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President: Mr. COLOMBO (Italy)

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[\*\*] GC(XXXI)/799.

The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document GC(XXXI)/INF/246/Rev.3.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE (resumed)

1. The PRESIDENT informed the General Conference that consultations had ultimately resulted in agreement on the filling of the outstanding vacancy in the General Committee: he accordingly proposed that the delegate of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea be elected as a Vice-President of the General Conference.

2. The President's proposal was accepted.

GENERAL DEBATE AND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1986 (GC(XXXI)/800 and Corr.1) (resumed)

3. Mr. JIANG (China) noted that, in the 30 years since its establishment, the Agency had demonstrated that it was a competent international body for promoting international co-operation in various fields of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, such as nuclear power, nuclear safety, radiation protection, and the production and application of isotopes. The Agency had also provided necessary and useful assistance to its Member States, particularly the developing ones. Furthermore, in 1986 the Agency had taken only two months to formulate the two conventions on early notification and emergency assistance and his country had already deposited the instruments of ratification of the two conventions with the Director General.

4. Although there was no question about the importance of the Agency's role in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, that role had for various reasons not been fully exploited. In view of the existing unbalanced development of nuclear energy, it was to be hoped that the developed countries would give greater support to the Agency and contribute more to helping other Member States in the development of nuclear energy. The Agency itself should strive to increase the implementation and effectiveness of its technical assistance projects and use its limited resources as economically as possible.

5. Since it joined the Agency in 1984, there had been satisfactory co-operation between China and the Agency. During the past four years, China had sent many experts to participate in various technological activities sponsored by the Agency and had also held various training courses of practical significance for economic development. In addition, China had hosted meetings on the technology of insect disinfestation by irradiation,

food preservation by irradiation, isotope hydrology, semi-dwarf mutants for rice improvement, and so on. Similar activities were expected to be held in China in 1988. China had also started to provide technical services to the Agency and, through the Agency, to other developing Member States.

6. China was striving to accelerate construction of its nuclear power plants and the application of nuclear energy in other fields. Construction of the Qinshan Nuclear Power Plant, which had been independently designed and manufactured by China, was proceeding smoothly. Upon completion of the pre-engineering phase, construction had started at the Daya Bay Nuclear Power Plant introduced from Britain and France. In the field of nuclear research, China's first tandem accelerator went into operation in 1987 thereby establishing the necessary conditions for basic nuclear physics research in China. While exerting great efforts in the construction of such large-scale facilities as the Tokamak torus device, it also implemented research and development projects such as the gamma irradiation facility. China had made substantial progress in isotope and radiation technology which had been successfully applied to the national economy and public health.

7. As part of China's commitment to strengthening international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and its support for the objectives of the Agency's Statute, China intended to place some of its civilian nuclear installations under Agency safeguards and had conducted two rounds of negotiations with the Agency on the conclusion of an agreement.

8. Despite the difficulties encountered during the last 30 years his delegation was optimistic about the future prospects of nuclear energy with the future development of the world economy and increasing energy requirements. It was to be hoped that the Agency would successfully promote the realization of the objectives of seeking to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world as laid down in its Statute.

9. Mr. PETROSYANTS (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that it would fall to the General Conference to examine and decide on a number of important matters in the activities of the Agency which would determine what its work was to be in the years to come; it was the Soviet Union's hope that

the decisions taken by the General Conference would herald a new and major stage in the development of international co-operation in the peaceful utilization of atomic energy to the benefit of Member States of the Agency, in the strengthening of the non-proliferation regime and in the more effective application of Agency safeguards.

10. The thirty years that had passed since the entry into force of the Agency's Statute had given proof that the Agency had over those years become the generally acknowledged centre for finding joint solutions to the scientific and technical problems involved in using nuclear energy to peaceful ends and for providing assistance in that field to the developing countries.

11. The Agency's monitoring functions had a special place in its activities; non-proliferation rightly held the key position. The practical work of the Agency over its thirty years had made patent to the international community the advantages of the peaceful development of science and technology over applying them to warlike ends, and had clearly pointed to the only rational way of using the energy of the atom. He noted that international co-operation in the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy would beyond doubt be given a powerful boost if there were a general improvement in the world political climate and were progress to be made in ensuring general security.

12. The Agency had throughout the years ceaselessly worked towards its fundamental goal, that of achieving the rapid and widespread use of atomic energy to underpin world peace, health and prosperity. He noted with satisfaction that the overwhelming majority of the Agency's Member States had made common cause towards that end, and gave their sincere support to the work and the principles of that truly unique international organization; the thirty years of the Agency's existence had given convincing proof that all States, irrespective of their social and economic systems, could and must contribute to strengthening international security, and the thirtieth anniversary was a good opportunity once more to examine in depth States' co-operation through the Agency. The Soviet Government had taken a special decision that the Agency's anniversary was to be widely marked; a ceremonial congress had been held in Moscow, special medals struck and special stamps and envelopes printed.

13. The Soviet Union had not strayed from its main thrust in the field of disarmament, and was doing all it could to make headway in the principal discussions on limiting the arms race and on disarmament; it was putting forward constructive proposals towards reining back the arms race - the nuclear race in particular - and towards making the shift to real disarmament. In a world become interdependent, one in which the priority had become the survival of humankind, any further build-up of arms threatened not only to handicap progress in all spheres of human endeavour to an even greater degree, but also to wipe out the achievements of the past, and the future of civilization. History and the realities of the age of the atom and of space spoke with one insistent voice for disarmament, for a non-nuclear, non-violent world. The idea of a world of that kind was not utopian and was no pipe-dream; it was taking on real shape and was beginning to stand out ever more clearly as the only rational alternative to "nuclear restraint".

14. The programme for a non-nuclear world had made it possible to carry disarmament to lengths that had until very recently seemed unthinkable; the security of one and all in the nuclear age, the space age, could be guaranteed not by piling up armaments, but by creating an all-embracing system of stable, dependable peace. Practical proposals to that effect had been made by the General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Mr. Gorbachev, in an article published on 17 September that year.

15. There was no area in arms limitation and elimination in which the Soviet Union would not be prepared to reach mutually acceptable agreement; an example of the Soviet Union's determination to make palpable progress towards a non-nuclear world was its position at the recent talks between Mr. Shevardnadze, the Soviet Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Shultz, the Secretary of State of the United States of America; a result of those talks had been that most of the differences and obstacles to agreement on eliminating intermediate-range and battlefield missiles had been removed. For the first time in the history of nuclear weaponry, there had been agreement in principle to eliminate two classes of missile. A decision had also been taken to begin, before 1 December 1987, full-scale, stage-by-stage talks, in a single forum, on matters relating to nuclear testing. It had been agreed at the Washington talks that there would be a meeting in the autumn of that year

between Mr. Gorbachev and the President of the United States of America, Mr. Reagan, which the Soviet Union hoped would be the point of departure for new and far-reaching moves towards the total elimination of the nuclear threat to humankind.

16. As the acknowledged international body for co-ordinating States' efforts in the peaceful utilization of atomic energy, the Agency could not help but be in the mainstream of world politics. Active Agency participation in efforts to prevent the appearance of new nuclear States was one of the most important factors in combating the threat of nuclear war, in strengthening peace and international security and in limiting the nuclear arms race. The Soviet Union had noted with satisfaction that in 1986, as before, the Secretariat had discovered no irregularities which would have indicated that nuclear materials or facilities under safeguards had been switched to production of weapons or to other military purposes, or to the construction of explosive devices of a nuclear kind. That being so, it was in favour, bearing in mind the world situation, of the Agency's concentrating its safeguards efforts first and foremost where there was the greatest risk of diversion towards weapons production, and therefore favoured increasing the effectiveness of Agency monitoring in near-nuclear States, particularly those not signatory to NPT. The Soviet Union had given and would continue to give the Agency all possible support in carrying out its functions directed towards ensuring non-proliferation, including co-operation in developing the system of safeguards.

17. The Soviet Union was successfully carrying out a programme of scientific and technical support for Agency safeguards, in which the leading scientific research institutes were participating, and every year training courses for inspectors, and other Agency activities, took place there.

18. The Soviet Union considered the Agency's activities to be of great significance in developing scientific and technical co-operation between Member States, and actively supported the fundamental directions in the Agency's work in the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy, particularly programmes of benefit to all countries; of these, nuclear power and its fuel cycle were paramount.

19. Considering the great significance with which matters of nuclear safety had become invested, the Soviet Union also supported expanding the Agency's activities in that field and had put forward advanced proposals on a programme to create an international safety regime for the safe development of nuclear power, which was to be based on close collaboration between States which had received broad support from the special session of the General Conference.

20. The Soviet Union considered of great importance the work of the INIS system and co-operation through the Agency in the field of nuclear data; those areas were of importance for the development not only of nuclear power, but also for other areas in the use of atomic energy in all the Agency's Member States. The Soviet Union therefore supported the Agency's activities in controlled nuclear fusion, which might serve in future as an inexhaustible source of energy.

21. The Soviet Union had always considered technical assistance and co-operation with the Member States of the Agency to be of primary importance, and had noted with satisfaction the constant growth in the Agency's activities in transferring experience, knowledge, technology and equipment for the peaceful utilization of atomic energy to further economic and social development in the countries receiving technical assistance. Allocations to technical assistance would increase by 12% in 1988, an increase to which the Soviet Union gave its support. It considered that the principle by which the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund (TACF) was funded by voluntary contributions in national currency should remain unchanged; the system adopted by the Agency, that of Indicative Planning Figures, had proved its effectiveness and provided a reliable forecast and guarantee of the financing of the Agency's technical assistance and co-operation activities. The Soviet Union's policy, based on principle, towards co-operation with developing countries found expression in the constant increase in its inputs to the TACF, and it regularly paid its due share in full; indeed, he was authorized to reveal that his Government was to increase its contribution to the TACF for 1988 to US \$3 834 000 in Soviet currency. In addition, the Soviet Union had allocated a further two million roubles over the 1986-88 period to providing additional assistance to Member States of the Agency which had acceded to NPT. That assistance was given by making available Soviet equipment,

supplies, instruments and facilities and by giving training on various courses in the Soviet Union to specialized personnel from developing countries which were Member States of the Agency.

22. Power generation was a leading and fast-growing sector of the Soviet economy, and in the decades to come would be based on fossil and nuclear fuel and on hydroelectricity, insofar as there were as yet no other sources of comparable capacity available; forms of energy such as solar, geothermal and others would provide a small fraction of the energy supply by the end of the century, and it could only be hoped that in the first half of the next century other sources of energy would be capable of making a significant contribution to the fuel equation. Increased demand for oil, gas and coal was associated with increases in exploitation costs in the remote eastern and northern parts of the Soviet Union, and it therefore regarded nuclear power as one of the most important means of balancing the fuel equation over a prolonged period.

23. The accident at Chernobyl in April 1986 had done major damage to the Soviet Union, and in August of that year the Soviet delegation had given at the Agency a detailed account of its causes and effects. He informed the General Conference that at the moment of speaking, eighteen months later, the first and second units of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant were operating at their design capacity of 1 GW each. The third unit was being readied for startup, and the fourth, the one which had been destroyed by the accident, was completely sheathed in concrete cladding, a "sarcophagus", as it was commonly called. He took the opportunity to thank, on behalf of the Soviet people, the organizations, companies and Governments which had given their assistance in successfully dealing with the accident.

24. The accident at Chernobyl 4 and accidents at power stations abroad had made it necessary critically to study the safety of nuclear power. The Soviet Union's painstaking and comprehensive study of the causes, course and effects of the accident, the measures taken to counter it and their effectiveness had shown how these problems could be solved. On the basis of that study, a long-term plan to improve nuclear power safety had been developed in which a great deal of attention had been given to improving the man-machine interface, including automatics, monitoring, information provision and staff training,

especially for accident conditions. A study was being conducted of the remote effects of the accident, and much significance was attached to work on developing power reactors of the type termed inherently safe.

25. The critical analysis of which nuclear power had been the object after the accident at Chernobyl had not impelled the Soviet Union to change its position on the further development of nuclear power; nuclear power would meet about 20% of the demand for electricity by 1990 and would rival fossil fuel in its contribution by the year 2000.

26. The Soviet Union shared the concern of the Director General regarding the worsening financial situation of the Agency caused by delays in payment by some Member States of their due contributions. The Agency was faced with the real prospect of a substantial shortfall in the resources needed for its activities, which could not but also affect the implementation of Agency functions of importance for all Member States, such as its monitoring activities and ensuring non-proliferation. The Soviet Union placed high value on the role in the modern world which the Agency had played for thirty years, a role which should be further expanded; it was of the profound conviction that it was intolerable to use financial leverage to exert pressure on the Agency. The Soviet Union had always spoken for providing the Agency with the finance it needed for its activities, for underpinning its operating situation and for strict adherence to all the provisions of the Agency's Statute, and was therefore prepared to continue co-operation towards eliminating the financial difficulties which had arisen; it would pay its contributions to the Agency's budget punctiliously, in full and in accordance with the approved scale. Having regard to the financial embarrassment in which the Agency found itself, the Soviet Union had decided to pay its mandatory contributions early; from 1988, they would be paid in April and October, and the contribution for the second semester of 1987 would be made on 18 September.

27. The Soviet Union called on all Member States which had not yet liquidated their debts to the Agency to do so with the minimum of delay.

28. He associated himself with those delegations which had expressed their approval of the Agency's Annual Report for 1986, and said that he was convinced that the Agency would continue to be a trustworthy tool in the

development of international co-operation in the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy under the conditions consequent upon it of non-proliferation. The Soviet Union was of the firm intention to be guided in its work by the sincere desire to facilitate a successful outcome to the work of the General Conference, and to co-operate in a constructive and businesslike manner with all parties in seeking ways to resolve the important and the crucial matters in hand.

29. Mr. SUOMINEN (Finland) noted that at the time of the Agency's establishment, there had been widespread enthusiasm for nuclear energy and at that time the main concern had been the possible misuse of fissionable material, but during the past few years many countries had begun to have misgivings about the acceptability of nuclear power as a whole. Despite that fact, the importance of nuclear energy in the world was unquestionable. It accounted for more than half of the total electricity consumption in a number of countries and for 15% on average. In Finland, the proportion was almost 40%, and despite the costs of stringent safety measures, the use of nuclear energy had resulted in cheaper electricity. The availability of Finnish nuclear power plants was an average of almost 90% and per capita consumption of nuclear energy in Finland was among the highest in the world.

30. Although the introduction and use of nuclear energy in Finland had largely been based on its economic advantages, environmental aspects had also been seen as an argument in favour of nuclear energy. The attention paid to - and the material and intellectual investment in - safety had been worth while. Public confidence in nuclear energy one and a half years before in Finland had been on such a level that preparatory steps were being taken to construct additional nuclear capacity. However, the Chernobyl accident had changed the prospects, and the Government had taken a decision not to continue with the development of new nuclear energy capacity, although nuclear energy had not been excluded from the list of options and there was no question of the premature dismantling of existing plants. Currently, there was worldwide uncertainty about the future role of nuclear energy among the available options.

31. The acceptability of nuclear energy, and especially of nuclear power, was founded on nuclear safety and non-proliferation, and he wondered whether everything possible was being done to strengthen those foundations and to demonstrate their solidity to the public. It was essential that safety, including the safety of nuclear waste management and the external safety of nuclear power plants and materials, remain a top priority wherever nuclear energy was used. Perhaps more should be done to make people understand the real nature of the problems associated with safety in nuclear waste management - the complete isolation of radioactive products from the ecosphere. Equally important, but perhaps less in the forefront of public awareness, was the question of nuclear non-proliferation. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) had greatly helped to dispel fears that nuclear power and nuclear weapons would be inseparably linked. Any new adherences to NPT were very welcome, since they served to enhance the credibility of the non-proliferation regime.

32. The Agency enjoyed the reputation of being one of the most efficient organizations in the United Nations family. It was - and would continue to be - a forum where all relevant issues could be openly discussed. At the same time, the Agency should guard against acquiring the image of an exclusive club of representatives of the "nuclear establishments" in various countries using its international prestige to promote single-mindedly the use of nuclear energy. In his introductory statement, the Director General had rightly emphasized the importance of collective international action and continued trust and confidence in the Agency on the part of its Member States and also the importance of settling matters without controversy. The Agency should continue to serve as a forum for finding commonly acceptable solutions to divergences of opinion as it had done in the case of the two conventions adopted by the General Conference at its special session and the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material.

33. The Agency was in a position to promote the exchange of safety-related information and it also had a crucial role in safeguarding nuclear materials against diversion to military or otherwise proscribed uses. Safeguards helped to create trust in the peaceful nature of the nuclear programmes of

Member States and it was to be hoped that it could lead to the complete separation of the nuclear fuel cycle of power plants from any military applications.

34. The financial difficulties facing the UN system were well known, but stringency should not be pressed to the point at which it became detrimental to crucial activities such as safeguards inspections. All Member States should be urged to fulfil their financial obligations to the Agency on time so that its activities did not suffer owing to lack of money. If the credibility of safeguards control was allowed to diminish, it would inevitably have consequences for the nuclear programmes of both developed and developing countries alike.

35. Mr. PARK (Republic of Korea) noted that during the past 30 years, the Agency had greatly contributed to the promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and the prevention of nuclear proliferation. The Agency had played a central role in providing various technical assistance and co-operation programmes to facilitate access by developing countries to the benefits of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and in disseminating information on the applications of nuclear technology in the development of energy, medicine, food and agriculture. In addition, the Agency had served as a mechanism through which Member States had developed various safety standards. The Agency had also greatly contributed to fostering nuclear non-proliferation through the applications of international safeguards.

36. His delegation was pleased to note that the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund (TACF) had increased by 11% in 1986 in spite of the zero-growth budget, while the net expenditure rate had risen significantly to 75.7% from 66.3% in 1985. However, it was regrettable that almost two thirds of the Member States either had not pledged their share or had not respected their pledges to the TACF, and that actual payments represented only 60% of the indicative planning figure.

37. With regard to the Agency's 1986 Safeguards Implementation Report, his delegation welcomed the conclusion that nuclear materials under safeguards had remained in peaceful nuclear activities or had been otherwise adequately accounted for. The fact that the proportion of facilities under safeguards

for which the inspection goals had been attained as a whole had risen from 57% to 63% in 1986 was most welcome. Effective inspection activities in 1986 had considerably increased to over 86% of the Planned Actual Routine Inspection Efforts, compared with 73% in 1985. The Secretariat should continue to strive for such improvements.

38. Under the current nuclear power programme in Korea, there were seven nuclear power plants in operation with an installed capacity of over 5.7 GW(e), representing about 50% of the total electricity supply. Two more nuclear power plants of 950 MW units were under construction and would be added to the national electricity grid within two years. Despite the Chernobyl accident, two additional nuclear power units would be constructed by 1996 to meet Korea's ever-growing energy demands.

39. As a party to NPT and under the Agency's full-scope safeguards his country's nuclear power programmes were solely for the peaceful use of nuclear energy. His country had recently been strengthening its national safeguards system for effective accounting for and control of nuclear materials. The legal framework for safeguards had already been reflected in the revised Atomic Energy Law, and a computer system for safeguards data processing was currently being developed.

40. Great importance was also attached to nuclear safety. The Nuclear Safety Centre, established in 1982 under the Atomic Energy Law, had recently been reorganized in view of the need to improve nuclear safety and in view of growing public concern in the wake of the Chernobyl accident. His delegation believed that the benefits of nuclear energy, for power and other peaceful uses, should be fully available to any country which had demonstrated a firm commitment to non-proliferation. In that connection, his country, as one of several Member States which made contributions to the Agency in addition to its Regular Budget and voluntary contributions, had hosted the RCA Regional Workshop on Photon, Electron and Neutron Dosimetry in Radiotherapy in June 1987 with financial support from the Korean Government. It had also hosted the RCA Regional Training Course on Non-Destructive Testing at the Korean Advanced Energy Research Institute and was also considering providing extrabudgetary funds for a footnote-a/ project.

41. His country continued to support the Agency's technical assistance and co-operation programme for developing countries and it was hoped that Korea's modern research and training facilities could be used for IAEA/RCA activities. In addition, Korea would host the IAEA Interregional Training Course on Nuclear Power Project Planning and Implementation in 1988 with full financial support from the Korean Government.

42. With regard to spent fuel management, his delegation believed that spent fuel should not be regarded as waste but rather as a promising nuclear energy resource in view of its high radioactivity. Spent fuel would undoubtedly become an international issue within a decade or so as it increased in amount to exceed the interim storage capacity and became an economical nuclear energy source. The Agency should therefore devise an international mechanism for its possible reuse and effective management without jeopardizing the international non-proliferation regime.

43. In conclusion, his Government was confident that the Agency would continue to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, while constantly maintaining the effectiveness of the international non-proliferation and safeguards regimes.

44. Mr. SRINIVASAN (India) said that the thirtieth year of the Agency's fruitful career was an appropriate time at which to assess past achievements and to look ahead toward future tasks and objectives.

45. The Agency had come into existence in response to the widespread realization that nuclear technology was an important factor in economic development, it being clearly reflected in the Statute that the international promotion of nuclear energy was its most important task. In that connection, he noted that India had participated actively in the Statute Conference in the person of the late Dr. Homi Bhabha, who had been an articulate champion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

46. The current year was also the fortieth anniversary of India's independence, shortly after which it had already conceived a modest yet ambitious nuclear programme. Forty years on, India was a developing nation that was self-reliant in nuclear energy, having acquired the ability to

operate the entire nuclear fuel cycle, from uranium exploration to spent fuel reprocessing and the recycling of plutonium. In India, with its very limited fossil fuel reserves, nuclear energy would have to play a major role if economic development objectives were to be met and living standards improved. Clearly, if available safety principles and knowledge were effectively deployed, nuclear power at its present stage of development represented an acceptable and beneficial source of energy. Although both the Three Mile Island and Chernobyl accidents had occurred mainly through the failure by operating personnel to observe safety rules and procedures, it was now the duty of the nuclear community to restore public confidence in nuclear energy. The Early Notification Convention and the Emergency Assistance Convention - both of which India had already taken steps to ratify - were an important step in that direction.

47. The year 1986/87 had been a satisfactory one for the Indian atomic energy programme. The pressurized heavy-water reactor system was now totally indigenized from the point of view of design, component manufacture, construction and operation. The successful attainment of criticality within the Fast Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR) at Kalpakkam had given India the necessary experience and confidence to proceed with the design of a prototype 500 MW(e) fast breeder reactor, the preliminary design for which had already been completed. Significant progress had also been made on detailed designs for the main components. India's efforts during recent years at planning and designing larger unit size 500 MW(e) pressurized heavy-water reactors (PHWRs) were also nearing fruition, with design work on the primary heat transport system, moderator system, reactor boiler and auxiliaries now at an advanced stage. The two units of the Tarapur plant had logged 34 reactor years of successful operation. The Rajasthan Atomic Power Station Unit-2 had achieved the highest annual power generation since commencing commercial production. The problems encountered in the two units of the Madras plant - in the generator transformer and fuel transfer system - had been successfully overcome. The indigenously designed and constructed 100 MW high-flux research reactor, DHRUVA, had had early problems, but since modification of its fuel design had been operating at 60 MW(t), shortly to be raised to 80 MW(t). A uranium-233-fuelled neutron reactor facility was nearing completion at

Kalpakkam. It would be used mainly for the neutron radiography of radioactive and non-radioactive objects. The other research reactors, APSARA and CIRUS, continued to operate in a safe and efficient manner.

48. Another major development in India's nuclear programme was the conversion of the Nuclear Power Board into a corporation to manage nuclear power generation along modern commercial lines, with public involvement in its financing. That would definitely speed up achievement of India's aim to generate 10 000 MW(e) of nuclear power by the year 2000.

49. In its enthusiasm for harnessing nuclear energy for vital developmental activities, India had never lost track of the need to assure the public of absolute safety in its nuclear installations. The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board, which had been established and entrusted with overall responsibility in that area, had set about its task - including the preparation of codes and guides in the nuclear medical, industrial and transportation areas - in a systematic manner. A fresh safety assessment of the country's nuclear power plants had been undertaken the previous year, and environmental surveys had been conducted around all nuclear plants and research centre sites.

50. In the light of governmental and public concerns over nuclear safety, the 1986 General Conference had been preceded by a special conference at which scientists and experts had taken a comprehensive and detailed look at all the safety-related aspects of nuclear technology. The information made available after the Chernobyl accident could only serve to add, both qualitatively and quantitatively, to the safety culture of nuclear energy. It was above all encouraging to note the spirit in which a concerted effort, such as that witnessed the previous year, could meet the challenges ahead. In that connection, he thanked the Agency for organizing the forthcoming Conference on Nuclear Power Performance and Safety.

51. India had made significant progress in the application of radioisotopes in agriculture, industry, medicine and fundamental research. As well as in fertilizers, genetic engineering and other related fields, radioisotopes were also being used in leak detection and hydrology. New and improved strains of staple crops were being subjected to field trials. India had been sharing its experience in those fields with other Member States, and particularly those of

its own region, under the Regional Co-operative Agreement (RCA), with which it had been associated from its very inception and to which it had made substantial contributions, both financial and through the provision of expertise. Over the preceding year, the training demonstration programme on the use of radiotracer technology in industry had been organized. His country had also offered to host RCA workshops in the current year on the operation and maintenance of research reactors and on the use of personal computers for laboratory automation and data acquisition. RCA had matured over the previous 16 years and the time was now ripe for expanding its activities to cover collaboration efforts in various aspects of nuclear power generation, as indicated by the Director General, who had referred in his statement to the desirability of regional co-operation in that area. For its part, India would, as in the past, make a contribution equivalent to US \$50 000 for the current year in respect of RCA activities. The real success of RCA depended on the sharing of knowledge and expertise, and he reiterated that Indian expertise would remain available to Member States. Indeed, India would endeavour to contribute in all areas of interest to RCA. It would also pay its assessed share of voluntary contributions to the Agency's Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund in 1987, even though it no longer sought to benefit from it.

52. Recalling that the Agency also had a role to play in relation to the threat posed by the possible military use of nuclear technology, he said that the implementation of safeguards at those facilities where India had voluntarily placed nuclear material under safeguards continued to proceed smoothly. India was deeply committed to nuclear disarmament, and was an active participant in the Six-Nation Initiative sponsored by the Parliamentarians for Global Action. It was firmly opposed to any kind of proliferation of nuclear weapons, whether horizontal, spatial or vertical, since it could occur only at the cost of vital development assistance to developing countries. There were links between disarmament and development, and it was in that spirit that his country had participated at the recent disarmament conference in New York. He hoped that the same spirit would gradually permeate the Agency's activities and that the effort that now went

into building nuclear weapons would be diverted into the production of nuclear power in those developing countries that were acutely short of conventional power sources.

53. Along with its firm commitment to peace, India categorically rejected the pursuit of discriminatory practices within non-proliferation. In that connection the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) was unequal and one-sided, allowing the nuclear-weapon States to continue increasing their nuclear arsenals while at the same time requiring the non-nuclear-weapon States to exercise restraint. If the world was to be made safe from nuclear destruction, nuclear weapons of all types and in all countries must be banned, and nuclear technology everywhere used only for peaceful purposes. In that regard, he noted with satisfaction the recent exchanges between the United States and the Soviet Union on nuclear-weapons negotiations.

54. In conclusion, it was entirely dependent on human ingenuity whether nuclear power would take the world from darkness to light or plunge it back into darkness and destruction. His Government was confident that the Agency would contribute to making the very best use of that unlimited source of power, and he reiterated its commitment to support the Agency in the tasks ahead.

55. Mr. SHIELDS (Canada), congratulating the Director General and his staff on the occasion of the Agency's thirtieth anniversary, said that since its foundation the Agency had been in the forefront of international efforts to promote nuclear co-operation. Its safeguards, by providing the confidence needed for nuclear commerce, had helped to strengthen the international non-proliferation regime. Over the past thirty years, the Agency had provided an increasing number of countries with the benefits of nuclear energy technology in such vital areas as pest and pollution control, food preservation, medical diagnosis, cancer treatment, and a number of industrial applications.

56. Canada strongly supported the Agency's activities, and was grateful for the support it had provided to the Canadian nuclear programme. Canada would continue to be an active Member of the Agency, and hoped that political issues extraneous to its mandate would not be allowed to divert it from its essential tasks.

57. He commended the Secretariat for the high quality of the annual report for 1986 (GC(XXXI)/800). The report showed that the Agency had been successful not only in handling a heavy work programme, but also in meeting exceptional challenges in the field of nuclear safety, and he was pleased to state that his Government fully approved it.

58. In the post-Chernobyl period, nuclear safety continued to be a major concern of governments and the public, and had occupied a significant proportion of the Agency's resources. In particular, the expanded nuclear safety programme had contributed to the sharing of knowledge and experience among experts, and was helping to facilitate consensus on a number of important matters, such as intervention dose levels. The Secretariat had also undertaken the important task of reviewing nuclear safety standards. Canadian experts had played an active role in that review, and in other activities of the Agency concerned with safety.

59. In June of that year, the Pickering nuclear power station, near Toronto, had been visited by an operational safety review team (OSART) made up of internationally recognized experts in nuclear safety. Canada was pleased by the favourable report prepared by the team, and intended to authorize the Secretariat to make that report available to other Member States. The team's visit had been of great practical benefit, and his delegation commended the Agency for initiating the OSART programme.

60. He had been pleased to note from the annual report for 1986 that the Secretariat had not detected any anomaly which would indicate diversion of safeguarded material. He wished to reaffirm the importance attached by Canada to international safeguards, which constituted an essential feature of its own nuclear non-proliferation policy.

61. Canadian programmes supporting the Agency's safeguards activities continued to bear fruit. In the past year the Agency had conducted field trials of advanced sealing and surveillance systems provided by the Canadian safeguards support programme, both in Canada and in other Member States. The results to date had been favourable, and it was expected that those systems would soon be accepted for routine use. Canada would make all possible efforts to meet the safeguards goals set by the Agency.

62. The Canadian Government firmly believed in the use of multilateral technical co-operation to help meet the needs of developing countries. In reviewing its technical co-operation policies and in introducing important changes in its programme, the Agency had done much to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the technical assistance activities of the United Nations system. Canada strongly supported the Secretariat's efforts in that regard, and commended particularly the high implementation rate of projects in 1986; the extensive use of evaluation of Agency programmes; the commitment to a gradual overall policy review; and the trend towards closer co-ordination with other United Nations agencies.

63. He urged the Director General to ensure that the Agency's role in technical co-operation reflected both its mandate and its particular expertise in the nuclear field by responding to requests for assistance from developing countries. His Government intended to continue to help make appropriate nuclear technology available to such countries, particularly in the non-power sphere, both bilaterally and through the Agency.

64. Canada remained committed to the development and use of nuclear energy. Its nuclear programme, the world's sixth largest, was not only of great importance domestically, but also played a substantial role in meeting the needs of developing countries. Canada was proud of its achievements to date and was eager to share its technology with other countries. It had designed a smaller, 300-MW version of its unique heavy-water reactor, the CANDU, in the belief that that version would be more easily accommodated, both technically and financially, by many countries.

65. Canada remained in the forefront of international research into the applications of nuclear energy in the non-power sector, notably in such areas as the environment, materials, basic physics and the effects of radiation. It was now developing and marketing the Maple research reactor, the essential feature of which was the involvement of the user in the conceptual design of each individual reactor system. As the world's leading exporter of radioisotopes, Canada planned to meet the expanding demand for industrial irradiation equipment and medical therapy equipment using cobalt-60, and to supply a major share of the rapidly expanding global market for food

preservation by irradiation. Canada actively participated in the Agency programmes in that field. Accelerators for industrial irradiation were also being developed, and a pilot scale machine for use in laboratories was now available.

66. Canada took pride in being a reliable supplier of uranium at reasonable cost to the world's growing nuclear power industry. Currently, it was the world's leading producer and exporter of uranium. Canada hoped that all countries would strive to maintain policies on uranium import and export which would encourage stability in world markets, to the benefit of all. Any major disruption could easily lead to another period of imbalance, which could in the long run adversely affect the price and the reliability of supplies of internationally traded uranium.

67. The international uranium industry had benefited significantly over the years from the Agency machinery for the exchange of technical information on uranium resources and geology and on uranium exploration and exploitation technology. The biennial assessment of world uranium supply (the "Red Book") prepared in co-operation with OECD's Nuclear Energy Agency, was an excellent example. Such activities were an essential part of the Agency's overall programme.

68. The present Conference offered an opportunity to take stock of the Agency's accomplishments in its first thirty years. He hoped that the next thirty years would be equally fruitful for the development of the beneficial uses of nuclear energy.

69. Mr. KHAN (Pakistan) congratulated the President on his election, and paid tribute to the Director General, his predecessors and the staff of the Agency, who had made the organization one of the most respected and well-managed bodies in the United Nations system over the last thirty years.

70. Although that period had brought such notable achievements as the international system of safeguards and the two safety conventions, it was regrettable that the will for co-operation in promoting nuclear energy which had characterized the first half of the Agency's existence had given way to a reluctance to share know-how and technology. It was unfortunate that the strengthening of non-proliferation measures had been used as an excuse by some

exporter countries for withholding the exchange of equipment and technology even when they were under Agency safeguards. Instead of being inspired by the aim of ridding the world of nuclear weapons, non-proliferation had been used as a political tool. Though the reluctance to share nuclear know-how had been reflected in revised guidelines for Agency technical assistance, it had proved counter-productive, having encouraged many countries to develop their own nuclear industries. Several Third World countries had acquired the supposedly sensitive technologies of enrichment and reprocessing; such hard-won acquisitions had created a reluctance to submit to international controls which might discriminate against them. The only way to strengthen nuclear non-proliferation was through co-operation and interdependence rather than through denial and isolation. Pakistan could thus not help feeling disappointment at the fact that dialogue between the industrialized and developing nations had not yielded results. The Committee on Assurances of Supply (CAS) and UNCPLCPUNE, the latter despite ten years of preparation, had ended without agreement. There must be a renewal of dialogue in a greater spirit of earnestness.

71. It was not logical that the developing nations, with two thirds of the world's population but only one quarter of its conventional energy resources, should fail to benefit from nuclear power. In fact, only 5% of the world's total generating capacity of 274 million kilowatts was produced in the developing countries. It was anticipated that by the year 2000 that share would only be 8% of a total anticipated capacity of 482 million kilowatts. Pakistan predicted that the Agency would lose much of its real significance for a large number of its Member States if it did not play a greater role in promoting nuclear power in the energy-deficient Third World, especially in view of the recommendations of the senior expert group studying the promotion and financing of nuclear power programmes in developing countries.

72. On the subject of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, his delegation welcomed the recent agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union on a limited reduction in nuclear missiles. None the less, further effort would inevitably be needed if the Superpowers were to have the moral authority to convince others not to acquire nuclear weapons. Pakistan's proposal for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in southern Asia

was a reflection of its commitment to non-proliferation. It was prepared along with the other countries in the region to make a joint declaration not to acquire, manufacture or store nuclear weapons; that could be followed by a simultaneous signing of NPT, acceptance of full safeguards, and reciprocal inspections or similar measures.

73. On the subject of the relationship between the Agency's programmes and its budget, Pakistan believed that a careful balance had to be maintained between promotional and regulatory activities if the Agency wished to maintain its credibility and comply with its Statute. Since demand for services within both those areas of Agency activity would undoubtedly expand, there was no justification for a zero-growth budget. Moreover, the Working Capital Fund should be increased to an amount equivalent approximately to one month's expenditure. If Member States demanded more from the Agency, they would have to lend it greater support. Pakistan therefore echoed the Board's appeal for all Member States to pay their dues on time.

74. With regard to nuclear safety, all countries had a duty to co-operate not only in responding to nuclear accidents, but also in efforts to prevent them. In that connection, supplier States had a technical and moral responsibility to share nuclear-safety-related information with recipient States. If a nuclear accident were to occur because of a lack of such information, the international community would not be forgiving.

75. In the light of the transboundary effects of the Chernobyl accident, Pakistan supported all measures to prevent uncontrolled releases of radioactivity, and in particular the adoption of a convention on the prohibition of attacks on nuclear facilities and measures against terrorist attacks on nuclear installations. The Agency should be prepared to accept the role appropriate to it in that regard.

76. During the negotiation of resolution GC(XXV)/RES/386, the Group of 77 had set the target for representation of the developing countries on the Agency's Professional staff at one third of the total, in view of the large number of such countries among Member States. The efforts of the Director General had now brought the proportion up to 23%, but further efforts were needed to ensure that the target was met.

77. Since technical assistance was an important part of the activities of the Agency, Pakistan called for stable funding of the programme in accordance with resolution GC(XXV)/RES/388. It praised the activities of the Trieste Centre as an outstanding example of co-operation between advanced and developing countries, and called for more regional co-operation along the lines of the RCA and ARCAL agreements.

78. Pakistan expressed its support for the recommendation of the Board that South Africa's rights and privileges of membership be suspended because of its violation of the Charter of the United Nations.

79. Pakistan continued to make progress in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, operating the Karachi nuclear power plant with domestically produced fuel and components. The Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission had been entrusted with setting up a National Institute of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering. Three agricultural centres had developed new crop varieties and a ninth medical centre was due to be inaugurated. The Government had just commissioned a gamma irradiation plant for sterilizing medical and agricultural products.

80. Finally, Pakistan felt the Agency's tasks over the forthcoming decade should lie in striking a good balance between its promotional and regulatory activities, furthering public confidence in the safety of nuclear power, and bringing the benefits of nuclear power to the Third World. Meanwhile, the Agency could be strengthened if it were given the necessary financial resources; rationalizing the size and composition of the Board to make it more representative, ensuring more equitable staffing for the Secretariat, making the safeguards system more economical and credible so as to provide an example for international verification in nuclear disarmament - those were all endeavours which would lead to renewed strength. Pakistan pledged its support in all of those areas.

81. Mr. TETENYI (Hungary) said that the thirtieth anniversary of the Agency's foundation was an excellent occasion on which to survey past achievements, to sum up results and to assess the degree to which the Agency had fulfilled the objectives expressed in its Statute. It was his country's view that the Agency had successfully carried out its primary functions, and that the majority of Member States had derived economic and scientific benefit from its activities.

82. In April 1986, following the Chernobyl accident, the Agency had taken prompt and decisive measures. In co-operation with the Member States it had now developed a plan of action aimed at preventing similar situations. In that connection, Hungary highly appreciated the dedicated responsibility which had resulted in the rapid elaboration of two multilateral conventions. Such speed - somewhat unusual in diplomatic practice - proved that Governments were aware of the responsibility they bore toward their people and toward all the peoples of the world when it came to minimizing the risks inherent in the use of nuclear energy and the effects of possible nuclear accidents.

83. One of Hungary's major tasks was to improve nuclear power safety levels. To that end, it had launched a medium-term national research and development programme to enhance the safety of its existing reactors. For that reason, it participated in the Agency's expanded nuclear safety programmes and supported the Soviet proposal on the establishment of an international regime for the safe development of nuclear energy. Hungary also adapted the NUSS recommendations to its own conditions. It had signed and ratified the Early Notification Convention and the Emergency Assistance Convention. It also took an active part in the Agency's Incident Reporting System. In order to review the operational safety of its Paks nuclear power plant, Hungary had requested the Director General to send an OSART mission toward the end of 1988.

84. His country had also signed and ratified the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials. It agreed with the proposal relating to the drafting of a relevant international agreement to prevent deliberate attacks on nuclear facilities, including terrorist attacks, and the misappropriation of highly enriched fissile materials. It was, moreover, both necessary and timely to draw up conventions on international and state liability for damage arising from a nuclear accident.

85. Technical assistance was one of the Agency's most important and fruitful activities. In that connection, he expressed his country's thanks to the Agency for its support toward establishing a cyclotron laboratory at Debrecen and for the support which was helping to accelerate the modernization of its research reactor. Hungary, for its part, would do its utmost to

contribute to the successful implementation of the Agency's technical assistance and co-operation programme. Every year it received 15-20 fellows from developing countries - primarily from Africa and Asia - for fellowship courses and scientific visits of varying length. During their stay, those fellows were given the opportunity to acquaint themselves with Hungary's achievements and experience in the peaceful applications of nuclear energy for medical, industrial and agricultural purposes. Missions by Hungarian experts, moreover, had contributed to and promoted the successful implementation of a great number of projects in several developing countries.

86. Despite current world economic difficulties, the amounts assigned to technical co-operation and assistance had been further increased. Hungary would be making its own voluntary contribution for 1988 in the sum of 4.4 million Hungarian forints. He noted with satisfaction that the Agency annually made full use of his country's voluntary contribution.

87. Hungary steadfastly supported the Agency's safeguards system, which was closely related to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). He had noted with satisfaction that more countries had now joined the NPT and that the Agency had commenced negotiations with the People's Republic of China on the conclusion of a safeguards agreement.

88. The previous decade had seen periods of rising international tension and obstacles to international co-operation. It was nevertheless promising that, even at such times, co-operation could be maintained on one of the most vital issues facing mankind, namely, preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Tension was bound to rise from time to time, but it was always essential to maintain conditions under which the Agency could continue to pursue its work on implementing the NPT. The community of States must seek to reach compromises through which advances might be made. Hungary, for its part, was ready to extend political support to any efforts intended to prevent conflicts from endangering international co-operation and its further expansion in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

89. It was reassuring to read in the Agency's Safeguards Implementation Report for 1986 that in carrying out the Agency's safeguards obligations, its inspectors had not detected any anomaly which would indicate the diversion of

any significant amount of safeguarded nuclear material - or the misuse of facilities or equipment subject to safeguards - for the manufacture of any nuclear weapon, or for any other military purpose, or for the manufacture of any other nuclear explosive device, or for purposes unknown. Hungary had fulfilled entirely its obligations under Agency safeguards. It had readily received the inspectors assigned to Hungary and also trainees carrying out field practice. A computerized safeguards accountancy system had been established and his country's reports were forwarded to the Agency on magnetic disk. Hungary took part in the Agency's instrument development programme, in support of the work of safeguards inspectors. As an example of that, and in co-operation with the Agency, it was further developing an underwater telescope for safeguards purposes.

90. In the view of the Hungarian Government the Agency, through its excellent, responsible and dedicated work, and through its work to further international co-operation aimed at attaining its objectives, had effectively contributed to the preservation of peace and to the strengthening of international relations aimed at promoting peaceful development throughout the world. It was Hungary's wish and expectation that the Agency should continue to follow that line in years to come.

91. Mr. PANDEV (Bulgaria) said that, thirty years after its foundation, the Agency had consolidated itself as the world's main centre for international co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy. The Agency's technical assistance and co-operation with Member States, particularly developing ones, was an important means of enabling them to make faster and more effective use of nuclear technology in their economic, medical and scientific activities. The unique combination of such promotional functions with the Agency's regulatory functions and activities aimed at preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons was of the greatest importance in preserving peace and strengthening international confidence.

92. Bulgaria highly valued its relations with the Agency and was particularly grateful for the Agency's technical assistance with regard to specialists' training and qualifications and the execution of projects of great importance for the country.

93. The Agency's thirtieth anniversary had been widely noted in Bulgaria: the press, radio and television had reported in detail on the various anniversary celebrations, and a special postage stamp had been issued on the occasion.

94. The past year had been a special one in the Agency's history. Questions of nuclear safety had acquired very wide attention throughout the world, and the Agency had proved its technical and political maturity in its response to the demands made upon it. The Early Notification Convention and the Emergency Assistance Convention, which had been drafted and signed in such record-breaking time, had been first steps towards creating a legal basis for an international regime of safe nuclear power development as proposed by the Soviet Union. Bulgaria had signed and was applying the two conventions, but it felt that there was a need to prepare further international instruments on State liability for nuclear damage and on measures to prevent nuclear terrorism.

95. The supplementary nuclear safety programme adopted by a special meeting of the Board of Governors was certainly one of the main tasks of the Agency for the years ahead. However, all joint efforts to strengthen international co-operation in the field of nuclear safety would be to no avail if the danger of nuclear war could not be averted. Non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, cessation of the arms race, and above all the nuclear arms race, destruction of medium-range and tactical nuclear missiles, and finally total abolition of all nuclear weapons towards the end of the century, as proposed by the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the USSR, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, those were unavoidable steps which mankind would have to take if it was to be led not into nuclear disaster, but towards co-operation, progress and economic development. In that connection, he had been pleased to learn of the recent agreement which had been reached between the United States and the Soviet Union with regard to medium-range missiles.

96. Bulgaria highly valued and supported the Agency's technical assistance activities and would be contributing its full share of the target for voluntary contributions in 1988, which amounted to US \$60 800, and it called upon all Agency Member States to adopt a similar policy. Without universal

support, the Agency's technical co-operation programme could not accomplish the tasks entrusted to it. His country also attached considerable importance to the Agency's safeguards activities and noted with satisfaction the successes which had been achieved; however, additional efforts must be made to increase the effectiveness of safeguards, to improve their technical efficiency, and to apply both existing and new technology in order to optimize the work schedule of inspectors and, ultimately, to increase safeguards goal attainment. Bulgaria was prepared to approve the Agency's budget for 1988 and the proposed scale of assessment of Members' contributions for that year and called upon all Member States to make their contributions to the budget in good time.

97. With regard to the staffing of the Secretariat, he considered that any solution to the problem must take into account the interests of all Member States. On the amendments to Article VI.A.2 of the Statute and to Article VI as a whole, his country's position was well known, but he wished to reaffirm it on the present occasion. His country was concerned about South Africa's nuclear capabilities and considered that decisive steps should be taken to implement General Conference resolution GC(XXX)/RES/468 and the corresponding resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly.

98. Bulgaria's peaceful nuclear programme had continued successfully in 1986, and the existing nuclear power plant had produced 30% of the total electricity consumed in the country. Construction had been completed and startup was about to begin on a fifth unit of the Kozloduj nuclear power plant, which would have the first 1000 MW(e) WWER-1000 reactor outside the Soviet Union. A sixth unit was under construction which would also have such a reactor, and at another site a further power station with WWER-1000 reactors was being built. In addition, two AST-500 district heating units were being planned which would cover all the heating needs of the city of Sofia.

99. Bulgaria was actively participating in the Agency's nuclear safety programmes and had taken a number of steps to enhance the safety of existing reactors and to improve operating personnel qualifications. Agency safeguards had been applied to all its nuclear facilities and the safeguards goals had been fully attained for his country.

100. Bulgaria was also engaged in applications of nuclear energy other than power and had been receiving assistance from the Agency in such projects as the construction of a gamma irradiation facility for the sterilization of medical products, the use of induced mutations in agriculture, and the construction of an accelerator for plastics processing.

101. Bulgaria also helped to support the Agency's technical assistance programme. In 1986 an irradiation facility had been supplied for Zambia, and a number of Bulgarian experts had made their services available to the Agency. Specialists from the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Poland and other countries had received training at Bulgarian scientific and industrial centres, and Bulgaria was prepared to expand that activity in the interests of all concerned parties.

The meeting rose at 1.5 p.m.