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**LETTER RECEIVED BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL
FROM THE RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PANAMA**

The text of a letter dated 26 August 1988 which the Director General has received from the Resident Representative of Panama is reproduced below for the information of delegates.

"I have the honour to address Your Excellency in order to refer to your letter N3.2.-PAN/A1.10.2 of 11 July 1988 and to assure you that my Government is very grateful to the International Atomic Energy Agency for the valuable technical assistance and co-operation which we have received from the Agency over many years and for giving us the possibility to introduce the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy not only in our University, but also in the field of medicine and agriculture.

"Unfortunately our little country has been subjected to the worst kind of economic aggression during the last eight months, in order to force us to break the rules established in our treaty with the United States of America, which we cannot do without jeopardizing the peace in our region.

"This aggression consists - inter alia - in the freezing of the deposits of the Republic of Panama in American banks and, as our currency is US\$ bank notes, we are in the embarrassing situation that our Government and many of our citizens cannot pay their debts.

"Accordingly, I respectfully request Your Excellency to inform the General Conference that the failure of Panama to pay her financial contributions is due to conditions beyond her control and that, therefore, the last sentence in Article XIX.A of the Statute should be invoked in order to permit us to vote during the thirty-second regular session of the Agency's General Conference."

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