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OFFICIAL RECORD OF THE NINETY-FOURTH MEETING

Held at the Tokyo Prince Hotel, Tokyo,
on Wednesday, 22 September 1965, at 3.15 p.m.

President: Mr. ASAKAI (Japan)

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* GC(IX)/313.

The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document GC(IX)/INF/82/Rev.2.

CLOSING DATE OF THE SESSION

1. The PRESIDENT recalled that under Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure the General Conference had to fix a closing date for the session, on the recommendation of the General Committee.

2. The General Committee had considered the question the day before and had authorized him to recommend on its behalf that Tuesday, 28 September be provisionally fixed as the closing date. If for some reason it was impossible to conclude the session by that day, it would of course continue until all business had been duly disposed of.

3. The General Committee's recommendation was accepted.

GENERAL DEBATE AND REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR 1964-65 (GC(IX)/299, 307) (continued[1])

4. Mr. HOGEN (Japan) considered it very significant that the Agency, whose aim was to promote the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes, was holding the ninth regular session of the General Conference in Japan, which, 20 years earlier, had experienced the tremendous and destructive force of nuclear energy. He pointed out that 1965 was the first year of the Agency's long-term programme[2] and the tenth since the first United Nations International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy had been held. It was also ten years since the basic law restricting the utilization of nuclear energy to peaceful purposes had been promulgated in Japan.

5. The first Japanese commercial power reactor (166 megawatts) was expected to come into operation towards the end of the year. The power demonstration reactor which had started operating in 1963 was supplying the electricity needs of the Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute at Tokai-mura. Preparations were under way for constructing a second commercial power reactor (300 megawatts) near Kyoto. By 1970 the production of nuclear electric power was expected to total one million kilowatts. In 1965 construction of a materials testing reactor had begun and the second national reactor had reached criticality at the beginning of 1965. Interim experiments on radiation chemistry had started and the construction of a chemical reprocessing plant was planned, to come into operation by 1970.

1/ GC(IX)/OR.93, paras. 3-106.

2/ INFCIRC/50.

6. The tripartite agreement between the Agency and the Japanese and United Kingdom Governments for the transfer of the administration of safeguards under the bilateral agreement between the latter two had been approved by the Board of Governors in June 1965 and would be the first under which Agency safeguards would be applied to a power reactor of over 100 megawatts, namely the first commercial power reactor he had already mentioned. Recently a similar agreement between the Agency, Japan and Canada had been approved by the Board.

7. Japan intended to give a mass spectrometer to the Agency's nuclear research laboratory.

8. The fact that the Agency's membership had now grown to 93 countries testified to the importance that developing countries attached to its work. His Government particularly valued its achievements in drawing up health and safety standards and hoped that such work would continue.

9. As the peaceful uses of nuclear energy expanded, its by-products, as a source of potential destructive power, posed serious problems and the authors of the Agency's Statute had wisely given it the important function of preventing diversion of nuclear energy to military uses. The Revised Safeguards System[3/] was an important step in that direction. His Government had agreed to accept the system for the first commercial power reactor and had been the first to transfer to the Agency the administration of safeguards under a bilateral agreement, namely the agreement between Japan and the United States. All Japan's bilateral agreements had now been transferred to the Agency for administration, which was proof of his Government's confidence in the Agency. It hoped that, given the same spirit of co-operation on the part of all Member States, the implementation of the safeguards system would bring within the realm of the possible the establishment of safeguarded world-wide disarmament referred to in Article III.B.1 of the Statute. The safeguards provisions, by their nature, could never achieve their objectives if they were applied only to a particular country or group of countries, and he accordingly appealed to all Member States to co-operate with a view to ensuring their universal application. He welcomed the United Kingdom's decision to place the Bradwell power reactor under Agency safeguards, which would do much to silence the criticism that Agency safeguards were only enforced upon developing countries so as to perpetuate the existing advantage of the more advanced.

3/ GC(IX)/294, Annex.

10. He regretted the nuclear weapons test conducted in October 1964 by a neighbouring country in defiance, so to speak, of public opinion in numerous countries including his own. There was, consequently, an urgent need to solve the problem of how to prevent the production and proliferation of nuclear weapons and he was pleased that the functions of the Agency in regard to such matters were to be reviewed. While those questions were primarily within the field of competence of the General Assembly of the United Nations and the Disarmament Commission, the Agency might contemplate establishing a system for reporting and registering the international transfer of all nuclear materials so as to obtain an accurate picture of their movement. The United States Government had already decided to report to the Agency every six months on the transfer of nuclear materials under bilateral agreements and he hoped that other Member States would do the same and agree to discuss the practical problems involved in the near future.

11. The efficacy of the Agency's safeguards system would be greatly increased if it were applied to the chemical reprocessing facilities which separated the fissionable material from fission products produced in the reactor. Now that nuclear energy had become firmly established as a source of commercial power it was essential to simplify safeguards regulations so as not to undermine the commercial competitiveness of power reactors. That could be done if chemical reprocessing facilities were subject to safeguards, and he considered that safeguards procedures in respect of such facilities should be devised in the near future, taking into account the relevant procedures regarding power reactors.

12. Article III of the Statute authorized the Agency to supply nuclear materials for peaceful purposes. At the second regular session of the General Conference Japan had stated its intention of buying through the Agency 3 tons of natural uranium for use in the first national reactor. It had expected that the Agency would be able to function as a wholesaler of nuclear materials, as originally intended when it had been established, but that expectation had not been realized to any great extent. He looked to its being able to do so in the future and to provide the materials at lower prices than those demanded under bilateral agreements. He also hoped that the Agency would be able to fulfil its statutory tasks in regard to supplying services, equipment and facilities under its long-term programme.

13. His delegation was glad that the policy of strengthening regional activities should have been promoted by holding, for the first time, the General Conference away from Headquarters, namely in Asia. It was satisfactory to note that after the Conference of Countries in Asia and the Pacific for the Promotion of Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, held in Tokyo in March 1963, a regional officer for Asia had been appointed and that the Agency had since continued to operate with due regard for the region's special needs. In February Japan had given Thailand, the Philippines, Pakistan and China, through the Agency, 1600 capsules for radiation tests in research reactors. Many symposia, seminars and training courses had been held in his country under the Agency's auspices. The fourth meeting of the International Nuclear Data Scientific Working Group had been held, with successful results, in September 1965, and the Inter-regional Advanced Training Seminar on Radioactive Waste Management would start on 4 October. He hoped that the Agency would continue to promote activities that would meet Asian needs, a task in which Japan would co-operate as fully as possible.

14. In conclusion, he congratulated the Director General on his re-appointment to the high office he had so ably filled during the past four years.

15. Mr. PETROSYANTS (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) congratulated the President on his election and, on behalf of the Soviet delegation, thanked the Japanese Government for making it possible to hold the General Conference in Tokyo.

16. Referring to the Agency's important task of ensuring that every inhabitant of the earth, regardless of where he worked, should be able to enjoy the benefits resulting from the peaceful uses of atomic energy, he said that international conditions had a considerable effect on the accomplishment of the Agency's objectives.

17. The experience of the post-war years had shown clearly that scientific contacts and the joint participation of scientists in symposia and conferences, such as the International Conferences on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy at Geneva, the recent International Chemistry Congress at Moscow and other meetings of scientists, were extremely fruitful and useful when they were held in periods when international tension was relaxed.

On the other hand, any deterioration in the international atmosphere and any actions dictated by military policy had a deleterious effect on such co-operation.

18. It had to be recognized that the world was at present confronted with a deliberate exacerbation of international tension, resulting from the aggression against Viet-Nam and the attempts of the imperialists and colonialists to turn back by force of arms the inevitable historical process of the liberation of peoples from the colonial yoke. Aggressive forces were preparing to make military use of atomic energy, which the Agency was supposed to direct into peaceful channels.

19. The growing arms race - which extended to nuclear weapons as well - was diverting vast amounts of human resources, effort and intellectual energy from peaceful and constructive work and was making the world situation more unstable. In the strategic thinking of the aggressive States nuclear weapons now occupied a leading role in wars and conflicts, from so-called local wars up to world-wide thermonuclear warfare.

20. Twenty years before, the nuclear weapon had been used against the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The vision of that crime had not yet disappeared from the memory of mankind, the scars of its wounded victims had not yet healed, pain was still felt in the hearts of those who had lost their relatives and dear ones and yet there was again frank discussion of the question of dealing a nuclear blow to the cities of another Asian country, Viet-Nam.

21. Soviet scientists were disturbed by the deterioration in the international situation, not only because it disrupted the work of scientists the world over on the peaceful use of the atom but also because a war at the present time could develop into a nuclear and thermonuclear war. A number of areas were now the scene of wars and conflicts. Now as perhaps never before, therefore, it was necessary to show a sense of responsibility and goodwill with a view to solving the present disputes by peaceful means.

22. The peoples of the world would fail to understand if the General Conference ignored the problems connected with the continuing nuclear weapons race and the threatened use of nuclear weapons again.

23. Referring to Article III.B.1 of the Statute, he recalled that six years earlier the United Nations had expressed itself in favour of general and complete disarmament and, therefore, in favour of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. At its sixteenth session the United Nations had adopted a Declaration on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear and Thermonuclear Weapons, in which it had proclaimed that "Any State using nuclear and thermonuclear weapons is to be considered as violating the Charter of the United Nations, as acting contrary to the laws of humanity and as committing a crime against mankind and civilization".4/ That declaration had been adopted on the initiative of a number of Asian and African countries.

24. In the opinion of the Soviet delegation, it would be most appropriate and timely for the ninth General Conference of the Agency to come out in favour of the earliest possible conclusion of an agreement on prohibiting the use of nuclear weapons and to call on all States to contribute to the success of negotiations on general and complete disarmament. Such a step on the part of the General Conference was all the more natural in that the Agency had a special interest in the rapid solution of the disarmament problem, since such development would open up tremendous opportunities for advances by all States in the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

25. In their monument to the victims of the first atom bomb attack, at Hiroshima, the Japanese people had inscribed the moving words: "Rest in peace, it shall not happen again". But to ensure that the tragedy of Hiroshima should not be repeated elsewhere in the world, steps had to be taken to outlaw the use of nuclear weapons and to destroy existing stocks of such weapons.

26. The Soviet Union and a number of other countries were introducing a draft resolution on prohibiting the use of atomic weapons. The text of that resolution was as follows:

"The General Conference

(a) Seeking, in accordance with Article II of the Statute, to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world,

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4/ General Assembly Resolution 1653 (XVI).

(b) Believing that the tragedy of the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, subjected to atomic bombing twenty years ago, should never happen again,

(c) Being deeply aware of the danger of the continued nuclear armaments race, which gravely affects progress in the peaceful uses of atomic energy for the good of mankind,

(d) Having in mind that the Agency is a member of the United Nations family, and recalling the provisions of the declaration on the prohibition of the use of nuclear and thermonuclear weapons contained in General Assembly resolution 1653 (XVI), particularly its provisions to the effect that the use of nuclear weapons is a direct violation of the Charter of the United Nations, is contrary to the rules of international law and to the laws of humanity, is directed against mankind in general and must be considered as a crime against mankind and civilization,

(e) Whereas Article III.B.1 of the Statute lays down that the Agency must conduct its activities in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations to promote peace and international co-operation, and in conformity with policies of the United Nations furthering the establishment of safeguarded world-wide disarmament and in conformity with any international agreements entered into pursuant to such policies, and

(f) Believing that this Conference, at which an overwhelming majority of the nations of the world is represented, could greatly contribute to the cause of universal peace;

Appeals to all Member States:

(a) To refrain unconditionally from the use of nuclear weapons in their international relations;

(b) To take steps to accelerate the conclusion of an international agreement on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons; and

(c) To render assistance in every possible way to the success of the negotiations for general and complete disarmament, and for the prohibition and destruction of nuclear weapons."

27. The Soviet delegation was convinced that the adoption of such a resolution would represent a definite contribution of the General Conference to the cause of outlawing nuclear weapons.

28. As well as taking active part in the work of the Agency, the Soviet Union had concluded co-operation agreements under which it was sharing many of the results of its work on the peaceful uses of atomic energy with several other countries. New agreements had been concluded with Canada, Belgium and the Netherlands, and negotiations had been completed on the conclusion of a co-operation agreement with Italy. Under agreements with the United Kingdom, France and other countries, scientists were being exchanged and were working together with Soviet scientists for extended periods (3 to 12 months) on the solution of various problems in nuclear physics and high-energy physics. Such agreements also served as the basis for an extensive exchange of scientific and technical information.

29. Of late, Soviet co-operation with other countries had assumed new forms: Soviet scientists were participating in scientific research work performed in other countries while foreign scientists were assigned to work being done in the Soviet Union. For example, British scientists were working at the Kharkov Institute of Physics and Technology and at the Moscow Institute of Theoretical and Experimental Physics, French scientists were at Sukhumi, Tbilisi and Kiev, while American scientists were at the Institute of Physics in Erevan, and so on. Young Soviet scientists were working for periods of several months in the United States (at Cambridge and at the Brookhaven National Laboratory), in France (at Orsay) and in England (at Culham). Soviet scientists were carrying on successful work with their colleagues from the socialist countries at the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research in Dubna. Soviet scientists were also working for extended periods at CERN in collaboration with scientists from other countries in organizing very interesting experiments on high-energy physics. All those activities bore witness to the possibilities and advantages of developing scientific ties and contacts between people working in science.

30. In the matter of technical assistance, the Soviet Union had, during the past year, supplied such assistance to fifteen countries of Eastern Europe, Asia and Africa, where various atomic installations had been built, including nine reactors, six accelerators, seven radiochemistry and physics laboratories, etc. Construction work was being continued in Ghana and Iraq, where atomic reactors and radiochemical, physics and medical laboratories were under construction. Construction of those facilities would be completed

in 1966-67. In August 1965, with the assistance of Soviet specialists, a 2-MW(th) reactor had started up in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

31. The construction of atomic centres in those countries had laid the foundation for extensive scientific research on the peaceful uses of atomic energy, carried out by skilled national personnel who had received training in the Soviet Union during recent years.

32. Particular attention should be paid to one form of assistance provided by the countries in the socialist community, namely the establishment of medical centres in the developing countries within the framework of the technical assistance supplied by the Agency. He recalled that in 1962 the socialist countries had put forward a proposal concerning the creation of six medical radiological centres equipped with modern facilities and radiation sources and of six physics laboratories for the training of staff from the assisted countries.

33. The socialist countries had declared at that time that they would supply free of charge all the equipment for one third of those centres. But that offer had not been supported by the Western Powers and at the previous Conference the socialist countries had decided to give that help despite the unwillingness of others to take part.

34. In the light of the obligations it had assumed, the Soviet Union had agreed to supply equipment for two centres in 1965. In accordance with the Board's decision, that equipment was to be transferred to Morocco and Pakistan. The Soviet Union had agreed to supply equipment for another two centres in 1966. He hoped that the Board would prepare in advance the necessary proposals with regard to the countries to which the equipment was to be sent.

35. Each radiological centre supplied with Soviet equipment under the terms of the offer by the socialist countries was provided with Soviet gammatherapy apparatus, short-focus X-ray therapy apparatus and the requisite ancillary dosimetric equipment. The gammatherapy apparatus had a 4000-curie cobalt-60 charge and was used for the static irradiation of deep tumours. The X-ray therapy apparatus was intended for the treatment of surface tumours and various skin diseases.

36. The Soviet Union would meet the cost of transporting that equipment to the recipient countries, of working out a plan for its installation, of engaging experts for assembling and preparing it for operation and of training national workers on the spot as well as training the necessary number of experts from recipient countries in the Soviet Union itself.

37. He hoped that other advanced countries would follow the example set by the offer by the socialist countries for the creation of radiological centres in the developing countries. That offer, now in course of implementation, provided new opportunities for extending technical assistance.

38. During the past year the Agency had on the whole done useful work in the interest of Member States. However, his delegation could not fully associate itself with the optimistic appraisal of the results and efficacy of its scientific programme. His delegation was opposed to frittering away resources on numerous scientific investigations, often lacking in general interest, and to duplicating the work of other international organizations.

39. It was also dissatisfied at the lack of due co-operation between the Agency and certain specialized agencies of the United Nations on a number of research topics which fell within the competence of those agencies rather than within that of the Agency. The latter should establish closer relations with WHO for example. It could join forces with WHO on such problems as the elaboration of new diagnostic methods and treatment involving the use of radioisotope sources and irradiation. It was also desirable to improve relations with UNESCO in regard to training and to make better use of that organization's experience.

40. The Agency's scientific work could also be made more effective by improved internal organization. In its scientific activity the Agency should give special attention to matters not being handled by others. The work on the industrial application of radioisotopes also ought to be expanded.

41. One aspect of the Agency's activity on which he wished to comment was the project for setting up within the Agency an international mechanized information centre which would use a computer for rapid data retrieval. In the Soviet Union much was being done to establish such systems, which would make it possible to obtain, assemble and give out the necessary information to scientists and engineers. However, the creation of national computer centres

for processing and retrieving information did not solve the problem of the wide and rapid dissemination of information to experts in all countries. The Soviet Union supported the Agency's initiative regarding the creation of a mechanized information centre, in the belief that it would contibute to the development of atomic science and technology for peaceful purposes in developing countries and that it would also enable advanced countries to exchange scientific and technical information more quickly and fully by means of wide international co-operation.

42. His delegation also approved what the Agency was doing to disseminate and analyse information on the economic aspects of nuclear energy. Useful work was also being done in the matter of collecting information about the desalination of sea and salt water by atomic reactors.

43. The Agency's existing programme could be fully carried out without increasing the budget. As made clear by the Director General to the Board, the 1965 deficit had been largely covered from internal resources, which meant that reserves existed which must be used. However, the draft budget for 1966 was to involve an increase of nearly 11%. Such an increase was higher than the rate of increase in the national revenue of Member States or the rate of growth envisaged in the long-term programme. The increase was chiefly to cover increases in staff salaries and would not affect the amount of technical assistance given by the Agency.

44. He was bound to draw attention to the serious shortcomings in the Agency's staff policy and particularly to the unjustifiably high number of permanent contracts given to senior staff members from Western countries.

45. In conclusion he wished the Conference success and hoped that a spirit of co-operation and understanding would prevail.

46. Mr. TOHAMY (United Arab Republic) made the following statement[5/]:

(1) "I congratulate you warmly, Mr. President, on your unanimous election. We are all sure that under your capable guidance the Conference will be a success. We are deeply impressed by the hospitality and kindness of the Japanese Government and people. As one of those who are visiting Japan for the first time, I should like to express sincerely to you and the Japanese people our heartfelt wishes for lasting peace and continued prosperity, which has enabled Japan to achieve so much, particularly in the use and development of atomic energy for peaceful purposes.

5/ This statement is reproduced verbatim at the speaker's request under Rule 92(b) of the Conference's Rules of Procedure.

(2) "We want to congratulate you, Dr. Eklund, as Director General of the Agency, on your achievements during the last four years in the Agency. The Agency has, no doubt, progressed towards more efficiency and has rendered considerable services to the developing countries, but we are all aware of the fact that such countries still need much more than they get from the Agency, and I sincerely hope that you, Dr. Eklund, will be able in the future to convert our hopes into deeds and facts.

(3) "My country, the United Arab Republic, has been, and is, always ready to assist you and the Agency in every possible way. We offered, and are still willing to offer you, the services of a number of distinguished scientists and experts to serve the international community on the Agency's staff. Our scientists and the Atomic Energy Establishment are also willing to extend their services in the international field in co-operation with the Agency whenever needed. My Government is willing to increase its voluntary contribution to the Agency at any time the Board of Governors considers that that offers the way out of the Agency's financial situation.

(4) "The increase in the membership of the Agency confirms our belief that it is still a healthy instrument capable of assisting the developing countries. We welcome the increase in membership, in particular among the Arab and African States, which shows that the African peoples look with confidence to the Agency for the contribution it can make to the prosperity of mankind and that our continent counts on being rightly and fully represented on its organs.

(5) "The fact that we are meeting in Japan with the noble aim of using atomic energy to promote the peace, prosperity and welfare of mankind evokes memories of events which took place a number of years ago - in the lifetime of our generation - and, with those events in mind, it is our most earnest desire to devote all our mental efforts and abilities to ensure a better life for those already enjoying a high standard of living and to create new potentialities for the many nations which need to provide coming generations with the essential means to ensure a decent standard of living.

(6) "It is our ardent hope that man will never be allowed to use the energy released from the atom against himself, and all of us must act with wisdom and energy to ensure this end. Recent steps such as Resolution 1653(XVI) of the United Nations General Assembly, the Moscow treaty of August 1963, the declaration of the African summit conference in Cairo in July 1964, declaring Africa a denuclearized continent, the declaration of the summit conference of non-aligned countries in Cairo in October 1964, and the deliberations of the 18-Nation Committee on Disarmament in Geneva, in which my country has played an active role from the beginning, justify the hope and give grounds for optimism that we may one day reach an agreement to release peace-loving nations from the fear and tension caused by the possible use of atomic explosions in international disputes or for other reasons.

(7) "In view of the fact that we have come to this part of the globe to discuss all the possible peaceful uses of atomic energy, we cannot overlook the importance of realizing the necessity to co-operate with the 700 million people of China and all the potential results of such co-operation. The recognition and admission of the People's Republic of China to the international body of the United Nations may very well be the natural and logical means for reaching a proper understanding and securing peaceful co-operation with China and thus promoting the Agency's work for peace.

(8) "All the atomic energy activities in my country are fully devoted to peace. It is for that reason that we have approved the Agency's Revised Safeguards System as one of the means of controlling the future possibilities of producing atomic weapons by countries which are not yet members of the so-called atomic club, provided the system is applied without any discrimination whatsoever between nations and that it does not adversely affect or hinder scientific or technological development or normal industrial development in developing countries. But this raises the following questions. Can the system achieve this aim in practice? Can it be effectively applied in one way or another in all areas of the world in order to eliminate the dangerous possibility of building up resources and potentialities leading to the production of atomic bombs in a given country? Can the system be really useful in sensitive areas where these potentialities are close to the stage of producing atomic weapons? We believe the system could be effective when applied to reactors and atomic facilities already in existence which are capable of producing such disastrous weapons in the foreseeable future. A decision of that kind needs much courage on the part of the Member States of the Agency and would require full understanding and co-operation from the great Powers which have provided such potential resources to sensitive areas in the past. With those considerations in mind, we have approved the Revised Safeguards System and contributed, to the best of our ability, to the discussions on this subject in the hope that the system will be applied in the near future, without any discrimination whatsoever, to all installations constituting a potential danger to peace anywhere in the world. The Agency already has reason to be proud of its success in convincing its Member States that they should agree to apply the system, thus contributing in a practical manner to the assurance of peace.

(9) "I shall try to review in brief some of the developments in the United Arab Republic's atomic energy programme. Significant progress and a remarkable advance has been achieved in the various fields of nuclear physics, reactor technology, nuclear chemistry, reactor physics, neutron physics, nuclear engineering, reactor materials and metallurgy, exploration and development of local ores, scientific instrumentation for research, application of radioisotopes in medical, industrial, biological and agricultural research as well as radiation protection and dosimetry.

(10) "Our research facilities have provided many scientists from a number of Arab and African countries with opportunities to solve many problems of a scientific and regional nature.

(11) "We have extended our new programmes to the faculties in our universities and organized specialized courses leading to diplomas and higher degrees in nuclear science and technology. In doing so the universities are able to satisfy our requirements for large numbers of nuclear scientists and engineers.

(12) "I should like to stress that we warmly welcome international co-operation in our country with a view to utilizing science to solve various problems confronting us. One of the interesting problems which has recently received wide publicity involves the application of modern science to the ancient Egyptian wonders, i.e. the application of high-energy cosmic-ray mesons to probe the structure of Egyptian pyramids in order to find chambers or cavities not known at present. This project is being jointly carried out by the Ain Shams University in Cairo and the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory, California.

(13) "The Middle Eastern Radioisotope Centre established in Cairo two years ago, in co-operation with the Agency, has proved to be very valuable to the area; 107 specialists were successfully trained in radioisotope techniques covering the fields of medicine, agriculture and industry. It is also significant to note that all the trainees are post-graduates from the developing countries of Tunisia, Sudan, Iraq, Kuwait, Ghana, Nigeria, Libya, Morocco, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Yemen, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Republic.

(14) "Research projects of a regional nature have been carried out or sponsored by the Cairo Centre in the territory of Member States. This reasearch includes: (a) Underground water studies in Kuwait. Such studies will also be carried out in the Kingdom of Libya; (b) Agricultural research on salinity and fertilization and their effects on crop production in the Republic of Tunisia. Similar research will also be carried out in the Republic of Iraq; (c) A study of factors affecting the production and quality of olive oil in the Republic of Tunisia; (d) A study of the water-retaining capacity of different soil strata in the Republic of Algeria; (e) Research on fruit-fly irradiation in the United Arab Republic. This research will also be carried out in the Republic of the Sudan; (f) Research on olive-fly irradiation in the Republic of Tunisia and mosquito irradiation in the United Arab Republic; (g) Bilharziasis studies in the United Arab Republic. Such studies will also be carried out in the Republic of Iraq; (h) Thyroid studies in the Republic of Sudan. These studies will also be carried out in the Republic of Iraq; (j) Research on drainage in the Republic of Iraq; and (k) Research on genetic effects of radiation in Jordan. This research will also be carried out in the Republic of Sudan. Experience has shown that the provision of equipment for trained specialists through the Agency or under other assistance programmes is necessary to enable them to make the best use of their experience in serving their people. It can thus be foreseen that the Cairo Centre will be able to render extensive and valuable services in the field of research throughout the area, in addition to what it has already achieved. It should be noted that any such centres it is decided to establish should be set up in areas that, in fact, need their services.

(15) "With regard to our nuclear power and water desalination programme, our engineers, in co-operation with our consulting engineering firms, are completing their analysis of the tenders for the construction of the first nuclear power plant in the United Arab Republic; this will be a dual-purpose 150-MW(e) plant at Sidi Krier, west of Alexandria, to which a desalination plant with a capacity of 20 000 cubic metres a day will be attached. The plant will be connected to the electricity grid to supply the Alexandria industrial area and to provide desalinated water for our agricultural demonstration experiment. A team sent by the United States Atomic Energy Commission last December to study the project has presented a valuable report which bears out our expectations and studies regarding the economic production of special crops, using desalinated water. We believe that the successful completion of this experiment will benefit many nations in the arid regions and will contribute to the international effort aiming at solving the long-term problem of fresh-water requirements which was clearly defined at the Third International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy.

(16) "The discovery of uranium ores and the enormous amounts of thorium extracted from monazite occurring in the deposits of black sand in the northern part of the Nile Delta offer remarkable prospects for the future production of fuel elements.

(17) "I wholeheartedly believe that the Agency can be, and will be, one of the most important organs in the United Nations family in serving humanity, in serving all of us, through the co-operation of all of us. I wish you, Dr. Eklund, success in your coming term of office and I thank, once again, the Japanese people for their kindness, charm, hospitality and efficiency, as manifested in the President of our Conference."

47. Mr. POPOV (Bulgaria) congratulated the President on his election and thanked the Japanese Government and the municipal authorities of Tokyo for the hospitality extended to the General Conference. Twenty years previously the Japanese people had experienced the destructive force of one of the greatest discoveries of the human intellect. Now it was in the van of the struggle to prohibit nuclear weapons.

48. The adoption of a resolution on the prohibition of such weapons at the present session would be extremely valuable for the Agency's future activity and the welfare of mankind and would be particularly appropriate if it took place in Tokyo.

49. He noted with satisfaction the efforts made by the Agency during its eight years of existence to ensure that a growing number of countries benefited from scientific and technical advances in the utilization of atomic energy for peaceful purposes. He stressed the Agency's role in organizing the Third International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, which had made it possible to estimate progress in the construction and operation of nuclear power stations and to assess the economic prospects of nuclear energy.

50. New and major problems of nuclear science such as that of nuclear electric power, thermonuclear synthesis or the direct transformation of atomic power into electric power were of prime importance to modern physics and of interest to most Member States. It was therefore entirely logical and justified firmly to expand the Agency's study of such problems, as that would truly contribute to progress and economic advance throughout the world.

51. Bulgaria was also interested in solving those problems and was ready to co-operate by means of bilateral or multilateral agreements with a view to using the technical and economic possibilities offered by modern science in

the most rational way. It was also willing to co-operate in solving other problems of utilizing atomic energy for peaceful purposes. He was grateful to the Director General for visiting Bulgaria the previous autumn where he had met scientists and public men and had exchanged views on utilizing atomic energy for peaceful purposes as well as on the question of closer collaboration between the Agency and national atomic energy commissions.

52. The Bulgarian delegation fully appreciated the value of the Agency's activity in regard to the application of radioisotopes in medicine, agriculture, radiobiology, hydrology, chemistry and physics. It would nevertheless like the structure of the annual report to conform to that of the programme, which would make it possible to analyse more precisely both the activity of the Agency and its results. The report also seemed on examination not to reflect sufficiently certain sections of that activity. For example, some additional details on scientific documentation would be useful. It would also be desirable for the report to contain not merely a simple list but an evaluation of what had been done.

53. Sub-paragraph 7(a) of the introduction to the report stated that "the technical assistance programme has continued to be hampered by financial stringency", which meant that the Agency's financial resources were inadequate to meet the demands made by certain States. It would therefore be advisable to modify the regulations on the acceptance of gifts in kind. The regulations in force for voluntary contributions did not help to increase the resources intended for the provision of assistance to developing countries. Indeed, the need for making those contributions in convertible currency was insisted upon, although many countries were unable to do so in spite of their desire to lend aid.

54. For that reason, a group of socialist countries, including Bulgaria, had in 1962 proposed to the Agency a technical assistance programme for developing countries drawn up on the basis of gifts in kind. The General Conference had approved that programme at its seventh session. Unfortunately, the Secretariat had been unable to find the means for the complete realization of the programme, and the advanced Western countries had done nothing to co-operate with the socialist countries. As a result, the socialist countries had decided to carry out their part of the programme independently of the participation of other Governments. Under the programme, Czechoslovakia had already provided radiotherapy equipment for Algeria, while action was now under consideration in the light of the Board's decision regarding the

provision of radiotherapy equipment to Pakistan and Morocco by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and to Afghanistan by Hungary. Bulgaria was also prepared to honour its commitments under the programme; it would participate in the specified proportion in providing, together with Poland, radiodiagnosis equipment to any Member State which requested it through the Agency.

55. He hoped that the Secretariat would be able to give a greater number of young scientists the possibility of acquiring experience in the large study centres of the most advanced countries. The financial resources set aside for that purpose should not be reduced in favour of other activities which were not at the present time of interest to the majority of Member States, such as the activity of the Laboratory, which had been set up to give certain services to Member States rather than as a nuclear research centre.

56. The Bulgarian delegation felt that the work of the Laboratory bore no direct relationship to the functions of the Agency. The constant increase in its activities was disturbing, and if it was not restricted no funds would be sufficient to cover it. A new increase was proposed for 1966. Furthermore, the Laboratory's activities were not financed in accordance with the requirements of the Statute, i.e. under the Operational Budget. The Bulgarian delegation felt that it was high time to draw up a programme for the Laboratory in accordance with the Statute and with the immediate tasks of the Agency.

57. The Bulgarian delegation was opposed to the proposed 11% increase in the budget for 1966. The biennial programme did not provide for any substantial extension of the Agency's activities in 1966 and there was consequently no justification for such a large increase. The annual rate of increase of the budgets of United Nations organizations did not normally exceed 5% and there was no reason why the Agency should be an exception. It was necessary to take steps to stabilize the budget and, in particular, salaries of staff members. There were various internal ways in which savings could be effected under various sections of the Agency's budget.

58. As for the Revised Safeguards System, Bulgaria had always been opposed to the use of nuclear materials for military purposes. With the exception of certain provisions, the new system seemed more flexible and to represent less of a hindrance to the economic development of the countries concerned.

59. The Bulgarian Government was convinced that a radical solution to the problem of world peace could only be achieved through a solution of the main problem at issue, viz. general and complete disarmament under international control. He recalled that a request had been addressed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Agency calling upon the latter to make a study of the economic and social consequences of disarmament in the field of the peaceful uses of atomic energy. In 1964 the Agency had drawn up a document on the subject and it was to be hoped not only that it would continue the study but also that it would take concrete steps to contribute to disarmament. Unfortunately, it was scarcely possible to create a favourable climate at a time when, not far from where the General Conference was meeting - he was thinking particularly of Viet-Nam -, there were areas at war which represented a threat to world peace.

60. In conclusion he hoped that the General Conference would take such decisions as would enhance the prestige of the Agency and would contribute to the development of the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

61. Mr. LEON ANTICH (Cuba) said that his delegation wished first to express its gratitude to the Government of Japan for having made it possible to hold the ninth regular session of the General Conference in Tokyo. Japan, the country which had suffered the terrible and destructive nuclear bombardment of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, was opening its doors twenty years later to offer yet another opportunity of discussing, analysing and accelerating the peaceful use of atomic energy in the fields of welfare and economic development.

62. The aims set out in the Agency's own Statute were also those of the United Nations and should be the common objectives of all countries represented at the General Conference. Whoever subscribed to those aims must be firmly committed to the campaign for world peace, the inalienable right of all countries, including those not represented at the session.

63. The human race was at present passing through moments of tension and danger; some regions were under the shadow of aggression, whilst in others aggression had already broken out, and in all the danger of the use of nuclear and thermonuclear weapons threatened the destruction which Hiroshima and Nagasaki had undergone. Cuba had not renounced and would never renounce its right to sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity; it had not ceased and would not cease to give unfailing support to the just struggle

of peoples for national liberation and the effective establishment of their international rights as sovereign States. Nor did it intend to waive its right, or fail in its duty, now or at any time, to co-operate in the cause of peace and international understanding.

64. His delegation would support the resolution introduced by the delegate of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, believing it to be a fruitful and effective approach to the problem at issue. He appealed to the delegations of all Member States to support the resolution, and urged the General Conference to use all the means at its disposal with a view to taking rapid and effective steps to ensure that the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes became an accomplished fact in the very near future.

65. Mr. OTERO NAVASCUES (Spain) congratulated the President on his election, which was a tribute not only to his personal qualities but also to his country, which had made such admirable progress in all fields of science and technology.

66. Spain had continued to collaborate with the Agency during the past year, providing experts and fellowships for students from other countries. It had also contributed $10 000 to the General Fund and proposed to make a similar contribution in the present year. Particular importance attached to the Agency's work in the field of technical assistance, from which Spain had also benefited on a number of occasions.

67. Considerable success had been achieved in connection with the drafting of safety standards, the siting of power plants and other nuclear installations, the safe transport of nuclear materials, and the provision and calibration of secondary standards for isotopes and other sources of ionizing radiation; it was to be hoped that work in those fields would be stepped up in the near future.

68. The same comment applied to the Agency's scientific and technical meetings on topics of general interest, which had had a similar record of success and in which Spanish scientists and engineers had collaborated. The positive results achieved would be attributed to the endeavours of the Director General, who was to be congratulated on all he had done in the last four years. He wished the Director General every success in his new term of office; Spain would certainly support his re-appointment.

69. He would follow up his introductory remarks by giving a brief outline of the work being done by Spain in the nuclear field. New uranium deposits had been found and it was hoped it would be possible to increase the present reserves of 10 500 tons of U_3O_8 three or four times in the near future. It was planned to set up a new plant for concentrating uranium in the Salamanca region with a capacity of 1000 or 1200 tons a day. An increasing amount of work was being done in connection with uranium purification, the fabrication of fuel-element prototypes and the processing of irradiated fuel, although the main effort in the latter field was being made at the joint plant at Mol within the framework of the European Nuclear Energy Agency.

70. The Moncloa National Research Centre already had a staff of 1100 research workers, including 280 university graduates. The work done at the Centre covered nuclear physics, radiochemistry, the production, distribution and controlled use of radioisotopes, metallurgy, and reactor physics and engineering.

71. In connection with the problem of water desalination, it was worth noting that a conventional plant had been brought into operation which had solved the water-shortage problem in one of the Canary Islands.

72. The enormous drop that had taken place in the cost of nuclear electricity had had an immediate effect in Spain and nuclear plants could now compete with thermal plants in that country. Near Madrid a 150-MW PWR power plant was being built; work on another plant - a 460-MW BWR station, selected in an international competition - was beginning in the Ebro Valley. Advanced studies were being made in connection with a third plant - a Franco-Spanish 500-MW project based on a natural-uranium, graphite-moderated gas-cooled reactor. Government authorization had been requested for another 350-MW plant. Spain would thus have an installed capacity of 1460 MW within the next five years.

73. A special agreement had been concluded with the Government of the United States which would enable Spain to send uranium concentrates to that country with a view to obtaining the enriched uranium needed to fuel the first of the above-mentioned plants.

74. So far Spain had selected plants of known and proven design but it was now anxious to build one that would guarantee better fuel utilization and operate on natural uranium.

75. Work had been going on over the past five years on the prototype of a heavy-water-moderated organic-cooled reactor which had very promising characteristics.

76. It was to be hoped that a similar development in the use of nuclear electricity would take place not only in the highly industrialized nations but also in countries whose economic levels corresponded to that of Spain, and that hundreds of nuclear power plants and fuel plants would begin to operate in the next few years.

77. Spain was very interested in the safeguards system that had been approved provisionally by the Board and submitted to the General Conference for final approval, since the proposed scheme covered the whole range of installations from chemical plants for the purification of uranium to nuclear power plants with their ancillary equipment, as well as research and materials testing reactors and the various facilities connected with the fuel cycle.

78. Within the next ten years it could be expected that hundreds of groups of inspectors would be engaged in carrying out constant checks on nuclear facilities. Quite apart from the strain that those activities would impose on the Agency's budget, which had hitherto been kept within very reasonable limits, it was clear that they would tend to hamper the peaceful development of nuclear energy.

79. While there could be no doubt that assistance received in the peaceful uses of atomic energy must not be diverted to military uses, he nevertheless wished to repeat what he had said at the eighth session of the General Conference, namely that safeguards should be limited to enriched uranium or plutonium facilities, where they should be applied as stringently as was necessary. On the other hand, the idea of exercising control over the nuclear industry as a whole - while still feasible at the present time - would very soon cease to be feasible.

80. Spain, which had concentrated all its efforts on the peaceful uses of atomic energy, considered that the value of the safeguards system was chiefly psychological. It was designed to create a favourable atmosphere for controlled nuclear disarmament and emphasized the desire of the majority of nations to

confine their efforts to the peaceful uses of atomic energy. There was a danger, however, that if attempts were made to provide for all eventualities - rather than to concentrate on underscoring the desire of countries to work along peaceful lines - there would be a tendency to delay and hold up the peaceful development of nuclear energy, which, as the French delegate had pointed out, was a guarantee of international peace and understanding.

81. Mr. HUANG (China) said the Chinese delegation associated itself with the speakers who had expressed deep appreciation to the Japanese Government and people for their very warm reception and generous hospitality. It also wished to congratulate the Secretariat on its excellent preparatory work for the Conference.

82. The revelation of the destructive power of the atom twenty years ago had been followed by two historical developments: the establishment of the Agency in 1957 and the partial nuclear test-ban treaty in 1963. Those two accomplishments had provided the basis for hopes that atoms could be harnessed to serve man instead of destroying him. Unless atomic energy could be successfully developed solely in the interest of man's welfare and happiness, the future of humanity was in great danger. The Chinese policy of developing atomic energy exclusively for peaceful purposes had been clearly stated by President Chiang Kai-shek at the commissioning of the National Tsinghua University's nuclear reactor in December 1961. That policy coincided with the efforts of the Agency to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world. At a Conference concerned with the peaceful uses of atomic power, the new threat to peace in Asia could not fail to be a cause for concern.

83. The leading stumbling block in the way of world peace was poverty. What the developing nations needed today was to be able to utilize advanced scientific and technical knowledge to overcome poverty and gradually raise themselves to the level of well-being in the scientifically advanced nations. The gap might take some time to close, but efforts must be made to narrow it. He himself had expressed the same idea when he had spoken at the seventh session of the General Conference in favour of the "democratization of science". His delegation's thinking was still based on that concept, which it would like to see embodied in the guiding principles of the Agency.

84. In connection with the development of the safeguards system, a trilateral treaty had been signed at Vienna in September between the Republic of China, the United States of America and the Agency. On 25 May 1965, he had represented his Government at the signing of an inventory listing all facilities supplied by the United States and the uses to which they were being put. The inventory had been communicated to the Agency. The Chinese Government had also given notice of its readiness to receive visits by Agency inspectors.

85. The Argonne National Laboratory in the United States and the Institute of Nuclear Science of the National Tsinghua University in Taiwan had been linked as "sister laboratories" in February 1965 with a view to improved co-operation in the future. Three Argonne scientists had visited Taiwan and lent valuable assistance to Chinese research in nuclear physics and isotope chemistry. Tsinghua graduates had gone to the United States and Western Germany for advanced studies and some of them had been awarded Agency fellowships. Those who were now back in Taiwan were actively engaged in the study of nuclear physics. The Chinese Government had already allocated funds for setting up a national physics research centre at Tsinghua for use by Chinese physicists.

86. High praise was due to the Agency for its technical assistance, which had enabled the Republic of China to carry out extensive studies on the peaceful uses of atomic energy. In 1957 the Medical College of the National Taiwan University had started to use radioisotopes for medical diagnosis and treatment. Development had been fairly rapid because the country was now able to produce short-lived radioisotopes itself. Extensive results had been reported in the fields of internal medicine, ophthalmology, dermatology and oncology.

87. The Agency had also given continuous support to his country's efforts to improve rice varieties through the use of atomic energy. The Institute of Botany of the Academia Sinica under Dr. Li Hsien-wen had for nine years been engaged in joint research work with the College of Agriculture of the Taiwan Provincial Chung Hsing University. As a result of their findings, it had been possible to raise rice production per unit area and thus to help feed the fast-growing population. China was prepared to share the results of its experience with other rice-growing countries.

88. Power generation was one of China's most important problems at present and it hoped to have its first atomic power plant around 1970. An important part in the country's plans for nuclear power generation was played by the Agency's regulations governing civil liability for nuclear damage, transportation of nuclear fuels and radiation safety standards. The Chinese Government hoped that the Agency would also support its subsequent nuclear activities.

89. In conclusion, he wished to thank the Agency for its valuable technical assistance to the Republic of China. That assistance had been utilized to the maximum. Sincere appreciation was also due to the various industrially developed nations for letting China share the fruits of their experience and scientific knowledge.

90. Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand), after congratulating the President on his election and expressing his delegation's thanks to the Japanese Government for the excellent arrangements which had been made for the present session, said that Japan's encouraging record of progress in the development of the peaceful uses of atomic energy and her consistent stand internationally against the development of the war-like uses of atomic energy could well be emulated by other countries.

91. New Zealand welcomed the increase in the Agency's membership. It believed that there were many benefits which membership of the Agency could bring to developing countries.

92. New Zealand, too, as a major world producer of wool, dairy and forest products, meat and other food, could not afford to delay the evaluation of recent developments in the relevant practical applications of nuclear science and there were now in the country several groups concerned with various aspects of nuclear science and technology, at governmental level, in the universities and in industry. Most of the universities now provided sound training in nuclear physics, radiochemistry and radiation chemistry, and some university departments were carrying out important research in the biological sciences. The Institute of Nuclear Sciences, set up by the Government in 1958 as a national research centre, had established an international reputation in certain specialist sectors of work, principally in the geochemical field. Some fifty laboratories throughout the country were using radioisotopes in

varying degrees as a tool for research, mostly in agriculture and biology. A limited number of commercial firms were using small radioactive sources as production aids. One firm had well-advanced plans for the erection of a pharmaceutical sterilization plant of 150 000 curies of cobalt.

93. In medical diagnosis and therapy New Zealand was well advanced. For several years past, thanks to the adequate provision of equipment and a planned programme of staffing, New Zealand had had the highest density, in relation to population, of therapeutic nuclear medical facilities in the world. In fields other than medical, immediate planned expansion, involving both equipment and staff, was necessary if New Zealand was to reap the full benefits of nuclear science. The installation of a nuclear power station planned for about 1977 could be expected to stimulate interest in nuclear research. It should moreover be borne in mind that many qualified New Zealanders had gone to work in other countries where they had greatly contributed to the successful development of nuclear science and its practical application.

94. To turn to the work of the Agency, his delegation endorsed the opinion of the Director General that one of the most significant achievements of the past year had been the unanimous acceptance of the Revised Safeguards System by the Board. New Zealand had fully and consistently supported the imposition of safeguards against diversion of nuclear materials and equipment provided by the Agency to non-peaceful purposes. The obligation to impose such safeguards was a statutory requirement. Moreover it was, in his view, essential that the new provisions be given wide effect as soon as possible, both in order that the production of nuclear weapons might be restricted to as few countries as possible and because failure to secure adequate safeguards machinery could well place in jeopardy the future of the Agency as a supplier, or a broker in the supply, of nuclear materials and facilities. The new text was the result of long and careful discussion, and his delegation was prepared to accept it as it stood. His Government also considered that it was imperative to expand the very useful work the Agency was already doing to assist the developing countries through its fellowship and training schemes and had therefore decided for the first time since New Zealand had joined the Agency to make a voluntary contribution to the Agency's funds commencing with the sum of $5000 in 1966.

95. In conclusion, the New Zealand delegation wished to express its appreciation of the dedicated leadership given to the Agency's Secretariat by the Director General, to whose re-appointment it gave its unqualified support.

96. Mr. SOLE (South Africa) associated his delegation with the congratulations to the President and expressions of appreciation to the Japanese authorities.

97. In past addresses to the Conference he had refrained from referring to South African progress in the field of atomic energy and had concentrated rather on the particular problems with which the Agency had been confronted. On the present occasion, however, he felt it might be appropriate to say a few words about developments in his own country, since 1965 had been something of a milestone for South Africa in its nuclear energy programme. The year had seen, for example, the inauguration of the research reactor SAFARI I, which, with a full power capacity of 20 megawatts, was at present the twelfth largest research reactor in the world and the largest in the Southern Hemisphere. The South African Government had stressed in that regard that South Africa was now, and always would be, happy to share with others the fruits of its research, more particularly with its neighbours on the continent of Africa.

98. Secondly, it was of interest to record, especially in the light of numerous forecasts as to a possible shortage of uranium in the 1970's, that as a result of new areas which were being developed in South Africa, the country's estimated reserves of $8 a pound uranium had now risen from 147 000 to 180 000 tons of concentrates, thus placing South Africa second only to Canada in the world, in terms of exploitable uranium resources.

99. Thirdly, like a number of other countries, South Africa had concluded an agreement transferring to the Agency the responsibility for the administration of the safeguards provided for in its bilateral arrangement with the United States.

100. In view of the fact that it had in the past followed an independent line on questions of safeguards policy, declining to align itself with one or other group of Powers, it was proper that he should place on record that South Africa had found a commendable willingness on the part of the Secretariat to understand the problems and particular circumstances of an individual Member State.

101. It was indeed essential that due regard should be had to the circumstances relevant to a particular project or a particular country. There should not be an insistence on dotting the i's and crossing the t's merely for the sake of uniformity.

102. Since the Agency was concerned with safeguards against the diversion of nuclear material to non-peaceful purposes, it was inevitable there should also be some discussion of one of the major problems of the day - the proliferation of nuclear capability. He believed, however, that little purpose would be served by debating, in the General Conference, the political problems inherent in any discussion of how best to combat the dangers of proliferation. On the other hand he considered it right and proper that the General Conference should pledge itself to make the resources of the Agency available if and when discussions in the United Nations or amongst the atomic Powers reached a stage where it became practicable to use the Agency to help solve the problems involved in the control and policing of nuclear armaments.

103. One matter to which the South African delegation had given particular attention over the years had been the streamlining of Conference and Board proceedings and of the Secretariat's organization. He believed that the Agency had achieved an enviable reputation in that respect in the family of United Nations organizations. Certainly proceedings both in the Board and in the Conference had become a model of expedition. On the Secretariat side, he was inclined to think that the Agency had just about reached the optimum as far as the size of the establishment was concerned. When in the 1970's nuclear power achieved a breakthrough on a much wider front than was possible in the 1960's, a major expansion of the Agency's staff would probably be inevitable, in order to help meet the technical assistance needs of the developing countries in the field of nuclear power, but, especially in view of the Agency's precarious method of financing, the staff should for the time being be kept approximately at its present size.

104. The successful introduction of biennial programming encouraged him to suggest that the Director General might with advantage undertake in the course of 1966 a study of the problems implicit in the adoption of a policy of biennial budgeting. The additional funds such a policy should make it possible to release should, he repeated, be allocated to expansion of the programme, not the staff.

105. In his statement to the General Conference in 1962 he had recommended, in the field of technical assistance, the establishment of direct links, with the Agency acting as a catalyst, between experienced and developed atomic energy centres in the more advanced countries and newly burgeoning projects in the developing countries. He had consequently been particularly pleased to find the same idea reflected in the Director General's statement at the 92nd meeting.

106. As one of the pioneers of the Agency, associated with its progress from the beginning, he had had a special and personal interest in observing its growth from the time of the hopeful beginnings at the conference on the Statute in New York in 1956, through two major crises of confidence during the early years in Vienna, to the subsequent re-establishment of its standing as an effective organ of international co-operation. If he might venture a personal comment, he would suggest that the Agency should now concentrate mainly on consolidating its scientific prestige and expertise in preparation for the inevitable expansion in the 1970's, bearing in mind that its success and effectiveness would rest, not on the size of its budget, but on the calibre of the men who ran it.

107. Mr. ESCHAUZIER (Netherlands) noted with satisfaction that the adoption of a long-term programme two years previously was beginning to bear fruit. The annual report presented by the Board also covered the first six months of the biennial programme for 1965-1966, and the progress made in that period, although necessarily limited, clearly demonstrated the wisdom of the decision. It was to be hoped that the possibility of extending the procedure to the budget, which was still established on a yearly basis, would in due course be re-examined in the light of practical experience; nor should the possibility of holding biennial sessions of the General Conference be overlooked.

108. Over the past three or four years it had become apparent that the initial difficulties of the Agency in getting under way were over; it was now aiming at certain clearly defined objectives, with the result that its activities were acquiring a routine character. There could of course be no further progress without entering new fields and solving new problems, but at least for the immediate future the Agency's main concern would be to achieve still greater efficiency and to concentrate its activities on selective areas of

priority from which the greatest possible number of States stood to benefit most. Such selection was not merely common sense; it was a vital necessity in view of the increasing requests for assistance from Member States, which contrasted sharply with the limited financial means at the disposal of the Agency. It appeared that the lack of resources was most painfully felt in such important areas as technical assistance, the nuclear power and reactors programme and desalination. The Government of the Netherlands therefore greatly welcomed the co-ordination of the Agency's activities in the context of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development, which stated in its second report, published in May 1965, that the Agency would be able to contribute substantially to a "concerted attack on a limited number of especially important problems of research or application". It was also gratifying to note that the co-ordination of the Agency's activities with some organizations of the United Nations family had been intensified.

109. His Government had noted the Agency's successful co-operation with regional bodies in the organization of symposia and conferences, and felt that it would be beneficial for all concerned if the Agency exercised a co-ordinating function in organizing such meetings. A similar system might be envisaged for training personnel. Regional centres might be more successful and efficient than world centres, and the Agency's role should be one of co-ordination rather than of establishment or operation.

110. A similar co-ordinating activity should be exercised by the Agency in finding underground storage places for highly radioactive wastes. If, however, there was a danger, due to underground flows of water, of radioactivity spreading even across regional frontiers, the Agency would perhaps be the only body suitable for establishing and operating such burial grounds.

111. On the subject of emergency assistance in the event of radiation accidents, he was glad to note that the Agency was investigating the possibility of a system of international mutual assistance in which it could play an appropriate part. His delegation felt that a global agreement open to all Members of the United Nations or its specialized agencies, which would serve as a model for regional agreements, was the most appropriate form, and awaited with interest the report of the committee of experts which would prepare a draft agreement for the Board's consideration.

112. His delegation fully supported the Revised Safeguards System provisionally approved by the Board; the system would also apply to reactors with a capacity of 100 MW or more, which constituted an important step forward. However, he agreed with the delegate of Japan that the Agency's safeguards would be more effective if they were also applied to chemical reprocessing plants, and also supported the suggestion that a system of reporting and registration be established covering international transfers of all nuclear materials.

113. By promoting the practical implementation of the Agency's functions under Articles II and XII of the Statute, Member States could make a direct and valuable contribution towards preventing the use of atomic energy for non-peaceful purposes. The wider issues of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and disarmament would necessarily have to be solved by other competent organs of the United Nations, but the fact that the Agency's role was thus confined to a limited sector in no way diminished the importance of its statutory functions. The Agency's safeguards system, if widely accepted by Member States, would constitute a very positive "collateral measure" - in the vocabulary of the Geneva Disarmament Commission - which could be regarded as on an equal footing with the test ban treaty.

114. Taking practical steps within the purview of the Statute was, he felt, a better way to serve the cause of peace than considering the adoption of resolutions on political matters of grave consequence, which were being actively discussed in the appropriate United Nations bodies, and which were clearly not within the competence of the Agency as "the major technical arm of the United Nations" in the field of the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

115. It was to be hoped that, as a technical organization particularly well equipped for exercising control functions, the Agency could carry out a specific task to help prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations had in the course of his address to the Conference clearly outlined the extent and the limits of the services the Agency might be called upon to render.

116. He wished to make it clearly understood that his delegation would be unable to support any resolution which was not strictly in accordance with the Agency's statutory rights and obligations. Under Article III.B.1 of the

Statute the Agency was bound to "conduct its activities in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations, ... and in conformity with policies of the United Nations furthering the establishment of safeguarded worldwide disarmament", which could logically only be interpreted as meaning that under special circumstances the Agency could be an executive agent of such United Nations policies, but was clearly not the competent political body to frame them.

117. He wished to express his admiration for the Director General's excellent work, and was sure that his re-appointment was an auspicious beginning to a new chapter in the history of the Agency.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.