



International Atomic Energy Agency

General Conference

GC(XIV)/INF/127
26 September 1970

GENERAL Distr.

Original: ENGLISH, RUSSIAN
and GERMAN

Fourteenth regular session

A COMMUNICATION FROM THE DELEGATE OF BULGARIA

Note by the President

In response to the request made by the delegate of Bulgaria in the second paragraph of a letter which he addressed to the President on 24 September, the texts of his letter and of the statement enclosed therein are reproduced below.

"I have the honour to transmit a statement by the Government of the German Democratic Republic relating to the agenda item 'General debate and report of the Board of Governors for 1969-70'.

"I would ask you to arrange for the distribution of this statement as an official document and to bring it to the notice of all delegations attending the fourteenth regular session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

(signed) "Prof. S. Vasilev
Delegate of the People's
Republic of Bulgaria"

"STATEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC TO THE FOURTEENTH SESSION OF THE
GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

I

"The Government of the German Democratic Republic, whose policy is in full agreement with the aims and principles of the International Atomic Energy Agency, attaches great importance to the main objective of the Agency which is 'to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world'.

"The International Atomic Energy Agency bears a particularly great responsibility in the implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which opens up new possibilities for peaceful uses of atomic energy for the welfare of nations.

"The Government of the German Democratic Republic has from the beginning helped to the best of its abilities to bring about this Treaty, since the Treaty is highly important for the maintenance of world peace, the prevention of a nuclear war and the promotion of further steps in the field of arms limitation and disarmament. In accordance with the consistent peace policy of the German Democratic Republic, it was one of the first States to sign without any reservations or restrictions the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and it ratified the Treaty on 29 September 1969.

"On behalf of the Government of the German Democratic Republic the Minister for Foreign Affairs, in his letter of 25 August 1970 to the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, declared its preparedness to enter into negotiations with the Agency on a safeguards agreement to be concluded in accordance with Article III of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

II

"In the Constitution of the German Democratic Republic science and research and the use of discoveries made in science and research are characterized as essential foundations of its socialist society. The integrated socialist educational system guarantees for all citizens a high standard of education which

corresponds to the continuously growing social requirements. In 1969, 273 000 students were enrolled at the 54 colleges and universities and the 188 technical schools of the German Democratic Republic. That is 1.6 per cent of the total population of the German Democratic Republic. An increase in 1970 of expenditure on science and technology to 4900 million Marks as against 3800 million Marks in 1969 proves how much science and technology are promoted by the Government of the German Democratic Republic.

"The Government of the German Democratic Republic welcomes the activities of the International Atomic Energy Agency in all fields of peaceful uses of atomic energy, in the exchange and supply of scientific and technical information, in granting technical assistance and training facilities to developing countries, in undertaking various research activities and in establishing norms for health protection. Achievements made in the German Democratic Republic in these fields meet with high international recognition and could be a valuable contribution to the solution of the tasks facing the International Atomic Energy Agency.

"In the German Democratic Republic, which now belongs to the ten leading industrial States of the world, the construction of nuclear research and engineering establishments was started as early as in 1955, and atomic energy has always and exclusively been used for peaceful purposes in research and technology. The Law on the Use of Atomic Energy in the German Democratic Republic, passed in March 1962, is directly associated with the Constitution of the German Democratic Republic, which prohibits any misuse of science directed against peace, international understanding and man's life and dignity.

"Peaceful uses of atomic energy are well established in research and technology in the German Democratic Republic. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics has been granting fraternal assistance and support to the German Democratic Republic at all stages of peaceful nuclear activities. With the aid of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics the first research reactor and the first nuclear power station at Rheinsberg were put into operation in 1957 and 1966 respectively. The construction of the first high-capacity nuclear power station in the northern region of the German Democratic Republic is under way, in close co-operation with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Furthermore, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics assisted the German Democratic Republic

in equipping various physical and radiochemical laboratories, in training scientific and technical staff and in providing various kinds of apparatus and equipment for nuclear research and engineering. Thus the German Democratic Republic has a scientific-technological basis of its own for the steadily increasing use of nuclear energy to meet the requirements of its national economy, relying upon possibilities of specialization and co-operation within the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance.

"Nuclear research and engineering in the German Democratic Republic are subject to strict legislation in line with international norms. On the occasion of the fourteenth session of the General Conference, complete documentation of the legislation for radiation protection effective in the German Democratic Republic will be handed over to the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

"The control of the biosphere and its non-pollution by the effects of nuclear engineering, including the secure storage of nuclear waste, are problems which can only be solved on an international scale. Since both the number and the output of nuclear power stations and other nuclear establishments are rapidly increasing, particularly in the densely populated European area, it is objectively necessary to incorporate the system of radiation protection of the German Democratic Republic into a global system of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

"The use of isotope and radiation technology in the fields of natural sciences, industry, agriculture and public health, especially for rationalization and automation, has reached a high level in the German Democratic Republic. The total gains yielded by isotope and radiation technology, which amounted to 1500 million Marks from 1955 to 1969, will considerably increase in the next few years. In 1969 there were some 1000 different users of isotope technology in the German Democratic Republic's national economy. The assortment of items available comprises nearly 900 different stable and radioactive isotopes, labelled compounds and radiation sources. About 50% of these products are exported. In order to meet the considerably increased demand for radioactive isotopes the output of the German Democratic Republic's first research reactor has been increased from 2 to 10 MW(th).

"A large range of apparatus, made in the German Democratic Republic for nuclear physics and isotope technology, radiation detectors, dosimeters and other instruments and equipment is available for application in research and various spheres of the national economy.

"In the German Democratic Republic isotopes are utilized in agriculture, especially in the field of animal and plant metabolism. The methodology for the use of labelled nitrogen for this purpose is closely connected with the national economic task of producing protein foodstuffs, and thus constitutes a contribution towards solving this world-wide problem. Special experience has been gained in the use of radioactive isotopes for controlling densities per unit area in the spreading of pesticides protecting cultivated plants in order to guarantee a sufficient degree of efficiency of the substances on the one hand and their economical use on the other.

"Research into and the practice of nuclear medicine are integral parts of the health system of the German Democratic Republic, which has an internationally recognized high level. A wide range of nuclear pharmaceuticals and radiation sources is available for diagnosis and therapy. For instance, a kit has been developed on a radio-immunological basis to control diabetes, which is becoming more and more a serious popular disease internationally. These instruments make it possible to detect diabetes early by means of a quick method of high sensitivity. A great number of applicators with radioactive isotopes is used for the therapy of various kinds of tumour diseases. They are used in gynaecology, dermatology, ophthalmology and general radiology.

"The interest in the achievements of the German Democratic Republic in the peaceful uses of atomic energy is reflected in the active participation of numerous foreign scientists in scientific conferences on isotope research (Symposium on Stable Isotopes, Symposium on Applied Radioactivity), nuclear medicine and nuclear physics held in the German Democratic Republic.

"The German Democratic Republic grants developing countries a large number of scholarships and other training facilities at the various scientific institutions of this country to assist them in building up their own scientific potentials.

"The German Democratic Republic publishes two periodicals, one journal for abstracts and numerous monographs on nuclear engineering which complement world literature in this field. Thus the German Democratic Republic is able to contribute essentially to the International Nuclear Information System (INIS). Its co-operation on an equal footing in INIS therefore also lies in the interest of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

III

"The global objectives and tasks of the International Atomic Energy Agency can only be implemented if the principle of universality, laid down in the Statute of the Agency, is respected. That is why all States agreeing with the aims and principles of the International Atomic Energy Agency and pursuing policies in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter should be able to participate on an equal footing in the activities of the International Atomic Energy Agency. This fully applies to the German Democratic Republic, which fulfils the conditions of the Statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency for the admission of members and is, in addition, in a position to contribute quite considerably to the realization of the tasks and objectives of the Agency.

"The German Democratic Republic reiterates and reaffirms its preparedness to co-operate as an equal Member in the International Atomic Energy Agency. The membership of the German Democratic Republic in the Agency would correspond to the principle of universality of the Agency, support it in fulfilling its steadily growing commitments and tasks and thus contribute to enhancing the effectiveness of the International Atomic Energy Agency in the promotion of the world-wide peaceful uses of atomic energy.

"Berlin, 21 September 1970"