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International Atomic Energy Agency

GENERAL CONFERENCE

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Thirty-second regular session
GENERAL COMMITTEE

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CONFERENCE

TIMING OF CONFERENCE SESSIONS

1. Last year the delegate of the Syrian Arab Republic suggested in the General Committee that sessions of the Conference might begin on a Tuesday or a Wednesday and end on the following Monday or Tuesday so that delegations could have more time for consultations over the weekend. The Secretariat was requested to examine the financial implications of the suggestion, so that the General Committee might consider it in 1988 (see GC(XXXI)/GEN/OR.50, paras 17-23).
2. In a letter to the Director General dated 12 November 1987, the delegate of the Syrian Arab Republic amplified his suggestion, proposing that there be no parallel meetings (e.g. of the Conference itself and the Committee of the Whole) during Conference sessions.
3. The Secretariat has examined the financial implications of changing the timing of Conference sessions and of not holding parallel meetings, and its findings are presented below.

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Financial implications for the Agency

4. Under the present arrangement (opening of sessions on a Monday), an extra working day – whether at the weekend or during the following week – would cost the Agency about \$ 155 000 – mainly for interpretation, the production (précis-writing, translation and printing) of summary records, temporary assistance, overtime, the rental of equipment, and security services. This figure is simply the present average daily cost to the Agency of General Conference sessions.

5. If Conference sessions were to start on a Tuesday and end on a Monday (or start on Wednesday and end on Tuesday), with no weekend meetings, there would be no extra working days and the Agency would not incur the additional daily cost of about \$ 155 000 indicated in paragraph 4. There would, however, be an additional cost to the Agency of about \$ 55 000 for the weekend even though no meetings were held on the Saturday or Sunday – to cover payments made to freelance interpreters and précis-writers, to security staff and to stand-by clerks and service staff.

6. If there were no parallel meetings, Conference sessions would probably last three days longer, the cost of each additional day being about \$ 130 000. This is somewhat lower than the figure indicated in paragraph 4 because, with the spreading out of meetings, there could be a reduction in the number of freelance interpreters and précis-writers hired.

Financial implications for the Austrian Government

7. At present, the Austrian Government rents the Austria Center Vienna (ACV) for nine days – from the Saturday before the opening of the Conference session to the Sunday after the close of the session. An extra working day at a weekend (e.g. in the case of a session opening on Monday and closing on

Saturday) would not entail additional costs for the Austrian Government, but a session planned to extend into a second week (even if it started only on a Tuesday or Wednesday) would mean that the Austrian Government would have to rent the ACV for 14 days. The additional cost to the Austrian Government would be about \$ 170 000 (about \$ 34 000 for each of the five additional days).

Administrative implications

8. Although the Secretariat was not requested to examine the administrative implications of the suggestion, it has done so, and has come to the conclusion that the only major administrative implication would be the need to change -- if possible -- the reservations of premises already made for future sessions of the Conference.

