuance of resolution GC(XXVIII)/RES/425 and that in his opinion those efforts had been inconclusive. However, the NPT Review Conference had itself recognized that an armed threat against a safeguarded nuclear facility or the threat of such an attack had created a situation regarding which the Security Council should take immediate action. Moreover, since such an armed attack, or the threat thereof, against a nuclear facility intended for peaceful uses could have very serious consequences for the peaceful uses of atomic energy, for international nuclear co-operation and for Agency safeguards, it could be concluded that such irresponsible acts were directed against the interests of the world community as a whole and therefore deserved very severe condemnation.

50. The racist régime in South Africa, which relied on armed force alone to repress demands at home and to intimidate the African nations hostile to apartheid abroad, had in recent years acquired a nuclear capacity which seriously compromised the security of its neighbours, increased the risk of nuclear-weapons proliferation and imperilled world peace and security. Moreover, that had been possible only because South Africa was illegally mining Namibian uranium. His delegation requested all countries concerned about the protection of human rights to lend their strong support to the draft resolution, submitted to the General Conference by the entire African group, calling upon Member States, among other things, to halt all nuclear co-operation with South Africa, to refrain from purchasing Namibian uranium sold illegally by the racist régime and to end any transfer of fissionable materials and technology to South Africa.

51. In conclusion, he said that forty years ago when atomic energy had made its first appearance, many pessimists had seen in that event the confirmation of their worst fears. Others who had been more optimistic had welcomed the fission of the atom as the dawn of a new era for mankind. The extremely slow progress towards disarmament and, at the same time, the breathtaking rate of scientific and technological advancement would tend to make the first point of view more credible, whereas the peaceful utilization of various nuclear-based technologies adequately responding to the numerous and very serious problems which affected the majority of the planet's inhabitants would seem to justify the supporters of the second view. Mankind was indeed at the crossroads and, in order to continue further, it had to decide which of the paths to take: the one leading to destruction and death or the other leading to life. Between life and death, the great majority had chosen that of life. It was for men of goodwill to see to it that the choice became a reality.

52. Mr. WALKER (New Zealand) wished, first of all, to reaffirm his country's support for the Agency.

53. The safeguards of the Agency played a vital role in helping to curb horizontal proliferation. His delegation was pleased to see references to safeguards in the final document of the Third Review Conference of the Parties

to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). He regarded them as a strong signal to all supplier States that they should take greater care than ever before to ensure that their nuclear exports did not contribute inadvertently to the development of nuclear weapons. While commending their efforts in that direction, New Zealand urged them all to require full-scope safeguards under Agency supervision as a fundamental precondition of supply.

54. At the same time, the application of full-scope safeguards must be balanced by assurances that no unnecessary obstacles would be placed in the way of the acquisition of nuclear materials, equipment and knowledge by those countries which had accepted safeguards and wished sincerely to make use of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

55. Generally speaking, New Zealand wanted to see early progress made in the universal application of safeguards. Steady strengthening of a global safeguards regime would play a major part in international confidence building. That had particular relevance for the smaller nations like New Zealand which had to rely on the monitoring capacities of the Agency in order to be reassured that the safeguards system was working properly.

56. New Zealanders were particularly concerned about the fact that such a substantial proportion of the world's now considerable nuclear resources continued to be devoted to military purposes. They were totally opposed to the present situation in which, although the world already had more than enough nuclear weapons for its destruction, the bulk of the world's precious resources of nuclear technology continued to be expended on making and stockpiling more and more sophisticated nuclear weapons. His country was fortunate in being relatively distant from the areas most exposed to nuclear confrontation but New Zealanders did not feel that they could remain indifferent to the global threat of nuclear destruction. Consequently, with the strong support of a clear majority of its people, his Government had declared New Zealand to be nuclear-free. No nuclear weapons would be tolerated in New Zealand.

57. At Rarotonga, on 6 August 1985, the 40th anniversary of the destruction of Hiroshima, the South Pacific Forum had endorsed, and opened for signature, a nuclear-free zone treaty for the South Pacific Region. It had already been

signed by New Zealand and eight other Pacific countries. It signalled to all the world that the member countries of the South Pacific Forum were determined to have no nuclear weapons in the region. Under Article 4 of that treaty each party undertook to apply Agency safeguards and to support the international non-proliferation system based on NPT and the Agency safeguards system. The role of the Agency was thus extended to helping provide reciprocal verification assurances to all countries within the zone. The treaty also extended the benefits and obligations of safeguards procedures to a number of very small countries whose technological development was insufficient to enable them to participate actively in the meetings and other activities of the Agency. In accordance with Annex 2, several of them would be concluding safeguards agreements with the Agency within 18 months from the date of entry into force of the treaty for that party.

58. In that regard, he pointed out that, like the other countries belonging to the Pacific Forum, New Zealand was dismayed at the French Government's continued testing of nuclear weapons at Mururoa Atoll in the South Pacific. The international community had been made more keenly aware of that opposition by recent events, including the terrorist attack which had led to the sinking of the Greenpeace vessel "Rainbow Warrior". He wished to stress New Zealand's total opposition to all testing of nuclear weapons in all environments and for all time. That was why every year New Zealand, in conjunction with Australia, had sponsored in the United Nations General Assembly a resolution calling urgently for a complete and comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty.

59. Those issues were of direct and immediate relevance to the Agency's General Conference. The recent NPT Review Conference had shown that it was worthwhile for the smaller nations to strive to play a full part in global disarmament negotiations. While for technological reasons New Zealand must continue to play a relatively small role in the Agency it was pleased to have had the opportunity to reaffirm its willingness to participate as fully as it could in the deliberations of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

REPLY OF THE DELEGATE OF FRANCE

60. Mr. ERRERA (France), exercising his right of reply, noted that the delegate of New Zealand had expressed the opposition of his Government to the nuclear tests carried out by France at Mururoa. The problem of putting a stop to nuclear weapons tests - namely all tests, because the nuclear powers were all carrying out tests, and it was wrong to single out one of them - was, like that of setting up denuclearized zones, inseparable from the problem of limiting nuclear armaments in the world. It should and could, therefore, be dealt with only by the appropriate specialized bodies. The Agency was not the appropriate body for solving that question. With regard to the allusions made to a recent incident, he would voluntarily refrain from speaking on that subject."

The meeting rose at 10 p.m.