



GC

International Atomic Energy Agency

GENERAL CONFERENCE

GC(XXX)/OR.284/Corr.1

July 1987

GENERAL Distr.

ENGLISH only

THIRTIETH REGULAR SESSION: 29 SEPTEMBER-3 OCTOBER 1986

RECORD OF THE TWO HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FOURTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Neue Hofburg, Vienna,
on Tuesday, 30 September 1986, at 10.10 a.m.

Corrigendum

Please replace pages 21-22 by the attached.

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General Conference. The approval of those conventions reflected the serious concern with which Member States viewed the safe use of nuclear energy and their efforts to minimize the radiological effects of nuclear accidents. It was hoped that public confidence in nuclear energy would have thereby been enhanced.

84. Following the Chernobyl accident, efforts had naturally been concentrated on ways and means of improving nuclear safety and strengthening international co-operation. In that connection the Agency had proposed an expanded programme on nuclear safety and radiation protection for 1987. His country supported in principle that proposal and noted that the Board of Governors, which had met in June, had approved a budgetary limit of US \$2.03 million for financing the expanded programme. At the same time, he wished to point out that the programme would need to be reviewed from time to time so that the requisite priorities for the various activities could be properly determined.

85. With regard to the Agency's overall programme for 1987 and 1988, he believed that the Agency's activities should reflect the priorities assigned to various areas by Member States. Although the question of safety was paramount, stress should also be given to nuclear applications for peaceful purposes. To ensure the highest safety standards, the Malaysian Government had set up a task force which was to co-ordinate the activities of various Government agencies monitoring and controlling radiological activities. Minimum safety levels had already been established for certain types of foodstuffs and it was hoped that public health could be safeguarded through such measures. The Agency's role in that field, particularly the human health and radiation protection programme, was of great importance to his country and the Agency was urged, when reviewing its expanded nuclear safety programme, to bear that fact in mind.

86. Malaysia did not intend to use nuclear energy as a source of power in the foreseeable future on account of the availability of other energy sources. His Government believed, however, that nuclear power was an important and viable alternative for developing countries. Accordingly,

Malaysia tried always to keep abreast of the latest developments in nuclear power technology. It also considered that nuclear energy as applied to agriculture, food, medicine and industry was of particular benefit to the developing countries.

87. Malaysia supported the Agency's efforts in promoting such uses of nuclear energy through technical assistance, research contracts and regional co-operation activities. The seminar on technical co-operation to be held during the present General Conference would be helpful for effective implementation of technical assistance projects.

88. One of the most successful innovations introduced by the Agency in its attempts to promote the peaceful uses of the atom was the Regional Co-operative Agreement (RCA). Malaysia supported the further extension of that Agreement. However, there should be at the same time careful assessment of the expense involved in the transfer of technology and of the appropriateness of the technology concerned. Appropriate technology should take into account the particular nature of problems in each area.

89. Malaysia had entered into bilateral agreements with Australia in four particular areas of application as well as setting up a state system of nuclear materials accounting. The acquisition of technology was crucial not only for growth but for the capacity to grow. Efforts towards greater technological self-reliance had to be supported through international co-operation. How quickly and how best the technologies could be transferred was the question. In that connection, the UNDP/RCA project on industrial application of isotopes and radiation technology under the auspices of the Agency represented an important step forward. Malaysia had recently signed an agreement to extend that project for a further period of five years.

90. With respect to the activities of the Committee on Assurances of Supply (CAS), his country was concerned over the lack of progress made. If nuclear energy was to be a viable source of power, the supply of nuclear equipment and services on a predictable and long-term basis in accordance with mutually acceptable considerations of non-proliferation had to be guaranteed.