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### RECORD OF THE THREE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FOURTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Austria Center Vienna  
on Monday, 17 September 1990, at 3.20 p.m.

President: Mr. VAJDA (Hungary)  
later: Mr. TREMEAU (France)  
Mr. HALIM (Malaysia)

### CONTENTS

<u>Item of the agenda*</u>		<u>Paragraphs</u>
6	General debate and annual report for 1989 (continued)	1 - 92
	Statements by the delegates of:	
	India	1 - 9
	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	10 - 18
	Canada	19 - 27
	China	28 - 41
	United Kingdom	42 - 50
	Poland	51 - 59
	Pakistan	60 - 72
	Romania	73 - 83
	Bulgaria	84 - 92

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[\*] GC(XXXIV)/914.

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The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document  
GC(XXXIV)/INF/287/Rev.2.

## GENERAL DEBATE AND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1989 (GC(XXXIV)/915) (continued)

1. Mr. IYENGAR (India) noted that the post-Chernobyl era was marked by negative attitudes which could undermine the Agency's efforts to spread the benefits of nuclear energy for development and progress. In the early years of its existence, the Agency's activities had been marked by a spirit of willing co-operation and it was important to recapture that atmosphere and not allow the legitimate concerns for safeguards to inhibit the equally necessary promotional activities, since there were many areas where developing and poor nations could benefit from nuclear technology.

The benefits of nuclear technology had not reached as far as one would have liked. The technology had been developed mainly in the advanced countries, but the resistance to it - due to issues connected with safety - had arisen in those same countries. However, the informed intelligentsia and technical experts were convinced that the risks associated with nuclear technology could be reduced to very low levels and that the potential benefits were vast; the base level of science and technology in many countries was now so high that the challenges of nuclear technology and its utilization could be met with confidence.

2. India's nuclear power programme was making good progress and the performance of its power reactors had been improving in recent months: the problem experienced by the Madras Power Reactors had been resolved and the reactors were currently operating at 75% power level; the Narora reactor, after overcoming its initial problems, was currently operating at 150 MW(e); the prototype fast breeder reactor was developing well; and the Kamini 30 kW <sup>233</sup>U alloy-fuelled reactor was ready and would soon be functional. India expected a significant increase in its nuclear power activities during the next few years: the Manuguru and Hazira heavy water projects would be commissioned in the next few months and work on new fuel production facilities would be started in the near future. Furthermore, the use of the Dhruva research reactor for research and radioisotope production had increased substantially.

3. Small research reactors were of great importance to developing countries. Once such reactors had been set up in developing countries, a basis would automatically be created, not only for basic research in nuclear sciences, but also for the production and utilization of isotopes in vital fields such as medicine and agriculture. However, it was important to remember that any country's nuclear activities should be commensurate with its economic and technological capability. In view of the fact that developing countries had a better understanding of each other's problems, the Agency should provide even greater encouragement to developing countries to help each other.

4. The future for nuclear energy lay in developing countries rather than developed countries, many of which had reached near saturation point as far as exploitation of nuclear power was concerned. The recent events in the Middle East had once again shown that developing countries were more vulnerable to disruptions in the supply of conventional energy resources. Technologies relating to small- and medium-sized reactors needed to be pursued within the framework of Agency research and technical assistance programmes. Although the Agency had begun studies for establishing the viability of small- and medium-sized reactors in developing countries, no practical results had yet emerged.

5. For its part, India had accumulated valuable experience in building and operating small research reactors and was willing to share its experience with other developing countries in such areas as manpower training, consultancy services and so on. India could also supply small research reactors for training purposes in developing countries and could help developing countries with various nuclear-related technologies, such as isotope production and utilization, setting up of small reactors and operations like reprocessing which were more manpower intensive and therefore cheaper in developing countries.

6. For many developing countries, the application of radioisotopes in agriculture, medicine and industry, would be of immediate benefit. The Agency's technical assistance programme had made a great contribution in bringing the benefits of radioisotopes to a large number of developing countries. That programme needed to be expanded more rapidly and it was, therefore, disheartening that actual pledges and payments made to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund were less than the targets set. For that reason it was important to finance technical assistance from more regular and assured resources. His delegation was pleased to note that the preparatory work relating to the establishment of the African Regional Co-operative Agreement (AFRA) had been completed. As far as the Regional Co-operative Agreement for Asia and the Pacific (RCA) was concerned, India was eager to expand co-operation activities within the framework of that agreement and noted that it would be very useful to set up a Regional Training Centre in that area. It could perhaps be set up in a country like India.

7. More basic research should be carried out on problems associated with environment and safety, including new solutions for waste management problems and further studies on inherently safe reactor systems. Ideas such as passive

residual heat removal systems, core characteristics to limit or prevent reactivity excursions, computerized systems for improving monitoring of safety system availability and containment systems with features to retain and remove fission products and trap aerosols needed further consideration. Newer ways of handling actinide waste required substantially higher inputs and encouragement by the Agency. India had made major contributions in new areas, such as high-temperature superconductivity and a large number of groups were working in India on basic and applied problems. India had also made significant contributions to cold fusion studies and its extensive work on demonstrating the production of tritium in fusion cells had thrown new light on that phenomenon.

8. In the context of the fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT Review Conference), it was to be hoped that the international community would find ways of putting an end to the massive stockpiling of nuclear weapons by the nuclear-weapon States. There had, of course, been a perceptible movement away from confrontational positions and a constructive dialogue had been started. In that connection, India had proposed an action plan for a nuclear-weapon-free peaceful world order and had called upon the international community to negotiate a binding commitment to general and complete disarmament under effective international control.

India, for its part, was ready to play a role in furthering the cause of nuclear energy in general. It had accumulated valuable experience in building and operating small research reactors and was willing to share that experience with other developing countries - for example, through manpower training and the provision of consultancy services; also, India was able to supply small research reactors which could become nuclei for manpower training in developing countries. India was poised to help developing countries with a number of nuclear-related technologies, with radioisotope production and utilization, with the building of small reactors and with operations like reprocessing, which were manpower-intensive and could therefore be carried out more inexpensively in developing countries.

9. In conclusion, he wished to state that India had pledged the full amount of its contributions to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund for 1991 and, as a founder member of the Agency, was well aware of the importance of supporting its activities so that it could achieve the objectives enshrined in its Statute.

10. Mr. KONOVALOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) congratulated the President of the General Conference on his election.

11. The world was seeing a real reduction in weapons and a transformation of military alliances. The drawing up and implementation of the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles had been an important step, and the forthcoming treaty on strategic

weapons would give rise to major reductions in the strategic arsenals of the USSR and the USA. As well as reducing and, in the end, eliminating accumulated stocks of nuclear weapons, ways had to be found to prevent stocks regenerating and the USSR had proposed a ban on the production of fissile material for use in weapons. The USSR had tabled a proposal in the UN concerning the non-use of nuclear materials which became available as a result of reductions in nuclear arsenals for military purposes and the development of a suitable control mechanism. Agreements of that type could form the basis of an all-embracing safeguards system aimed at preventing the regeneration of nuclear arsenals; the Agency would have an important role to play in monitoring such a system. One of the Soviet Union's priorities was the establishment of a complete nuclear test ban. The USSR had instituted a unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests for one and a half years starting in August 1985, and was ready to reinstitute such a moratorium on a bilateral basis with the USA. The nuclear testing programme in the Soviet Union had been significantly reduced and there had been no testing since October 1989. During the Soviet-American summit in Washington, the Protocols to the "threshold" test ban treaties of 1974 and 1976 had been signed. Those agreements could now be ratified clearing the way for further reductions in nuclear testing.

12. The general improvement in the international political climate had opened up possibilities for increased international scientific and technical co-operation on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Clearly such co-operation had to take place within the framework of strict observance of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) which, over the twenty years it had existed, had proved its effectiveness. The number of parties to that Treaty continued to grow; Albania had deposited with the Soviet Government the text of its decision, taken 31 July 1990, to adhere to the Treaty. The NPT could only be replaced by an all-embracing agreement aimed at preventing regeneration of nuclear arsenals subsequent to their total elimination.

13. The Soviet Union continued to value highly the Agency's monitoring activities and noted with pleasure that in 1989, as in all preceding years, no diversions of nuclear materials subjected to safeguards had been detected. Those results were testimony to the success of the safeguards system and the efficiency of the NPT. He welcomed the Agency's investigation of the scope for implementing safeguards in the Middle East, urged Israel to accept

international monitoring of its nuclear activities, and spoke in favour of the creation of a nuclear weapons free zone in the region. The Soviet Union actively co-operated with the Agency in its inspections of peaceful nuclear facilities in the Soviet Union under the terms of the safeguards agreement between the USSR and the Agency. As an act of good will and an extension of that co-operation, it would submit to the Secretariat that very day an extended list of Soviet nuclear facilities, including all of its nuclear power plants and an additional list of research reactors, so that the Agency could implement monitoring of those facilities. The Soviet Union contributed to the development of the safeguards system via its national safeguards support programme. Courses for Agency inspectors were held regularly in the Soviet Union as well as courses on the State systems for nuclear materials accountancy and control. Between 1986 and 1989, the Soviet Union had spent over 7 million roubles on safeguards support and it intended to contribute a minimum of 5 million roubles over 1991-92 in that area.

14. During 1989 the Agency had also made constructive contributions to the solution of global energy problems and ecological problems. It had confronted sensitive issues in the nuclear industry, such as nuclear and radiation safety, current and future nuclear power technology and the fuel cycle, and the problem of waste management; its work in those areas was to be commended. In a situation where the production of energy using organic fuel had to be limited owing to its ecological consequences, nuclear power was called upon to play a decisive role in satisfying growing world energy requirements. Over the comparatively short period in which it had existed, nuclear power had expanded dynamically to a point where it currently produced 17% of the world's electricity. As of 1 January 1990, the Soviet Union had 47 units operating in 15 nuclear power plants with a total installed power of 37 750 MW. Nuclear power plants produced 12.5% of the country's electricity in 1989 overall; in the Ukraine they produced 22.7%, in the north-western part of the Union 33%, and in the central part of the RSFSR 21.6%.

15. The analysis of the Chernobyl accident had resulted in a new approach to operational safety in nuclear power plants. A corpus of organizational and technical measures had been implemented in units to ensure their safety and to prevent serious accidents from occurring even in the event of gross errors on

the part of personnel. Plans were being drawn up to reconstruct first and second generation nuclear power plants built according to standards which no longer came up to current safety requirements, and training centres had been established for staff at all plants. Automated equipment diagnostics systems were being developed and installed and, as a result of the measures taken, currently operating nuclear power plants could continue to operate safely until the design lifetime of their main equipment had been exhausted. The new approach in nuclear power aimed less at quantitative growth than at a fundamental improvement in quality. If the future development of nuclear power was to be assured, plant design had to be improved. Two design bureau were currently producing independent designs for the WWER-500-600 reactor and the best of the two designs would be chosen for the new generation of nuclear power plants. In addition, the WWER-1000-1200 and BN series were being developed. The physical and technological characteristics of those reactors and their passive safety systems significantly reduced the probability of dangerous accidents. Nuclear power was going through the most complex and difficult period of its history to date. Its development was being scrutinized much more critically by the general public who were often ill-informed on the issue. It was therefore important that efforts to enlighten the general public and make it aware of the real facts of the situation continue.

16. The Soviet Union greatly appreciated the Agency's work in the field of nuclear safety. The Chernobyl accident had been a serious warning to all and the situation around Chernobyl remained complex. Much was being done to deal with current problems and the Soviet Union greatly appreciated the assistance it had received from other countries and international organizations. He thanked the Agency and its Member States for the assistance they had provided and hoped that the Agency would continue to be active in that area. The agreement between the USSR, the Ukrainian SSR, the Byelorussian SSR and the Agency on the setting up of the Chernobyl Nuclear Research Centre was soon to be signed. That Centre was a logical extension of the Soviet Union's policy that as much information as possible on the causes and consequences of the Chernobyl accident should be presented to the scientific community. The agreement would facilitate the organization of research and the dissemination of results.

17. The Soviet delegation lent its support to the Agency's programme and budget for 1991; it endorsed in particular the work being proposed in the fields of nuclear power and the fuel cycle, nuclear fusion, nuclear safety and radiation protection, the International Nuclear Information System (INIS) and nuclear data. He also noted with pleasure the growing proportion of the Agency's budget devoted to technical assistance and co-operation. The practice of determining the volume of the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund (TACF) using indicative planning figures ensured significant planned growth in the available resources in the Fund. In view of the importance of that activity for developing Member States, the Soviet Union approved the suggested level for the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund for 1991 of US \$45 million. The current method of constituting the Fund - on the basis of voluntary contributions in national currency - seemed to ensure activities in that area were adequately funded. The USSR's voluntary contribution to the Fund was constantly increasing and it regularly paid its contributions in full, supplying equipment, instruments and materials under major contracts with the Agency. Apart from its contribution to the TACF, the Soviet Union regularly contributed additional resources in national currency for additional assistance to States party to NPT. The Soviet Government planned to contribute 2 million roubles over 1991-94 for footnote-a/ projects in States party to that Treaty.

18. In conclusion, he joined other delegations in approving the report for 1989 and thanked the Director General and the Secretariat for their efficient and fruitful work during the year.

19. Mr. LEE (Canada), expressing his delegation's approval of the Agency's Annual Report for 1989, commended the Director General on his prudent management and his success in implementing a high level of programmes despite the constraints of zero real growth. At a time when many Governments, including his own, were facing substantial expenditure cuts and were having to reduce deficits significantly, it was difficult to anticipate any lifting of those constraints in the near future. At the same time, his Government recognized that the level of certain activities, notably the safeguarding of new nuclear facilities, was externally imposed upon the Agency and that it was essential to ensure that the effectiveness of Agency safeguards was not compromised by budgetary pressures.

20. Problems associated with zero real growth were compounded by the late payment by Member States of their contributions. As the Director General had pointed out he had been forced, several times in recent years, to slow down or even to freeze programme implementation in mid-year as a result of such late payments. His Government, therefore, urged all Member States to pay their contributions in full and in a timely manner. In the longer term, Canada would support measures to provide the Agency with an adequate Working Capital Fund and with other tools to enable it to discharge its mandate effectively.

21. Canada welcomed the fact that the recently concluded Fourth NPT Review Conference had urged all non-nuclear-weapon States which had not yet done so to make legally-binding commitments not to acquire nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. It had also urged them to accept Agency safeguards for all their peaceful nuclear activities and had urged the nuclear supplier States to require full-scope safeguards on new supply arrangements. Furthermore, his Government welcomed the Conference's recommendation that, in the event of questions arising about the commitment of any State Party to the non-proliferation objectives of NPT, the IAEA should not hesitate to take full advantage of its rights, including the use of special inspections. His Government would welcome an early study by the Agency of the possible scope, application and procedures of such inspections.

22. The planned introduction of new safeguard criteria would enhance confidence in the Agency's safeguards evaluation. At the same time, it was crucial that there be sufficient lead time between the announcement of the new criteria and their entry into use, so as to enable the Agency and Member States to assess the considerable cost implications and to enable Member States to make the necessary arrangements. The Canadian support programme for Agency safeguards, administered by the Atomic Energy Control Board, now had assured funding at an annual level of \$3.2 million Canadian dollars. One of the major activities of that support programme had been the development of a new closed-circuit television surveillance system.

23. In March 1990 the Canadian Government had announced the results of an extensive study of the need for nuclear power in Canada. The study had examined the value of retaining the CANDU technology and the organization of

the Canadian nuclear programme. The decision to retain a nuclear energy option for Canada was based on factors such as economics, security of long-term energy supplies and environmental and industrial benefits. CANDU reactors supplied about half the electricity needs of the industrial province of Ontario and about a third of the electricity in the province of New Brunswick. The province of Quebec, which had large reserves of hydroelectric power, also operated one CANDU reactor. The costs of generation had proved to be competitive with alternative energy sources, and the environmental benefits of the nuclear option were apparent in the context of global concerns about emissions of "greenhouse gases".

24. The Canadian Government's renewed support would allow Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) to maintain its nuclear research and development programme to provide backup technical support for existing CANDU reactors and to continue development of improved systems for the future. The Government also recognized the importance of the CANDU 3 reactor design, which was being developed by the AECL and which incorporated innovative features enabling it to be built quickly and to operate reliably for a long life because its components could easily be replaced. The Government had authorized AECL to enter into negotiations to build a CANDU 3 unit in New Brunswick and Canada's nuclear regulatory authority, the Atomic Energy Control Board, was engaged in pre-licensing procedures for the generic design of CANDU 3. In a separate decision, the Government had approved a major increase in the resources of the Atomic Energy Control Board to allow it to keep pace with the growth and technological sophistication of the nuclear industry and to enable it to establish better controls.

25. All those decisions made by the Canadian Government were evidence of strong support for the role of nuclear power in Canada's future, and his delegation was confident that nuclear power would be seen as an appropriate option for many countries as well. It was also to be expected that Canada would play a significant role as a supplier to other countries.

26. The Director General's report on nuclear safety and radiation protection was comprehensive and provided a useful basis for medium-term planning. The specific proposals which the Director General had made would have to be examined in the context of the biennial programme and budget

planning exercise. His delegation continued to believe that the Agency was capable of accomplishing much significant work without a substantial increase in its financial and human resources. Furthermore, his delegation remained convinced that the primary responsibility for nuclear safety must be a national one and it could not support the establishment of mandatory international safety regulations since, no matter how general, they would be of very little use in the context of the safety of specific reactor types. Safety standards were therefore best left as guidelines.

27. With regard to the Agency's technical co-operation activities, his delegation welcomed the attention paid to the special needs of developing countries, particularly those of Africa, and welcomed the Agency's decision to develop a medium-term technical co-operation plan. Such a plan should include a statement of development objectives, programme and financial strategies and priorities, supported by a comprehensive management plan. His Government also looked forward to the publication by the Agency of the first in a series of policy review papers on technical co-operation and, in particular, to its review of the situation of the least developed countries.

28. Mr. JIANG (China) observed that since the preceding session of the General Conference, important activities had taken place in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The first biennial technical co-operation programme which the Agency had started to implement in 1989 had been a laudable attempt at enhancing the rationality and predictability of projects. The Agency's work in such areas as reactor design and operational safety, provision of advisory services on radioactive waste disposal and the safe handling of radiation sources had played a positive role in the development of nuclear power. The Agency's activities relating to the effectiveness evaluation of safeguards had contributed to greater credibility of safeguards and thus had had a very important bearing on ensuring the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. He commended the Director General and his staff for their assiduous efforts.

29. Environmental protection and economic development were among the important global issues facing mankind at present. Rapid industrialization, especially the large-scale use of coal, oil and gas, had had an enormous impact on climate and ecology. Being superior both economically and

environmentally to other primary energy sources, nuclear energy was conducive to sustained world economic development. However, the development of nuclear power was currently facing difficulties and challenges from many sides. The public had yet to recover fully from the bad memories of the Chernobyl accident. Numerous developing countries continued to suffer from serious financial shortage and technical constraints. There had been no basic change in the industrialized countries' monopoly of nuclear power technology. In the consideration, formulation and implementation of the Agency's future plans and projects, the focus should be on the solution of these problems. The Agency had done a great deal to help developing countries formulate nuclear power programmes, reinforce the infrastructure needed for nuclear power development and increase their expertise. In China's view, the Agency should continue to accord priority to such activities in its medium-term plan. It should make greater efforts to assist those countries in the development of nuclear power, including joint efforts with international financial institutions to seek new financing mechanisms, with a view to creating a more propitious external economic environment for the purpose.

30. Nuclear safety was vital for smooth development of nuclear power. It was gratifying to note that with the concerted efforts of Member States and the Secretariat, the Agency's expanded nuclear safety programme had since 1987 played a positive role in gaining public acceptance and understanding of nuclear energy, promoting nuclear power plant design and operational safety and strengthening international co-operation in nuclear safety. He hoped that provision of plant design and operational safety services would continue to occupy an important part in the Agency's nuclear safety activities. In that connection, China supported the conference on nuclear safety to be held the following year and was confident that it would lead to a deeper understanding and greater awareness, on the part of the international community, of the importance of nuclear safety to nuclear power development. He hoped that priorities would be identified in the area of nuclear safety, that the requirements of the developing countries would be taken fully into account and that greater international co-operation in the area of nuclear safety and radiation protection would be fostered.

31. The safe and effective management of radioactive waste had a vital bearing on human health and the environment and constituted a basic guarantee

for the development of nuclear energy. Over the years, the Agency had done a great deal of useful work to help Member States in formulating their waste management plans. He hoped that the Agency would lay down a comprehensive and integrated development strategy, including a set of radioactive waste safety standards currently under consideration, guidance for the planning and construction of radioactive waste repositories, and plans for co-ordinating research and development programmes on radioactive waste disposal and management.

32. Advanced light-water reactors were a new generation of reactors with good passive and inherent safety features. China supported the Agency's basic objective of enhancing safety and lowering costs in developing a new generation of reactors and was willing to participate in the international co-operative efforts on the development and demonstration of such reactors.

33. The Chinese Government attached great importance to the Agency's technical assistance and co-operation activities and had consistently supported the projects on nuclear applications which were of benefit to the economic and social development of developing countries. It appreciated the Agency's unremitting efforts in that regard. He wished to mention in particular the Regional Co-operative Agreement for Asia and the Pacific (RCA), a successful international co-operation mechanism. He hoped that the Agency and the countries concerned in the Asia/Pacific region would continue to support that programme and further enhance multidimensional and multiform co-operation so as to make it a dynamic vehicle for fostering economic and technological development and promoting social stability and prosperity in that region.

34. The Agency's role in safeguards was well known. During the preceding 30 years, it had done a lot of useful work, in accordance with its Statute, in the area of preventing nuclear proliferation and maintaining world peace and stability. The current discussions within the Agency on safeguards financing reflected in one respect the desire of numerous developing Member States that the two major objectives, as set forth in the Statute, should be fully realized. The Chinese delegation considered that, while the developing countries should fulfil their financial obligations in order to support the Agency's safeguards activities, their specific circumstances and capacity to

pay should be taken fully into account in fixing their financial contributions. The assessments of some countries should continue to be shielded if they qualified for such shielding. No country or group of countries should unduly stress the prevention of nuclear proliferation and add to the economic burdens of developing countries.

35. The Chinese Government had always attached importance to the Agency's work and to developing co-operative relations with it. China had participated in the work of the Standing Committee on Liability for Nuclear Damage and in the meeting of the expert group as the convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, and continued to take part in the activities of the International Nuclear Safety Advisory Group (INSAG). China also supported the preparation of the Agency of a code of practice on international transboundary movement of radioactive waste. In the area of strengthening international nuclear safety co-operation, after the Agency's Pre-OSART safety review of the construction of the Qinshan nuclear power plant in April 1989, China had again invited the Agency to carry out follow-up actions in the current year. It had also invited the Agency to make a safety review of the Daya Bay nuclear power plant in Guangdong Province, which was jointly funded by China and Hongkong. In the preceding year, his country had hosted or financed six regional training courses and international symposia and continued to use its nuclear installations and research institutes to train personnel from developing countries, particularly those in the Asia/Pacific region. At the Agency's invitation, many Chinese experts had attended meetings of advisory or expert groups on various topics and, together with experts from other countries, had contributed to international nuclear co-operation.

36. Nuclear power was the main area of development of China's nuclear industry. On the basis of the policy of identifying priorities and developing nuclear power step by step, new progress had been made in nuclear power development in the preceding year. The first phase of the Qinshan power plant with the Chinese-designed and -built 300 MW prototype reactor was making steady progress and had reached the stage of hydraulic testing and commissioning. The construction of the China/Hongkong jointly funded Daya Bay nuclear power plant was going on according to schedule and the installation of the major equipment of the first reactor was well under way. The conceptual

design of the 2 x 600 MW nuclear power plant for the second phase of the Qinshan project had been completed. It would be the standardized commercial nuclear power plant to be put into series production. The total installed nuclear power capacity in China was expected to reach 6000 MW by the end of the century.

37. In parallel with the development of nuclear power, work on the corresponding civil nuclear fuel cycle industry was in full swing. Fuel assemblies had been produced successfully for the first load of the Qinshan nuclear power plant. The construction of a pilot-plant for reprocessing power reactor fuel had already begun. Experiments with the atomic laser technique for uranium isotope separation had yielded important results, and the engineering testing of isotope separation by the centrifugal method was proceeding smoothly.

38. Nuclear research was being carried out actively so that the nuclear industry could be placed on a solid foundation and have good potential for later growth. Following the construction of the high-flux engineering test reactor, the "Flash-1" high-current pulsed electron beam accelerator and the China Tokamak HL-1, the Chinese-designed and -built prototype low-temperature heating reactor and the uranium-hydrogen-zirconium pulsed research reactor had gone into operation. Under the high technology development plan an experimental fast breeder was expected to be built by the end of the century.

39. In developing its nuclear industry, China had always accorded the highest priority to quality and safety. It had strengthened the supervision of nuclear safety, radiation protection and nuclear waste disposal, attached importance to the establishment of nuclear safety regulations and standards consistent with international practice and reinforced the licensing and quality assurance system for nuclear safety. It had drawn upon the experience of advanced countries in the area of nuclear power safety. Apart from applying measures to strengthen defence in depth, it had endeavoured to solve the problems of man-machine interface and had made emergency plans and preparations in case of serious accidents. Nuclear emergency offices had been set up at the two nuclear power plants now under construction and in the provinces where they were located. The establishment of a national nuclear emergency centre was under consideration.

40. The Chinese Government attached great importance to the fourth NPT Review Conference, to which it had sent observers. In the twenty years since its entry into force, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty had played a positive role in preventing nuclear proliferation and maintaining world peace and stability. It reflected the just aspirations of numerous non-nuclear-weapon States, especially developing countries, for complete prohibition of nuclear weapons and a nuclear-weapon-free world. His Government supported the three major objectives of the Treaty, i.e., preventing nuclear proliferation, promoting nuclear disarmament and facilitating peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and considered those objectives to be interrelated and inseparable. While China was in favour of nuclear non-proliferation, it was an even stronger advocate of complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons. The authority of the non-proliferation regime could be truly strengthened only if significant progress were made in nuclear disarmament and complete elimination of nuclear weapons could be achieved only through maintaining an effective non-proliferation regime. As for international co-operation in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the co-operating parties must take appropriate measures to preclude the proliferation of nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices - that was a prerequisite for smooth co-operation. However, such non-proliferation measures should not hamper normal co-operation activities, nor the normal peaceful nuclear activities of States. During the preceding 30 years, the Agency had played a positive and effective role in facilitating and ensuring the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and in fostering international co-operation in that area. China was confident that the Agency would make fresh efforts and continue to support the fundamental objectives of the Treaty.

41. China adhered firmly to its fundamental State policy of reforms and opening up to the outside world and pursued the independent peaceful foreign policy. It had consistently held that multilateral co-operation was dictated by the imperatives of our times, namely safeguarding of peace and promotion of social progress and economic development, that it reflected the interdependence of the international community and served as a important means of promoting the joint development of different countries. In the area of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, China would, as in the past, maintain and develop friendly co-operative relations with the International Atomic Energy

Agency and would strengthen friendly exchanges and co-operation with all States on the basis of the principles of mutual respect for sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs and equality and mutual benefit, so as to make its due contribution to the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the world.

Mr. Tremeau (France) took the Chair.

42. Mr. WALKER (United Kingdom) pointed out that the effects of the Chernobyl accident continued to be felt and that nuclear industries in many countries were experiencing troubled times. Costs at nuclear power plants were uncomfortably high in some countries by comparison with conventional power plants and the level of public confidence remained generally low, particularly where health and environmental matters were concerned.

43. Since the last General Conference, the British Government had made important changes in nuclear power policy, affecting the structure of industry and its development. The privatization of the electricity industry in Britain had undoubtedly had major repercussions for nuclear power generation. However, the Government continued to believe that economic nuclear power was, and would continue to be, an option in meeting the country's energy needs.

44. In the best interests of both the taxpayer and the consumer, the British Government had decided to withdraw nuclear power stations from its planned sale of the electricity supply industry. It had become clear that the private sector was seeking unprecedented guarantees from the Government against the financial risks associated with the construction of new stations and that the older gas graphite stations would incur much higher charges for spent fuel management and decommissioning than had previously been envisaged. The industry's nuclear assets were held in two new public companies - Nuclear Electric and Scottish Electric. Pending a full policy review of the prospects for economic nuclear power in 1994, the year in which Britain's first pressurized water reactor (PWR), Sizewell B, was scheduled for completion, the Government had decided to withhold approval for investment by Nuclear Electric in further new reactor construction. The intervening period would allow the nuclear industry to reduce costs as far as possible and give time for the arguments on environmental issues and the appropriate levels of fuel diversity within the nation's energy policy to become more clearly established.

45. The Secretary of State for Energy had recently granted his consent and planning permission for a second PWR to be constructed at Hinkley Point following thorough consideration by an independent public inquiry into the safety, environmental and economic aspects of the proposal. The Secretary of State's consent did not include approval of the capital investment which would be considered after the 1994 review. The present consent and planning permission would therefore remain in force long enough for the 1994 review to be completed. If the outcome was favourable to further PWR construction, it would be possible for work at Hinkley Point to begin soon afterwards.

46. Nuclear power had a significant role to play in reducing carbon dioxide emissions in line with the British Government's commitment, announced in May 1990, to stabilize the country's carbon dioxide emissions at 1990 levels by the year 2005, provided other countries also played their part. Nuclear power generation was also an insurance against unforeseen developments in the fossil fuel market. The world had had a compelling reminder in recent weeks that security of energy supplies could never be taken for granted, and there was clearly a risk of world prices rising faster if the international development of nuclear power ceased to be an option. It could also be argued that the relative economics of nuclear power would improve if all fuels were assessed on a comparable basis taking account of long-term environmental costs.

47. For the general public, economic factors were overshadowed by other concerns, such as problems of nuclear safety and the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Safety would continue to be the first priority for the United Kingdom's nuclear industry. Like other Agency Member States, the United Kingdom welcomed the advisory role of the Assessment of Safety-Significant Events Teams (ASSETs), the Radiation Protection Advisory Teams (RAPATs) and the Operational Safety Review Teams (OSARTs). The report on the first OSART mission to visit his country had concluded that Oldbury power station was operating at a high level of safety. Safety practices in the United Kingdom were kept under continual review by the industry and regulatory authorities. The Department of Energy, in collaboration with the nuclear industry, had recently accepted recommendations for further improvements to detailed aspects of the emergency planning and preparedness regime.

48. The United Kingdom also participated fully in international efforts to improve safety standards and was keen to play its part in co-operating with

Eastern European countries on nuclear safety. Another encouraging area of nuclear safety co-operation, originally suggested by the United Kingdom, was the development of peer group discussions between senior nuclear regulators. The 1989-90 cycle of meetings on regulatory inspection and enforcement practices had now been completed, and it was to be hoped that such meetings on a range of topics would become a regular feature of IAEA activities.

49. His delegation welcomed the development of a medium-term plan for the Agency. The central aim of that plan should be to clarify the Agency's main priorities and to develop a firm strategy for responding to them, although it would not necessarily be easy to agree on priorities. While his country was committed to the policy of zero real growth, which it believed had served the Agency well, the draft plan itself should not be constrained from looking ahead intelligently at a range of approaches to ensure that the Agency's obligations and objectives were met.

50. Although the fourth NPT Review Conference had been unable to agree on a Final Document, it had certainly been a useful exercise. One of the most important obligations stemming from the Non-Proliferation Treaty was the acceptance of IAEA safeguards. In his speech at the NPT Review Conference, the British Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs had emphasized the importance of the IAEA safeguards system in the context of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and of international nuclear trade for peaceful purposes. Compliance with their Treaty obligations by parties to NPT would undoubtedly be under close scrutiny in the next few years prior to 1995, when the nature of the extension of NPT had to be decided.

51. Mr. ZELAZNY (Poland) said that the fact that the fourth NPT Review Conference had not been able to agree on a final declaration should not overshadow the positive aspects of the Conference. Problems raised and extensively discussed, such as the requirements of full-scope safeguards in the case of nuclear exports, rationalization of IAEA safeguards, especially in nuclear-weapons States, together with the requirement that civil and military fuel cycles should be separated, seemed to be well understood by all interested parties. There had been a strong conviction among the participants of the Conference that the Agency performed well in applying its safeguards and that it should be encouraged to use the full provisions contained in

document INFCIRC/153. Poland regarded the NPT as an instrument to facilitate the fullest possible exchange of equipment, material, services and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to eliminate the technological gaps between the developed and developing countries.

52. The Agency's medium-term programme should establish a firm basis for selection of priority tasks and for departing from rigid zero growth rules, if the necessity of further intensification of the Agency's activities was recognized by a significant majority of its Member States. Non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, as well as the promotion of safe nuclear energy, including its power and other applications, were key factors in ensuring the world's sustainable development. Regional and global efforts to lessen the existing technological imbalance and to reduce the dangers of global environmental degradation and climatic disaster were vital. In that connection, the International Conference on Nuclear Safety, to be convened in 1991, and the International Symposium on Electricity and the Environment to be held in Helsinki in 1991, would help to prepare valuable input for the UN Conference on Environment and Development in 1992. The link between non-proliferation and protection of the world's environment had been emphasized during the fourth NPT Review Conference. Many regarded nuclear power as a benign energy option which could help to reduce the problem of global warming and believed that safe nuclear power should be made available to all countries interested in its use, where the necessary infrastructure could be established. Others regarded nuclear power as a source of problems, including the proliferation of nuclear weapons and radioactive waste management. Supporters of that view advocated concentrating efforts on energy conservation and the development of renewable energy sources.

53. It was generally recognized that nuclear power plants required high investment costs which were difficult to accept in countries with serious economic problems. His delegation was particularly grateful to the Agency and the Commission of the European Communities for their assistance to Poland in its consideration of its energy future. Although the Polish Government had recently decided to halt further construction of the Zarnowiec nuclear power plant, that decision did not mean that Poland was abandoning the nuclear power

option in the future and the Government had in fact stated that in the first decade of the next century, nuclear power would definitely have to be introduced in Poland.

54. Two Agency programmes, namely the programme to upgrade older WWER reactors and the programme to study the consequences of the Chernobyl accident, would help clarify attitudes to nuclear power in Central and Eastern Europe. Poland, which had a common border with the Byelorussian and the Ukrainian Republics, was particularly interested in the results of investigations carried out under the aegis of the Agency by international experts on the territories of those Republics affected by the Chernobyl accident.

55. The Agency should do more to protect the public against nuclear disinformation. The organization of the first forum on public information during the present session of the General Conference was a good step in that direction. His delegation looked forward with great interest to the results of subprogramme X of the Agency's programme for the years 1991-92 which should provide objective data for planning energy programmes in an economically and environmentally sound way. In order to convince the sceptical public that safe nuclear energy was possible, the presentation of model facilities for the treatment and storage of wastes and for the storage of spent fuel, together with decommissioning procedures, was essential. It would be highly advisable if, for example, such a model and demonstration facility for the treatment and storage of wastes were built under the aegis of the IAEA and possibly another internationally recognized organization or organizations.

56. The Agency should promote not only nuclear power but also the conservation of energy, since both were vital for delaying the danger of the "greenhouse effect", and the so-called "low-energy path", recommended by the World Commission on Environment and Development, should be given greater prominence in the Agency's programme and documents. Conservation of energy through the promotion of energy-saving processes and less energy-consuming industrial products could also be achieved using non-power applications of atomic energy. In that context, his delegation was very interested in the establishment of a regional European co-operation programme on different irradiation technologies.

57. In the area of liability for nuclear damage, Poland welcomed the progress made since the thirty-third session of the General Conference. For its part, Poland had acceded, in December 1989, to the Vienna Convention on civil liability for nuclear damage and to the Joint Protocol between the Vienna and Paris Conventions. While supporting the Standing Committee on Liability for Nuclear Damage, Poland also felt that a Revision Conference on that Convention would be useful as a first step towards strengthening the international nuclear liability regime.

58. With regard to technical co-operation activities, his delegation appreciated the continuing efforts of the Agency's Department of Technical Assistance and Co-operation to improve efficiency in the preparation and delivery of technical assistance. Technical assistance to Poland had greatly facilitated its research and development work in different areas of atomic energy applications and had provided training for its experts. A large proportion of technical assistance to Poland was being focused on projects related to environmental protection and human health. Sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions in Poland exceeded 4.5 million tonnes and more than 0.5 million tonnes per year respectively and a reduction in those figures was one of Poland's main goals in environmental protection. It therefore had high expectations of the pilot station, built in Warsaw with Agency assistance, which used accelerator electron beam technology to purify flue gases. That pilot station could also be used to train specialists from other countries interested in that technology. Another area, where Poland was particularly interested in receiving technical assistance was in the treatment and disposal of low- and medium-level radioactive wastes.

59. Finally, Poland intended to make its full contributions to the Agency's Regular Budget and to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund for 1991. It would also continue to contribute to the Agency's extrabudgetary resources through the services of its experts and the organization of traineeships in Poland.

60. Mr. KHAN (Pakistan) said that during 1989 the world had witnessed historic and revolutionary changes affecting relations between the two superpowers, the situation in Eastern Europe, Africa and elsewhere. He welcomed these changes, and particularly the steps being taken towards nuclear

disarmament. Hopefully, the end of the cold war would bring about a closer North-South relationship on which the future welfare and prosperity of all mankind depended.

61. The current situation in the Gulf had created many problems including a new energy crisis. The days of cheap energy were over. Moreover, the use of fossil fuels to generate electricity was causing unacceptable environmental damage necessitating measures to restrict their use. Debt-ridden developing countries could not afford to incur new financial burdens by importing expensive oil for power generation. Energy security had thus become crucial for both the industrialized and the underdeveloped countries. The combined effect of higher oil prices and greater awareness of environmental issues was likely to bring about a revival of nuclear power in many countries and therefore the Agency should have a long-term plan for responding to the emergent energy needs of its Member States. He therefore welcomed the initiative of the Director General with respect to the drawing up of a medium-term plan.

62. If the superpowers were genuinely sincere about reducing defence expenditure, financial resources, materials, manufacturing capabilities, and manpower might be released for an accelerated development of nuclear power. Defence-related nuclear installations and production plants should be rededicated forthwith to peaceful purposes and placed under Agency safeguards. Surplus materials from nuclear-weapons programmes, including uranium, enriched uranium and plutonium, could be made available to fuel nuclear power reactors under safeguards. The time had come for the Agency to consider establishing a nuclear fuel bank as provided for under Article IX and XIII of the Statute to be used for peaceful nuclear activities in Member States. Advanced nuclear power plant designs which were safe, more reliable and more competitive would give a new impetus to the use of nuclear power and revive the nuclear industry. The Agency should accelerate its programme on the development of small- and medium-power reactors to help developing countries with smaller grids and high conventional fuel costs. The large-scale introduction and exploitation of nuclear power would not be possible without assurances of safety and public acceptance of nuclear energy. The credibility

of nuclear energy would not survive another Chernobyl. Alongside the broader safety programme, the Agency should expand its activities aimed at improving public understanding of nuclear energy.

63. With regard to the recent NPT Review Conference in Geneva, Pakistan was not a party to NPT but it did support strongly the establishment of a non-discriminatory regime of non-proliferation covering both vertical and horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons. Pakistan's nuclear programme was peaceful and dedicated solely to the economic, technical and social development of the country. Pakistan was prepared to subscribe to any non-proliferation regime in the region which was non-discriminatory, and had made several proposals including the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in South Asia which had been repeatedly and overwhelmingly supported by the United Nations General Assembly.

64. It was sometimes suggested that the Agency should supply peaceful nuclear technology, equipment and materials to Member States party to NPT on a preferential basis. Such discrimination would be contrary to Article III.B of the Statute of the Agency and, therefore, unlawful and unacceptable. Nuclear proliferation was essentially a political problem. Withholding nuclear technology from developing countries would simply encourage those countries to develop independent nuclear fuel cycles. The policy of denial was therefore self-defeating and counterproductive. Pakistan strongly supported the idea of solving the problem of proliferation through constructive political dialogue and was prepared to participate in such dialogue both at regional and international levels.

65. Pakistan supported the adoption of the Agency's programme and budget for 1991 and 1992 as contained in document GC(XXXIV)/917. However, the concept of zero growth restricted the Agency's budget and had outgrown its usefulness. If the Agency was to play a meaningful role in the future, it had to be relieved of such artificial constraints, particularly with regard to its promotional activities. He urged all Member States to pay their contributions on time in order to prevent the recurring financial crises in the Agency.

66. Almost a decade and a half had passed since the proposal to amend Article VI.A.2 of the Statute had been first put to the General Conference and the Board of Governors with a view to remedying the gross underrepresentation

of the Africa and Middle East and South Asia groups (MESA). At one time, the General Conference had endorsed the idea of a modest increase in the representation of those two regions. However, no concrete steps had been taken. The time had come to improve the representative character of the Board and to rectify the gross injustice being done to those two groups.

67. The Agency's safeguards system had proven its effectiveness and reliability over the years. The fact that no diversion had been detected in any facility placed under safeguards was most reassuring to the international community. While the Department of Safeguards was to be commended there was room for improvement in terms of streamlining, expenditure control and performance evaluation.

68. Technical assistance and safeguards constituted the two major pillars of the Agency. Pakistan had always advocated a proper and visible balance between promotional and regulatory activities. Regrettably, the disparity between the funding of safeguards and technical assistance was growing, as were uncertainties about the availability of funds since many countries did not fulfil their pledges of voluntary contributions. Technical assistance should therefore be funded through predictable and assured sources in the same manner as safeguards.

69. Over the preceding nine years the Director General had made several positive attempts to implement resolution GC(XXV)/RES/386 concerning the representation of developing countries on the Agency's staff at Professional level. Although progress had been made in redressing the serious imbalance in the representation of the Third World countries much more still needed to be done in that area.

70. Over the previous year Pakistan had made notable progress in its peaceful nuclear energy programme including the introduction of nuclear power in the country to meet its chronic power shortages. Agreement had been reached, in principle, with the People's Republic of China regarding the supply of one 300 MW plant and with France for a 900 MW plant. Negotiations were underway with both countries prior to signing of contracts. In addition, Pakistan was going ahead with a well-planned and comprehensive programme for indigenization of nuclear power plants. Local participation in the construction of the two plants mentioned above would be an important step in

that direction. Major efforts were being devoted to the development of the necessary infrastructure and manpower resources for the design, engineering and manufacture of key systems and components. Pakistan had been co-operating closely with the IAEA on enhancing the safety of the KANUPP plant at Karachi which had been in operation since 1972. Pursuant to the recommendations of an ASSET safety mission from the Agency a number of improvements had been made which had increased plant safety and reliability. The unit had recently achieved a new performance level. Pakistan had been manufacturing its own nuclear fuel for the past ten years and the thousands of fuel bundles used in the KANUPP plant had performed satisfactorily, fully meeting design burnup specifications without a single failure. Pakistan had already achieved basic capacity in the front end of the fuel cycle, involving mining, milling, refining, and manufacture of nuclear fuels and materials. All facilities had been designed and built locally. Pakistan had recently installed a second research reactor for training purposes and was upgrading its 5 MW research reactor to 10 MW and converting it to use "low" instead of "high" enriched fuel. Both projects had been undertaken in collaboration with China and under Agency safeguards.

71. Through the use of nuclear techniques in agriculture Pakistan had made important breakthroughs in the development of new varieties of cash crops, in particular, cotton. Pakistan would soon have its first nuclear medicine graduate. There was a growing demand for nuclear medical experts in the nine medical centres in the country which treated over 160 000 patients per year. The Government had approved the construction of two additional nuclear medicine centres. Pakistan had been hosting the International Nathiagali Summer College on Physics and Contemporary Needs for the past fifteen years with the co-operation of the ICTP at Trieste. The College had been attended by hundreds of scientists from developing countries thereby promoting not only North-South co-operation but also scientific exchanges within developing countries. Pakistan was participating in the activities of the Regional Co-operation Agreement (RCA) and hosting some of its meetings.

72. In conclusion, he expressed his appreciation for the valuable technical advice and assistance the Agency had provided and commended the Director General and his colleagues.

73. Mr. OLARIU (Romania) wished at the outset to thank the Director General for having visited Bucharest shortly after Romania's December revolution, noting that the visit had represented a landmark in the development of co-operation between Romania and the Agency.

74. The current session of the General Conference was particularly significant in the light of the deep changes - both positive and convulsive - now occurring on the international scene, of the progress achieved and the continuing efforts being made toward reducing nuclear-weapon stockpiles, and of the recent conclusion of the fourth NPT Review Conference.

75. For its part, Romania was meeting in good faith its obligations under NPT and its multi- and bilateral safeguards agreements, and was co-operating with all other Parties toward the achievement of the corresponding objectives. Soon after the December revolution his Government had taken a number of important measures, one of which had been to declare null and void any agreements concluded by the former dictatorial régime which might have run counter to Romania's international obligations in the field of non-proliferation, and indeed in any other field. Romania had joined the group of countries exporting nuclear materials, equipment and technologies by officially accepting the non-proliferation standards agreed upon by those countries, and had formally joined the Guidelines for Nuclear Transfers (INFCIRC/254). It had also decided to join the "Australian Group", which was concerned with halting the spread of chemical weapons. At national level, moreover, his country's moves toward privatization and a market economy would give it the increased flexibility necessary to co-operate more fully in the field of non-proliferation. Another positive step had been Romania's ratification four months previously of the Conventions on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency.

76. At a time when Romania was taking a number of major decisions concerning its future economic and social development, great emphasis was being laid on the use of nuclear power, particularly in view of the increased international co-operation Romania now enjoyed with a number of countries, especially Canada. Progress in that field would also be greatly enhanced through active co-operation with the Agency, and his country attached great

importance to the Agency's programmes on nuclear safety, quality assurance and training of operating staff. His authorities also highly valued the Agency's technical assistance in connection with the licensing process.

77. He noted with satisfaction that in 1990 there had been increased opportunities for Romanian organizations and scientists involved in the peaceful applications of nuclear energy to participate in a number of the Agency's technical programmes, national or regional projects, expert groups, dedicated expert missions and training courses - a trend which should certainly continue in the future.

78. Convinced that the Agency's safeguards, as well as other international agreements in the field of nuclear transfers, should operate for all Member States, he noted that the winds of change which were now sweeping across Europe - a continent in which division, tension and confrontation had previously given rise to the cold war and the nuclear threat - were creating a situation in which mankind's dream of a nuclear-free world had come that much closer to being a reality. The recent events in the Gulf, however, showed that a stable world peace still remained to be achieved. The present risk that new actors might emerge in the "nuclear game" was making the balance of power at both regional and international levels even more complex, particularly in the case of those regions whose non-proliferation regime was more vulnerable. He therefore strongly supported the Agency's safeguards programme for 1991 as a significant means of preventing access to nuclear materials, equipment and technology for purposes other than peaceful. In that connection, measures should also be taken to assure the physical security of nuclear power plants against military attack - a matter which had been considered by the recent NPT Review Conference and which was now on the agenda of the General Conference.

79. Another area of vital concern was that of nuclear safety and radiological protection, in which connection he noted with satisfaction the Agency's readiness to become more active in the review of safety levels of older types of reactors. Romania's interest became evident if one took into account that four reactors of the older WWER type - the so-called V-230 design - were now in operation at Kozloduy, Bulgaria, which was very close to the Romanian border, and that three major earthquakes - in 1977, 1986 and 1990 -

had shaken the structures and systems of those reactors. He therefore expressed his country's willingness to participate in that work, and appealed to all other Member States to do likewise, in the interests of reducing the risks associated with older reactors and thereby making an important contribution toward restoring public confidence in nuclear power.

80. Expressing full support for the various types of technical assistance provided by the Agency, he was happy to announce that Romania was now prepared to make a voluntary in-kind contribution to those activities by offering ten fellowships of up to 60 man-months in various scientific and educational fields, to be used in 1991. He further noted that, in line with Romania's efforts to strengthen its relationship with the Agency, the Romanian contributions to the Agency's budget for the years 1982-88 had now been paid, thus indicating Romania's desire to regain its place in the community of Agency Member States. Furthermore, having reviewed the Agency's Regular Budget proposals for 1991, his delegation was now ready to join others in approving it, assuming that, as in the past, the Secretariat would take all appropriate measures to ensure that the most efficient use possible was made of the available resources.

81. Romania supported the Agency's efforts toward achieving a framework of multilateral legal instruments specific to nuclear activities, for example in the areas of liability for nuclear damage or of international transboundary movements of radioactive wastes. However, there were many other areas still requiring attention, in which connection he pointed to the need for an instrument to prevent and/or to minimize the risks of radioactive dispersion across State boundaries unless the two countries concerned agreed to share both the benefits and the risks of nuclear power. Like other countries shaken by the Chernobyl accident, Romania appreciated the Conventions on Early Notification and on Assistance. However, a legal instrument to prevent the danger of transboundary effects from an accident appeared the most effective way to minimize that danger and was, therefore, highly desirable.

82. The international community now had a well-defined legal framework to deal with non-proliferation, and it was now important that all States develop a comparable framework to deal with safety matters. The community of nations should finally accept - particularly in view of the great political changes

which were now occurring - that the non-proliferation regime and international attention to nuclear safety could prove their full validity only if based on the recognition of mutual vital interests and co-operation, to which end the Agency could serve as a major catalyst.

83. In conclusion, he reiterated his country's full support for the work of the Agency, the importance of which was to a large extent reflected in the remarks made by the Director General during the Board's session the previous June to the effect that the long-term energy mix must contain not only a continued but also an expanded use of nuclear power globally in order to meet energy needs and environmental concerns about global climate change. Finally, his delegation had no difficulty in supporting the conclusions of the 1989 Annual Report.

Mr. Vajda (Hungary) resumed the Chair.

84. Mr. GEORGIEV (Bulgaria) congratulated the Agency on its successful year in 1989, commending in particular the active and fruitful work of the Department of Nuclear Energy and Safety and its growing co-operation with the countries of Eastern Europe, most especially, Bulgaria.

85. The Agency's work on radioactive waste management was crucial to the successful development of nuclear power. The setting up of the International Radioactive Waste Management Advisory Committee (INWAC) was a welcome move, as was the plan for the new Radioactive Waste Safety Standards (RADWASS) programme. He approved the draft Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste.

86. The problems of attacks on peaceful nuclear installations, anti-terrorist measures, and physical protection of nuclear material were also related to the safe use of nuclear energy. Bulgaria was prepared to help with the search for solutions to those problems inside the framework of the Agency.

87. The question of non-proliferation had always been a high priority for Bulgaria which was a party to NPT and supported fully the Agency's safeguards system. Safeguards goals were being fully met in Bulgarian nuclear facilities. The recent NPT Review Conference had once again confirmed the unique role played by the Agency safeguards system and the need to reinforce and universalize that system.

88. Bulgaria also actively supported the Agency's technical assistance and co-operation programme, which was developing apace, and was prepared to extend its activities in that area. He thanked the Agency for the technical assistance it had provided in Bulgaria. In recent times there had been serious problems with international shipments of sealed radioactive sources and facilities containing such sources. The Agency might look into the possibility of setting up special arrangements in collaboration with its Member States to facilitate such shipments since delays held up project implementation. Despite serious financial difficulties the Government of Bulgaria had decided once again to pay in full its contributions to the TACF for 1991. He reiterated the position of his delegation with regard to the 8% assessed programme costs in respect of technical assistance received which he viewed as being an outdated arrangement; he requested that the Board look into that question further.

89. He approved the draft programme and budget for 1991. Bulgaria would strive to fulfil its obligations despite its economic difficulties; he also approved the Agency's accounts and thanked the auditor for his work. He reiterated the position of his delegation with regard to the staffing of the Agency's Secretariat and the proposed amendments to Article VI.A.2 and Article VI of the Statute as a whole.

90. The current oil crisis and the resultant rise in prices gave room for a somewhat more optimistic view of the future of nuclear energy. Several countries, including Bulgaria, would find it difficult to find alternative ways of satisfying their energy requirements except from nuclear power. The Agency's efforts to improve nuclear and radiation safety in that area were laudable. The development of nuclear power in Bulgaria was taking place in the face of major social and economic changes. Pressure of public opinion had somewhat retarded development, and the construction of the Belene nuclear power plant had been temporarily halted. With the help of the Agency an intensive check was being carried out as to the suitability of the site, danger from earthquakes, and the technical level of equipment. The Agency had already sent two missions and a third and final one was planned after which the Government and Parliament of the country would take a final decision as to whether construction of the new plant should be continued. Construction of

Unit 6 at the Kozloduj nuclear power plant was nearing completion. Four V-230-type WWER-440 reactors were already operating at that plant and Bulgaria was concerned to improve the safety of those reactors. Owing to the difficult economic situation in the country which had been further exacerbated by the crisis in the Persian Gulf, Bulgaria required swift and effective assistance both from the Agency and the whole nuclear community to solve that problem. There were also plans to send an ASSET mission to the Kozloduj plant. The special project on improving the safety of older nuclear power plant units was also a most welcome move.

91. With the help of technical assistance from the Agency Bulgaria had, during the previous year, commissioned a facility for irradiating medical products. At a meeting in Bulgaria a draft regional agreement among the countries of Eastern Europe on the irradiation of food products and trade in such products had been agreed upon. A regional agreement among the countries of Eastern Europe on early notification and assistance in the event of a nuclear accident had been signed in Sofia. A charged ion accelerator had been constructed with the assistance of the Agency and would shortly be commissioned.

92. In conclusion, he assured the Agency of the full support of his Government in its activities.

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.