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President: Mr. RAMANNA (India)

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GENERAL DEBATE AND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1985 (GC(XXX)/775 and Corr.1) (continued)

1. Mr. AHAFIA (Ghana) said that the Agency had witnessed a historic event, which had highlighted the important role that it was called upon to play in a world where the inherent dangers of nuclear energy were very real, whatever the social and economic advantages of that source of energy. The work accomplished by the group of government experts which had drawn up the two international agreements adopted recently was remarkable. Even if, in some respects, they were not completely satisfactory, the two conventions had been signed by more than 50 States, which was an important step forward for nuclear safety. It was to be hoped that, in view of their evident shortcomings, the two conventions would be subsequently re-examined and modified to meet the legitimate concerns of many States - the problems of nuclear safety knew no boundaries.

2. Ghana was continuing its programme for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In food irradiation, the research stage had now been completed. The Agency had promised to supply a cobalt-60 irradiator for the pilot stage, while his Government would finance the building which was to house that equipment. A plant mutation breeding project was also under way, the main aim of which was to obtain new varieties of cocoa with better resistance to disease. Soil science studies were being conducted in an attempt to improve irrigation methods and the use of fertilizers. Efforts were likewise being made to eradicate riverine tsetse flies using the sterile insect technique. Mass rearing would make it possible to release flies in selected areas in the near future. Finally, projects relating to nuclear analytical techniques and nuclear medicine were being implemented and radiation protection services had been set up in the country's hospitals.

3. Reports drawn up by the Secretariat indicated that nuclear power plants had produced about 15% of the world's electricity in 1985 and that that proportion was increasing. His delegation supported the Agency's activities in that area, particularly its nuclear power planning missions and training courses. It fully supported the recommendation that the Agency widen the scope of its assistance to developing countries by promoting additional studies likely to lead to improvements in the evaluation of planned nuclear

power projects: developing countries needed to improve their specialized knowledge in order to develop their peaceful nuclear energy programmes.

4. The question of the development of South Africa's nuclear capability should be taken very seriously by the General Conference which, at its previous sessions, had repeatedly referred to that potential threat. The Pretoria régime had ignored both the call to create a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Africa and repeated demands that it should place its nuclear facilities under Agency safeguards. The safeguards system, although it could only be applied with the agreement of States, had raised many hopes and had helped to establish confidence with regard to disarmament problems; it was all the more regrettable that the Pretoria régime had rejected the recent overtures by the Agency relating to safeguards. In that respect, it should be recalled that that régime was maintained by certain Powers which encouraged it to defy General Conference resolutions. It was with the help of those allies that South Africa could pursue its policies, and, in particular, could continue its illegal exploitation of Namibian uranium. Ghana would actively support the proposals made pursuant to General Conference resolution GC(XXIX)/RES/442.

5. The Agency's technical assistance and co-operation programme was one of the most reliable means of promoting the Agency's activities in developing countries. It was satisfying to note that, although the growth rates had decreased, technical co-operation resources and disbursements had increased in 1985. Without wishing to prejudice the interests of other regions, Ghana would like to see an increase in the proportion of resources made available for Africa. As a demonstration of its support for the Agency's technical assistance programme, his country was pledging the equivalent of US $6000 in local currency to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund.

6. In conclusion, he stressed the importance of nuclear energy for developing countries wishing to ensure their social and economic development: that was why it was so important to strengthen the Agency's activities in that area.

7. Mr. LYIMO (United Republic of Tanzania) said that the measures taken by the Agency following the Chernobyl accident and the speed with which

it had tackled the problems that had arisen had once again demonstrated the efficiency of the Secretariat and the co-ordinating role which the Agency could play in such circumstances.

8. His delegation shared the view held by almost all Member States that nuclear power was indispensable for many countries, that each country should endeavour to attain the highest possible level of safety and that international co-operation in nuclear safety should be strengthened.

9. His delegation believed that the two recently adopted conventions were very relevant to his country and to Africa in general in view of the presence of unsafeguarded nuclear facilities in a hostile neighbouring country, South Africa, and of the ignorance and under-development in the nuclear field of the States surrounding that country.

10. The adoption in 1983 of the Protection from Radiation Act by the Tanzanian Parliament showed that his Government recognized the role of nuclear technology in the country's social and economic development and the importance of nuclear safety. His delegation thanked the Agency for having provided effective assistance to the National Radiation Commission in setting up a radiation protection service which was now monitoring the exposure of individuals to external radiation. Moreover, the Agency had helped to draft a code of good practice for radiation users. The Commission was now attempting to extend the service to the monitoring of internal exposure and the environment, an area to which the Tanzanian Government attached great importance following the Chernobyl accident. As a result of world tension and apprehension over the transboundary effects of nuclear accidents, Tanzania had turned to the Commission for guidance and advice, despite its immaturity. His Government therefore wished to receive additional assistance from the Agency and other international organizations in order to strengthen the role of the Commission so as to make it an effective governmental body with responsibility for safety.

11. His delegation noted that the question whether the technical assistance and co-operation programme, which was essential to the social and economic advancement of developing countries, should be financed from the Regular

Budget or from other comparable and assured resources, had not been settled. However, it welcomed the consensus which had emerged on an increase of 12% in the target for voluntary contributions to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund. Moreover, his country was following with interest the Agency's efforts to optimize its technical assistance programme. In that connection, the organization of a seminar on technical co-operation during the current session of the Conference demonstrated the Agency's desire to find the most cost-effective means of providing assistance to developing countries in a period of zero budgetary growth.

12. The establishment in recipient countries of an official body with responsibility for managing Agency technical assistance projects was a prerequisite for the successful implementation of technical assistance. Developing countries should therefore be encouraged to adopt the necessary laws and to establish the relevant statutory bodies.

13. His delegation noted with satisfaction the efforts made by the Agency to increase the number of courses, fellowships and short-term expert missions as well as the quantity of equipment supplied. It also welcomed projects aimed at strengthening regional co-operation.

14. His country, which was at present experiencing a period of economic recovery, welcomed the support provided by the Agency for national research activities in the areas of agriculture, stockbreeding, health and hydrology and also for the nuclear physics unit of the Physics Department at the University of Dar es Salaam. Those activities would be increasingly successful with the expansion of the National Radiation Commission's services for radiation protection and the monitoring of internal exposure and the environment.

15. With regard to safeguards, his delegation wished to reiterate its concern at the large number of advanced nuclear States which had not placed the majority of their nuclear facilities under Agency safeguards. That applied particularly to South Africa, which continued to receive technical support from other Agency Member States despite international pressure. As a result of that collaboration, it had acquired a nuclear capability over the

years. That situation could have serious consequences not only for neighbouring countries which had no nuclear technology and were not even Members of the Agency, but also for all of Africa and the entire world. In that context, his delegation welcomed the fact that Zimbabwe had joined the Agency and hoped that other countries would follow its example. The geographical position of Tanzania made it all the more urgent for the two conventions adopted recently to be implemented and for nuclear safety programmes to be expanded. In conclusion, his delegation was very concerned about safety in Africa in view of South Africa's refusal to discuss the application of full-scope safeguards on its territory and the rapid development of its nuclear capability.

16. Mr. SUAREZ de PUGA (Spain) believed that the present session would mark a positive stage in the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy; the Agency had enhanced its reputation following the Chernobyl accident and had shown that it could play an important role within the international community. Spain, which would be a Member of the Board of Governors for three years, intended to make its mark in the following areas of the Agency's future activities, which it considered to be essential: the promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, while preventing the proliferation of non-peaceful activities; technical assistance to regions of the world which needed nuclear energy for their development and which lacked the necessary resources and technology; expansion of work on nuclear safety by strengthening the programmes and activities currently being implemented; and finally, the promotion of nuclear applications in the fields of medicine, agriculture, industry and research in order to further the health and well-being of humanity and to ensure the rational utilization of mankind's resources. He believed those four areas of activity fully justified the Agency's existence. As a Member of the Board, Spain would monitor with the greatest care the way in which the programmes in those areas were implemented for the benefit of all Member States.

17. With regard to the Agency's technical co-operation programme, his delegation noted with satisfaction the progress achieved in training graduates from developing countries. The expansion and improvement of those programmes

were essential and fully justified the efforts of the Division of Technical Assistance and Co-operation.

18. The non-proliferation of nuclear weapons was a prime concern of the Spanish Government. It believed that the Agency's work in that area was vital and would therefore always support the Agency's activities in that field.

19. In the area of nuclear safety, his delegation had already stressed, during the special session, that the continuous improvement of plant safety was essential; the recent adoption of the two conventions, which Spain had actively promoted, thus constituted an important landmark in international co-operation in the nuclear field. He wished to reiterate his Government's view that prompt notification should be given for all nuclear accidents, whatever their origin. Nuclear safety should in future be given the importance which it deserved within the Agency and particularly in the Board of Governors, and the relevant programmes should be implemented in accordance with the new requirements. For its part, Spain would continue, mainly through its Nuclear Safety Council, to do everything possible to improve the safety of its nuclear facilities and to co-operate actively at international level.

20. With regard to the Spanish programme for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, he noted that, in the nuclear power sector, the second unit of the Asco nuclear power plant (Tarragona), had been commissioned and connected to the national grid and had been operating at full power since March 1986; that power plant consisted of two PWR units each of 930 MW. In 1985, the newly installed capacity in Spain had reached 2584 MW, so that the total national installed capacity amounted to 41 486 MW by the end of the year: hydroelectric power accounted for 35.4% of that capacity, conventional thermal power for 50.6% and nuclear power for 14%.

21. The construction of two new units, Vandellos II and Trillo I, was continuing and it was planned to commission them in a few years time. Electricity production had reached some 120 000 GWh in 1985, an increase of 3.1% over 1984. Nuclear power was the area whose share of total electricity generation had increased the most rapidly, rising to 23.4%. Electricity demand had increased by 3.3% to reach 110 698 GWh, which was in line with the

forecasts of the national energy plan. Moreover, in 1985, improvement and refitting work had been satisfactorily carried out on two first generation nuclear power plants, Zorita and Santa Maria de Garoña.

22. With regard to the nuclear fuel cycle, he noted that proven uranium reserves in Spain amounted to 31 500 tonnes of U_3O_8 as of 31 December 1985, and production of U_3O_8 had reached 237 tonnes in that year. Furthermore, the fuel fabrication plant at Juzbado had commenced operation.

23. Under the provisions of the Law on the Co-ordination and Promotion of Scientific Research, the Spanish Nuclear Energy Board (JEN) would henceforth be called the "Research Centre for Energy, the Environment and Technology" (CIMAT) and would continue its work on, inter alia, nuclear technology and radiation protection. As far as radioactive waste was concerned, the Waste Management Plan was almost ready and was due to be approved by the Government in the near future.

24. An important event during the past year was the entry of Spain into the European Communities. A tripartite agreement was being prepared in order to establish a legal framework for safeguards. Spain had always considered that international co-operation was the best means of promoting the development of nations and mutual understanding and harmony among them. It would therefore continue to offer to co-operate with other countries as far as it was able in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Thus, in 1985, it had continued its technical co-operation activities by providing technical and scientific training for fellows and by providing expert services at the request of the Agency. It had also participated actively in the organization of Agency courses: one example was the international course on safety inspection during nuclear power plant operation held at JEN headquarters in Madrid in October and November 1985.

25. In conclusion, it was essential for the Board of Governors to have a suitable composition if the Agency was to be fully effective, and the necessary modifications to the Statute should therefore be made.

26. Mr. ZANNAD (Tunisia) noted that the thirtieth session of the General Conference was taking place at a difficult time for international

political and economic relations and for the development of nuclear power in the world. His country was keeping a careful watch on the development of the world energy situation and the prospects for using renewable energy sources.

27. The economic crisis and its implications remained a major cause of concern to developing countries. The growing importance of nuclear power in world electricity production (6% in 1975 and 15% in 1985) could not hide the realities of different regions or the questions raised by the Chernobyl accident. The development of nuclear power remained very uneven in different parts of the world and only a small number of countries were operating power reactors. The economic crisis had seriously affected growth in energy demand and had thereby widened the gap between developing and industrialized countries. It was true, especially in Africa, that the obstacles which continued to hamper the promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy were associated not only with the cost of facilities, the organizational structure and restrictions in technology transfer, but also with a lack of the necessary qualified staff to ensure better management and greater nuclear safety.

28. His Government had continued its efforts to introduce nuclear techniques in several vital areas, notably agriculture, industry, medicine, geology, hydrology and scientific research. Emphasis had also been placed on manpower training and on safety and radiation protection for all applications of nuclear techniques in the above sectors. With the Agency's assistance, regulations for the protection of workers against ionizing radiation would soon be promulgated. Finally, in the area of nuclear power planning, Tunisia had found the Agency's assistance very valuable and was grateful to the Secretariat for the quality of the assistance provided in 1985.

29. Despite the positive results, for which the Agency should be commended, further efforts were required to meet the ever-growing needs of developing countries. It was true that constraints still hampered the development of the Agency's activities, but it was regrettable that in the area of technical assistance many projects submitted by States had not found the necessary financing.

30. His delegation attached great importance to the amendment of Article VI.A.2 of the Agency's Statute and noted with regret that Africa

remained the most unfairly represented region on the Board of Governors. In that connection, the African group was disappointed that the Board had still not recommended a solution to that problem, despite the fact that various informal proposals had been submitted since 1977. Until a solution had been found, Africa would denounce an inequality which harmed its interests and encroached upon its rights. His delegation understood very well the aspirations of the group of western countries which had submitted a draft amendment to Article VI as a whole, and was in favour of the Hispano-Italian proposal[1] which aimed to correct the representation of the African region. Since it was essential to continue negotiations on that subject, his delegation, like others, requested the Board to set up a working group open to all Member States, without financial implications, in order to recommend to the General Conference at its next session a solution to the problem of the revision of Article VI as a whole.

31. Tunisia, which was a party to NPT, considered the Agency's safeguards system to be an instrument which could promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Like all members of the international community, his country was concerned at Israel's disregard for the safeguards system, the credibility of which had already been seriously brought into question by that country's attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor. With every day that passed, Israel's acquisition of a nuclear capability heightened the risk of nuclear weapons proliferation, and threatened not only the safety of all States in the region but also international peace and security.

32. As far as the apartheid régime was concerned, it continued to defy all General Conference resolutions and to violate constantly the basic provisions of the Statute. South Africa continued to pillage uranium resources from Namibia - which it was illegally occupying - and had taken it upon itself to disrupt completely the negotiations conducted by the Director General.

33. The attitude of Israel and South Africa gave Member States no choice but to reaffirm their determination to abide by the resolutions of the General Conference and to monitor their implementation. It was for the

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[1] Contained in the Annex to document GC(XXX)/780.

Conference to decide what measures should be taken against South Africa under the Statute.

34. The Agency's activities were appreciated by all Member States and it had an excellent reputation within the United Nations system. Both within the Agency and in other bodies such as the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (UNCPICPUNE), 1987 would be characterized by the search for new political trends likely to promote further the peaceful uses of nuclear energy for the social and economic development of the Third World. Tunisia would take part in those discussions, which it hoped would be fruitful.

35. His delegation hoped that the Agency would remain a meeting place for the forces of good (the use of the atom in the service of science, progress and the well-being of humanity) against the forces of evil (the use of the atom for the fabrication of weapons of death and destruction). By means of genetic engineering, biologists had been able to transform microbes, bacteria and other fungi which were sources of disease into agents for the production of vaccines, enzymes and natural hormones for the good of humanity. In the same way, physicists had used the atomic nucleus in the service of progress and peace, and would continue to do so to an even greater extent in the future.

36. Mr. LAVINA (Philippines) said that his country continued to attach importance to the Agency's work despite his Government's decision to halt its nuclear power programme. Chernobyl had confirmed the persistent fears about the dangers associated with the operation of nuclear power plants. His delegation shared the common concern for the adoption of effective safety measures through greater international co-operation.

37. For that reason, the results of the first special session were encouraging. Two conventions had been drawn up in record time and signed by more than 50 delegations. Others had been unable to sign because their Governments had not had enough time to consider all the implications. His delegation had had to defer the signing of those conventions because, in addition to the lack of time, it had been decided to reconsider the operation of the country's only nuclear power plant and a constitutional commission was

at present carrying out an in-depth analysis of the implications of other installations in the Philippines. However, once the doubts had been clarified, his country would be happy to become a party to the two conventions.

38. In his speech, the Director General had indicated that one of the conventions would enter into force in the near future since three States had expressed their consent to be bound by it. While most delegations welcomed that development, his country believed that it might have been better to have adopted a more realistic formula for the number of States whose consent was necessary so that the number would be more representative of the international community and would include both nuclear and non-nuclear States. His delegation had joined the consensus on the final document and on the resolution concerning the follow-up to the conclusions of the special session, and urged all other delegations to consider seriously the problems contained in that resolution.

39. His delegation approved the general direction of the expanded nuclear safety programme and was in favour of greater emphasis being placed on preventive rather than corrective measures. However, the financial implications of the programme should be examined further and an order of priority established for the activities in order to avoid having to spread the resources too thinly. His delegation particularly supported the expansion of the data bank of the power reactor information system which would enable the Agency to meet the information needs of Member States regarding facilities where problems might have occurred. Furthermore, the radiation dosimetry activities planned would help his country to provide accurate information on environmental monitoring. His country was also very interested in the efforts made jointly by the Agency, WHO, UNSCEAR, WMO and FAO and national health authorities to provide a set of reference methods for measuring key radioactive contaminants in environmental samples. It hoped that those organizations would be able to recommend, among other things, a set of international standards on intervention levels for various foodstuffs. Furthermore, since the Philippines continued to operate a research and training reactor, it would like to benefit from OSART and RAPAT missions and reiterated its interest in the promotion of probabilistic safety assessment.

40. Much attention had been concentrated on activities relating to the operation of nuclear power plants, but other activities involving the transfer of nuclear technology were just as important: the applications of nuclear techniques in agriculture, medicine, biology and health-related environmental research, for example, since those techniques had demonstrated that they could make a substantial contribution to the social and economic well-being of countries. Since the Philippines new national development policy gave priority to agriculture and to small- and medium-scale industries, the Agency's activities in those areas were of great interest.

41. As far as the technical assistance and co-operation programme was concerned, the fact that 96.9% of the target fixed for 1985 for the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund had been reached and that the Fund's resources had increased by 13% over the previous year clearly demonstrated the value which Member States attached to the programme. For its part, the Philippines was very grateful for the generous support it had received since 1959 under that programme. In that connection it also wished to thank the Government of the United Kingdom for the assistance it had provided to the Philippines in support of the latter's neutron activation analysis project. Furthermore, his delegation noted that net expenditure on the provision of technical assistance had increased slightly in 1985 as compared to 1984, even though aggregate net expenditure in 1985 had been slightly lower than in 1984. In that connection, it welcomed the Secretariat's efforts to evaluate the programme so as to make better utilization of the resources and to rationalize programme implementation.

42. As a member of the Group of 77, the Philippines fully supported technical co-operation between developing countries under the Caracas Programme of Action. It welcomed the contribution to the implementation of that programme made by the Agency through its technical co-operation activities, particularly in the prevention of food losses, the development of high-yield varieties and pest control, as well as the support given to regional co-operation, as illustrated by the regional co-operation agreement for Asia and the Pacific (RCA) and the regional co-operative arrangements for Latin America (ARCAL).

43. With regard to the Safeguards Implementation Report for 1985, his delegation noted with satisfaction that, as in previous years, the Secretariat had not detected any diversion or misuse of safeguarded nuclear material or facilities. As far as the financing of safeguards was concerned, it was regrettable that agreement had not yet been reached on a more predictable and more stable system. The Philippines believed that safeguards were of interest to all Member States and should be strengthened. However, any new system of financing would have to take into account the level of development of nuclear power programmes in the countries concerned and their financial resources.

44. As far as the amendment of Article VI of the Statute was concerned, his delegation reaffirmed its support for the principle of universality in the Agency, which should be reflected in an equitable representation of Member States on the Board of Governors. The first task, therefore, was to try to remedy the under-representation of the regions of "Africa" and "Middle East and South Asia", before examining any proposal to increase the representation of other regions. Furthermore, his delegation felt that the developing countries should be better represented on the Professional staff, the numbers of their nationals being brought into proportion with the number of developing States Members of the Agency.

45. Mr. PECCI (Paraguay) said that in 1985 the National Atomic Energy Commission had continued with its programme, the main objective of which was to develop the necessary infrastructures to stimulate the use of nuclear techniques in the production and service sectors, in order to contribute to the economic and social development of the country, in particular in the areas of health, industry, agriculture, stockbreeding and mining of radioactive ores.

46. In the current difficult times, pressing needs were felt in all sectors, and the situation could become irremediable if those needs were not met. It was up to the leaders to seek actively, in a calm and responsible manner, the most rational way of emerging from crisis and meeting the country's development needs.

47. For its part, during its 20 years' existence, despite a pronounced lack of interest in most of the private sector, the National Atomic Energy

Commission had accumulated rich and varied experience with that end in mind. Regulations relating to the use of radioisotopes and ionizing radiation as well as specific radiation safety standards had been adopted. The Commission had signed bilateral agreements with the Argentine, Brazilian and Chilean authorities and had established institutional links with international organizations such as the Agency and the Organization of American States, through the Inter-American Nuclear Energy Commission and the Tlatelolco Treaty; it had received substantial technical, scientific and economic assistance from those organizations in the form of equipment, fellowships and expert services, from which its own departments and centres were endeavouring to derive maximum benefit. From the time of its establishment, the Commission had subscribed to that form of co-operation because it gave everyone access to nuclear science and technology, particularly in the areas of medicine and nuclear power, and because it provided a means of propagating and strengthening knowledge through the transfer of experience and technology under the auspices of the international organizations.

48. The various departments of the Commission had organized several training courses for Paraguayan staff, and a specialized nuclear library affiliated with INIS had been set up within the Department of Training and Scientific Exchange. The reform currently being carried out in the departments should make it possible to regroup their experience within a nuclear centre, the plans and justification for which had been submitted to the President of the Republic: the centre was expected to be built as soon as the economic situation permitted - according to plan in the Chaco, as part of the development and promotion of that region. The reform in progress would enable the National Atomic Energy Commission to exercise official control over all nuclear activities.

49. The Commission had benefited from its regular participation in the meetings of the policy-making organs and the scientific and technical meetings of international organizations such as the Agency, the Organization of American States and the Inter-American Nuclear Energy Commission. At regional level, the present co-operation procedures marked a considerable improvement over the previous system. The Commission had joined the regional co-operative

arrangements for the promotion of nuclear science and technology in Latin America (ARCAL), in the hope of exchanging experience and scientific and technical knowledge with other member countries. Under those arrangements, Paraguay had been given the responsibility of holding a very important meeting on X-ray fluorescence analysis. Therefore, instead of being dependent, as had previously been the case, on the goodwill of friendly countries, the Commission was now in a position to exercise the rights and fulfil the obligations associated with Paraguay's status as a member country of ARCAL and to benefit from the technical assistance offered by that organization in the form of equipment, fellowships and expert services - in return for a financial contribution by the Paraguayan Government. That was why the Commission aimed, above all, to consolidate its gains and to ensure that its statutes were observed - for those constituted the only instrument which could guarantee its unity and enable it to occupy - with the economic support it deserved - its rightful place in society as a depositary of the peaceful applications of nuclear energy.

50. During the past year, the Commission had been engaged in intensive international co-operation on both the multilateral and bilateral levels. It continued to benefit from Agency assistance in the form of equipment, fellowships, expert services and scientific visits. Also thanks to the Agency, staff from the Commission as well as experts at the National University of Asunción and from private enterprise had received intensive training which was expected to enable the country to attain the technical and scientific maturity without which it would be unable to develop its nuclear applications programme. The Commission had taken an active part in the work of regional organizations such as the Inter-American Nuclear Energy Commission and ARCAL, and had enjoyed fruitful bilateral co-operation with the Argentine National Atomic Energy Commission leading to concerted action - particularly in the granting of fellowships - and to the organization of intensive training courses for scientific staff. The Commission's participation in the courses and conferences which had taken place in different countries of Latin America had also proved to be profitable. Furthermore, it had been represented by its Chairman at the twenty-ninth session of the Agency's General Conference, at

the joint meeting held by the countries of the Rio de la Plata Basin and countries in the Andean region with a view to establishing ARCAL, and at the meeting of the Inter-American Nuclear Energy Commission which had taken place in Buenos Aires from 7 to 11 April 1984.

51. At national level, the Commission had given its support to organizations such as the Institute for Research in Health Sciences, the Cancer Institute and the Faculties of Chemistry, Agronomy, Veterinary Sciences, Physics and Mathematics. On 23 August 1984, the preliminary plan for the Chaco Nuclear Centre had been submitted to the executive authorities through the Ministry of External Relations, accompanied by several proposals relating to its location and a general report on the project, with the request for a political decision at the highest level and a firm commitment to implement it. The project offered a good example of how efforts could be concerted and focused on solving national problems such as the social, economic and political development of Chaco. Mention should also be made of the co-operation between the Commission and the United Nations Office regarding the implementation of projects. The Commission had concluded an arrangement with the National Cancer Institute providing for collaboration in the training of scientific staff for the new cancer hospital - likewise designed to handle patients suffering from burns - which was equipped with a gamma camera. Finally, through the intermediary of its Department of Biomedical Nuclear Applications, the Commission had, with the Agency's assistance, set up several radiation protection and dosimetry laboratories.

52. Mr. IONESCU (Romania) said that the General Conference was taking place at a time when international relations were marked by particularly serious tensions, which made it absolutely necessary to halt the arms race, to adopt specific disarmament measures, including nuclear disarmament, to renounce the use of force and threats in international relations, to rely on negotiations for the solution of contentious problems between States, to find global solutions to problems of underdevelopment - particularly the problem of the foreign debt of developing countries - and to set up a new international economic order. The President of the Socialist Republic of Romania had recently stressed that Romania was in favour of holding an international

conference under the auspices of the United Nations in which all developing countries and developed countries would participate on an equal footing, the principal aim being to draw up a series of conventions to promote, in particular, the advancement of backward countries while ensuring the harmonious development of the world economy.

53. Romania, supporting as it did all efforts to increase the contribution of science and technology to the economic and social development of countries, wanted the Agency to play a still greater role in strengthening and diversifying international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, promoting the unhindered transfer of nuclear technology, and securing the safety of facilities and nuclear activities as well as the protection of the population, property and the environment against radiation.

54. His delegation felt that the Agency's programme, and its budget for 1987 and 1988, could reflect even more clearly than they did the increasing role of the Agency and its contribution to the solution of certain essential problems which were of particular interest to Member States, such as nuclear energy, the strengthening of operational safety at nuclear power plants, the increased use of nuclear methods in industry, agriculture and medicine, radiation protection, the training of experts in all those areas, and technical assistance.

55. The nuclear safety programme should include studies aimed at the development of extremely safe reactors, analysis of the safety of current power reactors with a view to improving their operational safety, revision of the Agency's safety standards to meet new requirements, the updating of standards governing quality assurance and control in the nuclear field, the preparation of standards for the decontamination of nuclear facilities following a nuclear accident, the preparation and implementation of training programmes for different categories of personnel and support for developing countries in setting up environmental radioactivity monitoring networks.

56. With regard to the proposed budget for 1987, his delegation remained in favour of strict economy, the most rational utilization of resources and personnel possible and the reduction of administrative costs and expenditure

on safeguards. For that reason, his delegation believed that the budget for the coming year should be lower than that of the current year.

57. Under its social and economic development policy, Romania was implementing programmes related to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy - programmes designed above all to satisfy the growing energy needs of the national economy. Thus, for the construction of the Cernavada power plant the country had had to assimilate different manufacturing techniques and had itself produced a lot of equipment and materials. A large network of research and engineering institutes had provided assistance for those activities in an attempt to solve certain essential problems related to the design of nuclear facilities and their operational safety.

58. In conclusion, his delegation welcomed the good relations which existed between Romania and the Agency and expressed the conviction that in future the Agency would contribute still further to the strengthening of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

59. Mr. PAPADEMAS (Cyprus) said that the way in which the Agency and the whole international community had reacted following the tragic accident at Chernobyl was praiseworthy, but one might legitimately wonder whether it would really have been necessary to wait until such a disaster had occurred before taking preventive measures and adopting the conventions on early notification and assistance in the event of an accident. It was to be hoped that the Chernobyl accident would really serve as a warning to anyone who might be cherishing the hope of victory in a nuclear war. Likewise, it was to be hoped that the ban on nuclear tests would be definitive and that a treaty on the reduction and final elimination of nuclear weapons would become a reality in the near future.

60. The adoption of the two conventions by Member States was a success for the Agency which should stimulate yet more resolute and rigorous action to promote the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Cyprus would sign and ratify those conventions as soon as the necessary domestic formalities had been fulfilled.

61. As in the previous year, his delegation approved the Agency's technical assistance and co-operation programme, which enabled small countries with

limited resources to benefit from major technical advances in the areas of medicine, agriculture, water conservation and the protection of the environment.

62. In conclusion, his delegation regretted, with regard to the staffing of the Secretariat, that the just representation of the developing countries within the Secretariat, requested regularly in General Conference resolutions, was not coming about as rapidly as had been anticipated. A number of Member States were still not represented among the Secretariat staff, although they had competent personnel. His delegation hoped that that situation would be remedied in the near future.

63. Mr. COSTANZO (Uruguay) recalled that his delegation attached great importance to nuclear energy and that, in order to improve the effectiveness of its programme in that sector, it had set up a Directorate of Nuclear Technology, which was attached to the Ministry of Industry and Energy. That body was responsible for implementing the policies and plans drawn up by the National Atomic Energy Commission, which advised the executive authorities and co-ordinated relations with the Agency.

64. His Government hoped to collaborate more and more closely with the Agency, particularly in the areas to which all developing countries had to give priority if they wished to ensure the well-being of their populations. Thus, assistance in agriculture would be particularly welcome because it would enable Uruguay to derive the greatest possible benefit from the knowledge already acquired. It was also important to develop collaboration between countries for the greater benefit of all, and, that being so, the regional co-operative arrangements for the promotion of nuclear science and technology in Latin America (ARCAL) were fully supported by the competent authorities in Uruguay.

65. Mankind was undoubtedly faced with a dilemma: either it must control the elements which its genius had released, or those elements would rapidly lead to its destruction. The efforts which it should make in that direction could be individual - as in the case of Mahatma Ghandi - or collective, as should be the aim of the General Conference. In both cases, a balance should

be sought between the two dreams of mankind: the need to know and the desire to use. And in that uncertain adventure there could be no actors and spectators, masters of technology and passive subjects: the hopes and fears were the same for all.

66. That was why the Agency's universality was a principle which became more vital each day - a fact which Uruguay welcomed. Whether one belonged to a rich or to a poor country, whether one had technology or not, the principle of the sovereign and inalienable equality of all States, of all mankind, must not be forgotten; recent events had again demonstrated the validity of that principle. The Agency should give priority to everything relating to control, safety and safeguards mechanisms, to compensation for damage suffered by innocent victims, and his delegation hoped that the Agency's work would be increasingly effective so that humanity could make use of the forces of nature without running the risk of annihilation.

67. As a small country, Uruguay fervently hoped that the General Conference would conduct its work successfully. Uruguay was determined, for its part, to support all positive actions and to oppose anything which might be detrimental to peace between peoples of goodwill.

68. The PRESIDENT proposed that the Conference suspend the general debate in order to take up item 8 of the agenda, "Election of Members to the Board of Governors". If there were no objections, he would take it that consideration of item 6 was suspended and that the Conference was ready to proceed with the election of Members to the Board of Governors.

69. It was so decided.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS (GC(XXX)/790)

70. The PRESIDENT recalled that, to ensure that the Board would be constituted in accordance with Article VI.A of the Statute, the General Conference was required to elect 11 Members to places on the Board for the geographical areas specified in paragraph 2 of document GC(XXX)/790.

71. Since the seat for the Middle East and South Asia region was the only one for which there were several candidates, he proposed that a secret ballot be conducted for that seat only and that Rule 79 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference be suspended for the remaining elective places.

72. Mr. KHLESTOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said his country could not support the President's proposal.

73. The PRESIDENT said that it would therefore be necessary to conduct a secret ballot to elect 11 Members to the Board.

74. A vote was taken by secret ballot to elect 11 Members to the Board of Governors.

75. At the invitation of the President, a member of the Danish delegation and a member of the Polish delegation acted as tellers.

76. The PRESIDENT, noting that the counting of votes would take some time, suggested that consideration of item 6 of the agenda be resumed in the meantime.

GENERAL DEBATE AND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1985 (GC(XXX)/775) (resumed)

77. Mr. KRSTIC (Yugoslavia) said that the General Conference was being held at a time when, despite the new opportunities offered by scientific and technical development, the economic gap between the developing and developed countries continued to widen, thus becoming one of the most glaring contradictions of the contemporary world. That was one of the grave concerns facing the developing countries, and particularly the non-aligned countries, which at their recent eighth summit conference in Harare had considered ways of remedying the situation and had expressed their resolve to struggle for peace and the democratization of international relations.

78. In the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the point had been reached where there was no longer any question whether nuclear energy should or should not continue to be used to meet the energy requirements of many countries, since some simply had no choice. Yugoslavia attached great importance to that source of energy both for electricity production and for its other applications, and was at the same time striving to ensure a very high level of safety. It was currently preparing an energy programme which would draw on all available energy sources, including nuclear power.

79. Much had been said about the Chernobyl accident and its overall consequences. The public had expressed justified concern not only about the

effects of the radioactive fallout produced but also about other uses and the future development of nuclear energy in general. There were other consequences, too. In its trade with certain countries, Yugoslavia had, for example, faced unjustified unilateral restrictions which had caused it considerable damage. All of the above highlighted the need for further regulation of international relations in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The two important international conventions which had just been adopted were a first step in that direction. The Agency had and would continue to have a very important role to play in those efforts, a role which his country supported.

80. His delegation had noted a further improvement in efficiency in many of the Agency's activities in the past year. While his delegation in principle favoured a zero-growth budget, it was clear that the maintenance of the budget at the same level for several years had considerably reduced the Agency's room for manoeuvre and that the Agency had now exhausted its internal resources. The intensification of international co-operation made the Agency's task more complex and its role more important. His delegation had always supported that view, particularly in the preparations for the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (UNCPICPUNE).

81. His country had long maintained that the Agency should perform all its duties with the same degree of commitment and efficiency. In that connection, it endorsed the Director General's view that placing greater emphasis on a particular activity or activities should not be taken as indicating less interest in other sectors.

82. His delegation also wished to express its satisfaction at the successful co-operation between Yugoslavia and the Agency in various peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Each year his country hosted several Agency meetings and contributed in many other ways to its activities. It would be the first to accept a visit from an Analysis of Safety-Significant Events Team (ASSET) towards the end of the year. His country also intended to contribute its full share to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund for 1987. In the course of 1986, Yugoslavia had ratified the Convention on the Physical

Protection of Nuclear Material, which it hoped would soon enter into force, and had also joined the Agency's Incident Reporting System.

83. The aftermath of the Chernobyl accident had shown that the intensification of international co-operation was not only necessary - that, in fact, had always been so - but also possible, and one might well ask why such an accident had to occur before that was realized. The accident simply confirmed what many knew already, namely that radiation recognized neither international borders nor ideological or political differences. Consequently, no nuclear technology, whether it originated in the north, south, east or west, could claim to be absolutely accident-proof. Co-operation on safety should therefore begin at the stage when technology was being developed.

84. The special session of the General Conference had successfully rounded off the first phase of international activities in the field of nuclear safety and had resulted in an abundance of useful proposals, ideas and suggestions for future action at national and international levels. What was even more important and encouraging, however, was the determination expressed at the special session to continue working in the same spirit and atmosphere as had prevailed during the drafting of the two conventions. His country supported efforts to settle outstanding international issues since those were essential to future rational and productive co-operation in the field of nuclear energy. The amount of work awaiting the Agency, the Board of Governors and the international community as a whole was therefore great, but expectations - of the public in particular - were perhaps even greater.

85. He wished to express what he hoped was unjustified disappointment at the fact that, throughout the above intense activity aimed at improving and strengthening international co-operation, little mention had been made of UNCPICPUNE. That Conference was the largest forum available for studying and perhaps implementing one or more important phases of work relating to the promotion of international co-operation in many aspects of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, including safety. The objectives of that Conference and the possibilities it offered should not be forgotten, rather the best use should be made of the last stage of the preparatory work, which was due to begin shortly.

86. Finally, he wished on behalf of his Government to thank the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany for having provided additional resources to finance some of his country's footnote-a/ projects.

87. Mr. AUDLAND (Commission of European Communities), recalling that EURATOM was safeguarding large quantities of nuclear material in about 600 installations in the twelve countries of the Community, wished to raise the question of safeguards co-operation between EURATOM and the Agency and of some of the broad safeguards problems facing the two organizations.

88. The EURATOM safeguards system had, of course, been designed to meet the requirements of the Treaty of Rome, under which EURATOM was established, but it had been agreed from the start that the principles of the system should be compatible with the Agency's Statute which had at that time just been approved. The two safeguards systems were indeed compatible. However, at the time of the negotiation of the NPT, the Community had to decide whether changes to its system were required in view of the fact that its characteristics differed from those of the Agency system. Those differences arose because the Agency system was a world-wide and not a regional one. It was not supranational but was instead based on contractual relationships between the Agency and each State concerned. Unlike the EURATOM system, it did not extend to ores. Also, it did not include more specific obligations of the type contained in the Community's agreements with certain key supplier States. Lastly, it had no provision for sanctions.

89. The Community had decided that it should not rely on the Agency's system alone. That would have given rise, inter alia, to problems regarding the Community's agreements with supplier States, since the latter had imposed safeguards obligations on EURATOM which went beyond those provided for in the three agreements with the Agency. That Community decision had made it necessary to arrange for the co-existence of the two systems, since their unco-ordinated application would have resulted in unacceptable burdens on nuclear operators in the Community. It would also have deprived the Agency of the advantages of the Community's supranational safeguards system. The two organizations had therefore established close working relations which were currently governed by three agreements: the agreement between the Community,

the Agency and the nine non-nuclear-weapon States, signed in 1973; the agreement between the Community, the Agency and the United Kingdom, signed in 1976; and the agreement between the Community, the Agency and France, signed in 1978. As the Director General had mentioned in his statement, the Community was now proposing that a fourth agreement be concluded between Spain, the Agency and the Community. The agreements were all supplemented by, inter alia, subsidiary arrangements and facility attachments. The operation of those agreements was monitored on the one hand by the Board of Governors of the Agency, and on the other by the Commission. It was monitored in more detail through frequent meetings of the EURATOM/IAEA liaison committees, which were supplemented by many other meetings at different levels between the two organizations.

90. The aim of those different arrangements was to ensure that the agreements were implemented effectively, an aim which was being achieved. In the field of safeguards, EURATOM enjoyed increasingly close and extensive co-operation with the Agency, co-operation which could and should be further strengthened in the years to come. That co-operation now covered the whole gamut of safeguards activities. It started with the development and harmonization of safeguards strategies for different types of installation, and continued with the development of the necessary instruments, the conclusion of arrangements for applying safeguards to particular sites and the joint planning of the inspections themselves. In addition, good co-operation existed in the actual performance of inspections, which were conducted simultaneously and sometimes jointly, thereby limiting any inconvenience to operators. Although the inspectors reached their own independent conclusions, the close co-operation that existed meant that those would normally be very similar.

91. The first question he had asked himself upon taking up his present position was whether the safeguards systems of EURATOM and the Agency were succeeding in their allotted tasks, which had much in common. In both cases, the most important task was to detect within a defined period of time any diversion of nuclear materials from the purpose for which they were intended. Like all those with extensive knowledge of that question, he had rapidly

concluded that, thanks to a great deal of hard work by many people over many years, the two safeguards systems afforded a reasonable degree of assurance on that crucial point.

92. In safeguards, however, one could never rest on one's laurels. New challenges were constantly arising. There was first the quantitative challenge resulting from the enormous expansion of the use of nuclear energy. Within the Community, for example, the amount of plutonium under EURATOM safeguards had risen from 18 tonnes at the end of 1975 to 98 tonnes a decade later. It should be remembered that the inspectorates must know where every gram of plutonium was to be found at any moment. There was also the qualitative challenge. The industrial processes to which nuclear materials were subjected were becoming more and more complex, thereby complicating the work of the inspectors, who had to adapt continuously to technological progress.

93. There was yet another challenge: public opinion, at least within the Community, was becoming increasingly demanding with regard to safeguards. Formerly, the public had seemed prepared to accept, without asking many questions, that safeguards inspectorates were serious and conscientious bodies which were fully aware of what was happening, and that all was well if those inspectorates felt able to declare, perhaps once a year, that they had not detected any anomaly in the use and movement of nuclear materials. In the Community, that was no longer so. In discharging its duties, the safeguards service increasingly had not only to satisfy itself that safeguards were effective, but also to be able to demonstrate to the public in a much more specific way than previously that that was indeed the case.

94. Particularly since 1979 when it was directly elected for the first time, the European Parliament had constantly been asking for more and more information on safeguards. While in the whole of 1980 only one parliamentary written question had been addressed to the Commission on the subject of safeguards, as many as 33 had been submitted in the first half of 1986 alone. The same trend could be observed in the parliaments of several Community Member States. The media were also taking a greater interest in safeguards. To meet the increased demand for transparency, the Commission had decided in

future to publish an annual report on the operation of the EURATOM safeguards system in which it would attempt to give a more detailed insight into that subject, while of course respecting the confidentiality of specific data which was essential for many reasons, in particular to facilitate proper physical protection.

95. On a quite different point, he had been struck by the importance and at the same time the difficulty of introducing new instrumentation into safeguards activities. Such instrumentation was needed for two reasons: on the one hand to improve knowledge, if possible, about flows of nuclear materials, and on the other to prevent the number of staff from increasing in direct proportion to the expansion of the nuclear industry. Hence there was a constant need for new instrumentation, both for the measurement or containment of nuclear materials and for the surveillance of the operation of nuclear facilities.

96. Operators - and they were not alone in that respect - were inclined to have a split personality regarding safeguards. In principle, they welcomed safeguards because they knew that, for nuclear energy to develop, the public must have reasonable assurance not only about health and safety matters, which had been examined by the General Conference the previous week, but also about the safeguarding of nuclear materials and the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons. But operators were human. Hence their welcome in principle was often accompanied by a large number of questions addressed to the safeguards authority in order to determine whether particular aspects of safeguards operations were really essential. Inspectorates must always be ready and willing to explain themselves both to operators and to the public.

97. Turning to another aspect of safeguards methodology, he noted that, as nuclear installations became even more sophisticated, it became increasingly important for safeguards requirements to be taken into consideration right at the start of the design stage. Only in that way could the inconvenience of safeguards to industry be kept to a minimum. That was not easy to bring about, however, since safeguards requirements could too easily be overlooked or regarded as secondary in relation to other important considerations such as operational safety and reliability, ease of maintenance, economy and the minimization of the radiation exposure of persons during normal operation.

98. One conclusion emerged clearly from those thoughts on the relationship between safeguards authorities and the safeguarded operator: the former must redouble their efforts to explain themselves directly to the latter. That was exactly what EURATOM was doing.

99. In closing, he wished to pay a tribute to the inspectors, and not only to the EURATOM inspectors whom he knew well, but also to those of the Agency whose work he held in high regard. Inspectors spent up to half of their working life away from home. They travelled to installations which, however exciting to visit once or twice as a "nuclear tourist", could prove difficult to tolerate in the long term because of differences in language, culture and climate. Moreover, by the very nature of their work, inspectors were in a state of friction with those with whom they had professional dealings -- the operators and national authorities. They were thus permanently exercising a quasi-diplomatic function and had been doing so in an effective and circumspect manner for many years, without compromising the essential principles of safeguards. The fact that there had been few serious difficulties with those subject to safeguards demonstrated the soundness of the procedures used to select, train and motivate that group of men and women, but it was above all a tribute to the skill, tact and devotion of the inspectors themselves. They had performed and were continuing to perform an international service of the highest order, and for that they deserved to be thanked.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.