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SOUTH AFRICA'S NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES

Note by the Director General

1. In resolution GC(XXXI)/RES/485 the General Conference requested me "to continue to take all possible measures to ensure the full implementation of resolution GC(XXX)/RES/468 and report to the thirty-second regular session of the General Conference in this regard".
2. In a letter dated 9 October 1987 to the South African Minister of Economic Affairs and Technology, I referred to State President Botha's statement of 21 September 1987 in which he had said "The Republic of South Africa is prepared to commence negotiations with each of the nuclear weapon States on the possibility of signing the Non-Proliferation Treaty". In my letter I assured the Minister that the Secretariat of the Agency was ready for informal discussions about the procedures for concluding and implementing standard safeguards agreements pursuant to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). No such discussions with the Secretariat have yet taken place.
3. The Agency continues to apply safeguards in South Africa at the SAFARI research reactor (INFCIRC/98) and at the Koeberg nuclear power station (INFCIRC/244). As reported in sub-paragraph 2(c) of document GC(XXXI)/807/Add.1, the facility attachment is in force for the application of safeguards at the hot cell laboratory at Pelindaba whenever it contains safeguarded nuclear material from the two safeguarded facilities mentioned above.

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4. There have been no particular problems in the administration of these safeguards. There have been no developments since the last General Conference session as regards the negotiation of a safeguards agreement covering South Africa's semi-commercial enrichment plant (see paragraph 7 of Attachment 2 to document GC(XXXI)/807), but any safeguards agreement concluded after adherence to the NPT by South Africa would include this plant.

5. On 12 August 1988, at the request of South Africa, discussions took place between representatives of the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union and the United States (the three Depositary Powers for NPT) and of South Africa. A message to me from the three Depositary Powers was circulated to Member States on 15 August 1988 in document INFCIRC/356.

6. In resolution GC(XXXI)/RES/485 the General Conference also requested me "to bring this resolution to the attention of the Secretary-General of the United Nations". This was done.