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on Tuesday, 20 September 1988, at 10.20 a.m.

President: Mr. HALIM (Malaysia)
later: Mr. AAMODT (Norway)

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[*] GC(XXXII)/834.

The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document GC(XXXII)/INF/262/Rev.2.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE (resumed)

1. The PRESIDENT said that the Latin America group had come to a decision regarding its nominees to serve on the General Committee and he proposed that the delegate of Guatemala be elected as Vice-President and the delegate of Colombia be elected as an additional member.
2. It was so decided.
3. Thirteen members of the General Committee had now been appointed. However, one group had not yet been able to agree on its nominees, so that the General Committee could not yet be fully constituted.
4. If the General Committee was late in holding its first meeting to discuss the Conference's agenda, that would delay the work of the Committee of the Whole, and in those circumstances he proposed that the Conference suspend Rules 34 and 40 of the Rules of Procedure ad interim in order that the General Committee might meet soon.
5. Mr. MAHMASSANI (Lebanon) asked the President for an interpretation of the phrase "subject to the provisions of the Statute of the Agency ..." in Rule 102 of the Conference's Rules of Procedure in relation to the proposal which he had just made.
6. The PRESIDENT replied that, while the Agency's Statute was undoubtedly paramount, it did not deal with the question of the composition of the General Committee, so that he did not believe there to be any conflict between his proposal and the Statute.
7. He took it that the Conference was ready to accept his proposal that Rules 34 and 40 be suspended so as to enable the General Committee to meet soon.
8. Mr. MAHMOUD (Iraq) said he understood that the Middle East and South Asia group was close to agreement on its nominees and suggested that the Conference defer further consideration of the matter until its next plenary meeting.
9. The Conference agreed to defer further consideration of the matter.

GENERAL DEBATE AND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1987 (GC(XXXII)/835) (resumed)

10. Mr. SHENSTONE (Canada) said the past two years had been trying times for all international organizations, and the IAEA had not been spared. Although Member States acknowledged the Agency's position at the centre of international nuclear co-operation, their expressions of support had often not been translated into tangible deeds. The Canadian Government urged them to fulfil their obligations towards the Agency in full and on time.

11. The twentieth anniversary of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in 1988 was a reminder of its crucial importance in preventing nuclear proliferation, facilitating nuclear co-operation for peaceful purposes and encouraging nuclear weapons reductions. Canada had an abiding commitment to NPT and attached great importance to all States becoming full parties to it.

12. The Agency's safeguards were of paramount importance and highly effective. Canada had been pleased to note that no anomalies indicating the diversion of safeguarded nuclear material had been detected during 1987. The pressures of "limited growth" should not be allowed to permit the deterioration of safeguards. Canada had been working with the Secretariat to find ways of utilizing available IAEA resources to maintain the effectiveness of safeguards. It welcomed the fact that, in December 1987, the IAEA field office in Toronto had been upgraded to a Regional Office.

13. The Agency and Canada had invested considerable effort in preparing a safeguards approach for the new multi-unit nuclear generating station at Darlington. The Agency's special project, which had facilitated exchanges with Canadian officials and with the facility operator, could serve as a model for implementing safeguards at other facilities.

14. For 11 years, the Canadian Safeguards Support Programme had been helping the Agency achieve its goals and objectives, particularly for CANDU-type on-load fuelled reactors. Considerable progress had been made on a system based on a combination of containment, continuous surveillance and non-destructive assay which could be of broader application in providing assurance against diversion. Canada had been pleased to witness signs of increased co-operation among the safeguards support programmes of other countries.

15. Although it had been over two years since the events at Chernobyl, public concern over nuclear safety persisted. That factor and other recent developments had forced a more prominent role on the Agency. Attention was being focused on environmental degradation owing to fossile fuels, and concern over climatic changes caused by men was growing. The World Conference on the Changing Atmosphere, held at Toronto in June 1988, had recommended reassessing the nuclear power option, which could have a role to play in lowering carbon dioxide emissions. A standing committee of the Canadian House of Commons had concluded that nuclear power represented an environmentally appealing technology. The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources had released a study of energy alternatives for Canada which had concluded that the nuclear option should be sustained as a component of Canada's energy mix. Although a recent survey had revealed over 50% acceptance of nuclear power in Canada, it was still necessary to build better public knowledge and a broader acceptance of nuclear energy.

16. His delegation acknowledged the valuable role played by the Nordic delegations in relation to sustainable development. Canada shared their deep concern about the environment and considered that international organizations should include an emphasis on the environmental factor in their programming and budgeting. The Agency was to be commended for its long-standing, effective activities relating to the environment, in particular nuclear safety, radiation protection and waste management, and for its renewed emphasis on the environment in the light of the report of the Brundtland Commission. In Canada's view, a review of the Agency's programmes from the environmental perspective would contribute both to public acceptance of nuclear energy and to the Agency's work in its promotion.

17. The Agency's intensive efforts in the field of nuclear safety had culminated in the adoption of the revised NUSS Codes of Practice, which provided valuable guidance to States that were developing or revising their national safety requirements, and could serve as a useful reference in the safety assessment of nuclear power plants. The NUSS Codes and the safety guides might need to be augmented by requirements specific to particular reactor designs. Continued progress in the Agency's nuclear safety activities

could best be achieved through an integrated programme that eliminated the increasingly artificial division between its regular and supplementary components.

18. Canada had long collaborated with the Agency on the formulation of standards and criteria for the management of radioactive wastes: it was a leader in research on the disposal of radioactive wastes in deep geological formations. An environmental review of nuclear fuel waste management issues in Canada was to be carried out, and a siting task force would be formed to establish a low-level radioactive waste management facility in the province of Ontario.

19. In 1987, 18 nuclear power plants had supplied over 15% of the electricity generated in Canada. Pressure tubes in two nuclear reactors had been successfully replaced: complete retubing of reactor cores greatly extended the reactor's life and enhanced its economic advantages.

20. Canada remained the world's leading producer and exporter of uranium and took great interest in the Agency's activities involving uranium geology and exploration and exploitation technology. It supported the Agency's biennial effort to assess the world uranium supply in co-operation with the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, and believed the high quality of the NEA/IAEA Red Book should be maintained.

21. Canada was in the forefront of international research into the applications of nuclear energy in the non-power sector, and strongly supported the Agency's activities involving research and isotopes. It had collaborated with the IAEA in a number of projects, including the monitoring of fall-out radioactivity in the environment and food and pollution studies. During the past year an accelerator for radiation applications had been successfully installed and tested in Canada, while development of the MAPLE family of light-water research reactors had continued throughout 1987. A fusion test facility had been rendered operational, and agreement had been reached on Canada's involvement in EURATOM's contribution to the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor Project.

22. Canada continued to be a world leader in radiochemical and nuclear medicine products. In September 1987, the Government had reiterated its commitment to the safe application of food irradiation technology and to providing consumers with the option of irradiated foods. Canada had launched a food irradiation demonstration facility and technology transfer programme in Thailand and had opened an irradiation centre in Quebec which was being used solely for training in irradiation techniques. The Agency was already making use of the facility in its activities.

23. Canada attached the highest importance to the Agency's technical co-operation activities. The high rate for programme implementation in 1987 despite resource constraints had been most commendable. His Government endorsed the steps being taken to achieve a more comprehensive policy review and was pleased by the extent to which project evaluation had become an integral part of the Agency's technical co-operation activities. Greater emphasis should be placed on key target groups, especially women, and efforts should be made to increase the impact on key economic sectors, such as agriculture and health, which would bring tangible benefits to those most in need.

24. The Canadian delegation was pleased with the effective implementation of Agency programmes and endorsed the Annual Report for 1987.

25. Mr. ZHOU (China) said that, in pursuance of the objectives set forth in its Statute, the Agency had worked in a wide range of fields in the past year and had done a great deal to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The Chinese delegation supported the Agency's emphasis on the development of manpower resources in technical co-operation and noted the improvement in personnel training activities for the developing countries. In the nuclear power field, headway had been made in planning and implementation, research on performance and in technical development. On the nuclear fuel cycle, useful work had been carried out in such areas as the exploration and mining of uranium, nuclear fuel fabrication and management of spent fuels, the decommissioning of nuclear facilities and nuclear waste disposal. In nuclear safety and radiation protection, satisfactory results had been achieved in OSART activities, the review of NUSS Codes of Practice, the amendment of

regulations for the safe transport of radioactive materials, and linking and testing the global communication network for early notification. The Agency had also been active in research and isotopes, mainly in the light of the practical needs of Member States. It had also performed significant work in nuclear safeguards and administration.

26. The three regional co-operation programmes sponsored by the Agency for Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Africa respectively, were much favoured by the developing countries, and China, as a member of the Asia and Pacific region, was a supporter of and donor to the Regional Co-operation Agreement for that area.

27. The Chinese delegation agreed to the Agency's programme and budget for 1989 and 1990; to the annual increment of \$3.5 million in the Indicative Planning Figures for targets for voluntary contributions to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund for the period 1990-92; and to the increase in the level of the Working Capital Fund to \$4 million. It was aware of the Agency's financial difficulties in the past two years and their impact on activities, and believed that the Secretariat's efforts and Member States' co-operation were major factors in the success of the Agency's activities. It hoped that the Secretariat would play its part by further tapping its latent potential and continuing to improve its efficiency.

28. China supported the Secretariat's evaluation of technical assistance activities and review of the technical co-operation policies, which were designed to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of technical assistance and co-operation. His country looked forward to new contributions by the Agency to the promotion of the peaceful use of nuclear energy throughout the world.

29. The Chinese Government had always followed the Agency's work with interest. Although only a recent Member, China had participated in many of the Agency's activities and had always paid its assessment and its voluntary contributions to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund on time. It had taken an active part in INSAG and the work of other senior experts and advisory groups. Following the Chernobyl accident China had helped in drafting, and had signed and ratified, the two Conventions on nuclear safety.

It had also participated in, and contributed financially to, the expanded nuclear safety programme. China supported the Agency's revised NUSS Codes of Practice, to which Chinese nuclear safety experts had proposed a number of revisions.

30. During the past year, China had been host, in co-operation with the Agency, to six training courses and seven international conferences. The tenth meeting of the working group of representatives of RCA member States held in April in Beijing, had been the first such meeting held in China since it joined the RCA programme. China was planning, after the current session of the General Conference, in co-operation with the Agency, to sponsor a number of international training courses and meetings, on subjects such as the rice-fish ecological system, radiation sterilization for tissue grafts, and INIS input and output. His country valued the Agency's activities in the fields of INIS and nuclear data and would continue to support those and other activities.

31. With regard to the development of a nuclear energy programme in China, as everyone knew, people had become more apprehensive about nuclear safety since the Chernobyl accident, and some had even advocated the discontinuance of nuclear power programmes. However, after calm and serious reflection and analysis, people still recognized that nuclear energy had more advantages, both economically and environmentally, than other major energy sources currently in use. In the three decades or so between the 1950s and 1986, the time of the accident, nuclear power stations had maintained a fairly good operating record, and generally speaking, the environmental effects of developing nuclear energy were no worse than those of conventional power stations.

32. China believed that the lessons learned from Chernobyl would lead to greater attention to, and hence improvement in, nuclear safety measures. Until new and better energy sources for massive production of power at reasonable cost were discovered, the development of nuclear energy would continue. China had accordingly pursued its policy of developing nuclear energy, with priority to safety and quality. The construction of its two nuclear power stations in Qinshan (Zhejiang) and Daya Bay (Guangdong), was

proceeding smoothly and on schedule. Pre-phase preparations had also begun on the second phase of the Qinshan nuclear power station - a project for the construction of two 600 MW PWRs, with part of the technology and equipment coming from abroad. Discussions were in progress on the possibility of co-operation with interested countries.

33. At the twenty-ninth session of the General Conference, the Chinese delegation had stated that China intended to hold consultations with the Agency with a view to placing some of its civil nuclear facilities under Agency safeguards. He now wished to inform delegates that satisfactory results had been achieved after two rounds of formal talks and the safeguards agreement between China and the Agency had been signed by both sides that morning. Consultations on the subsidiary arrangements for implementation of the agreement would continue after the present session of the General Conference. The signing of the agreement demonstrated China's goodwill and commitment to the peaceful use of nuclear energy and the promotion of international co-operation in that field, and its support for the two basic objectives laid down in the Agency's Statute. The list of facilities to be submitted by China to the Agency for safeguards would include nuclear facilities made in China as well as imported nuclear power stations. China would ensure that its nuclear imports were used for peaceful purposes, and not for military purposes or for nuclear explosions, and would continue to request recipient countries to submit nuclear materials and equipment from China to the Agency for safeguards. In pursuing its policy of modernization through peace and development, China would make further progress in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and international co-operation in that field.

34. Mr. WILSON (Australia) commended the Agency on its central role in international peace and security and its considerable achievements which were reflected in the Annual Report for 1987.

35. The IAEA's safeguards system was indispensable to nuclear trade and co-operation and enabled nuclear power to contribute to the world's overall energy needs. Australia, as a party to NPT and a major supplier of uranium, attached paramount importance to that system, on which the entire international non-proliferation regime was based.

36. Australia therefore welcomed Spain's accession to NPT, which had brought the number of NPT parties to 137 - surely evidence of the Treaty's success and of the degree of international support it had attracted. His country also welcomed the announcement by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia that it intended to accede to the Treaty. The South African Government's recent statements concerning the possibility of possible accession to NPT had been regarded by Australia as a hopeful sign for the non-proliferation regime, and it was to be hoped that all other countries which had not yet joined NPT would do so as soon as possible.

37. It was in the interests of all Member States to co-operate with the Agency in ensuring efficient and effective application of IAEA safeguards in many areas, including inspector designation, the updating of facility attachments and the negotiation of safeguards agreements. His delegation urged all NPT parties that had not negotiated INFCIRC/153 agreements with the Agency - in particular the three parties which had operating nuclear facilities - to do so promptly.

38. The Agency's safeguards system needed to be kept under continuous review. The safeguards evaluation process which culminated each year in the Safeguards Implementation Report (SIR) was one of the Agency's strengths. That professional approach had come under attack from some quarters during the year on the basis of unauthorized disclosure of the SIR. As public confidence in safeguards - as well as in nuclear safety and waste management - was essential to nuclear trade and co-operation, the Agency should respond fully and convincingly to public questions and criticisms. To that end, the resources allocated to the Department of Safeguards and the Division of Public Information for public relations purposes might need to be reviewed when the next budget was drawn up.

39. His delegation strongly supported the Director General's efforts to develop safeguards approaches to deal with the increases made necessary by the growing number of facilities under safeguards, the increase in quantities of material to be safeguarded, and the challenges posed by new technologies, at a time when the Agency and Member Governments alike faced acute budgetary pressure.

40. The Agency's technical co-operation programme had gone from strength to strength, assisted by the continued steady increase in resources. Australia agreed to the future real growth in the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund, to be brought about by increases of US \$3.5 million for each of the years 1991, 1992 and 1993. Disbursements had been rising more than commensurately with the increases in resources: the Agency's report on technical co-operation activities in 1987 (document GOV/2344) showed that the implementation rate had reached an all-time record, as a result of greater efficiencies in the Department of Technical Co-operation.

41. Australia's support of the Agency's technical co-operation programme was reinforced by extrabudgetary contributions, especially to the Regional Co-operative Agreement for Asia and the Pacific (RCA) - a most successful agreement, enjoying the positive support of a wide range of countries in its region. Australia provided assistance in the form of equipment, training for IAEA fellows, expert services and lecturers, and training courses in Australia.

42. Nuclear training continued to be a high priority for his country. The Australian School of Nuclear Technology had recently been reconstituted into the Training and Education Centre of the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organization (ANSTO). Provision of training for overseas students at the highest standards would be one of the Centre's major objectives.

43. His country fully endorsed the IAEA's safety activities, which provided an important framework for conducting peaceful nuclear energy programmes. In April 1988, Australia had hosted, in Sydney, the successful IAEA International Conference on "Radiation Protection in Nuclear Energy". In conjunction with that Conference, Australia had also hosted a month-long training course on radiation protection for representatives from all members of RCA. The 7th Congress of the International Radiation Protection Association had also been held at the same time.

44. Australia strongly supported the three conventions related to nuclear safety - the Conventions on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident, and on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency - and welcomed the international support given to the three conventions, all of which Australia had ratified

the previous year. His delegation hoped that States which had not yet done so would become parties to those conventions as soon as possible.

45. Australia had participated in the series of successful test transmissions using the Global Telecommunication System (GTS) of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) for transmitting information in connection with the early notification convention, and ANSTO had established a 24-hour direct computer link with the Bureau of Meteorology in Melbourne, which was the Australian entry point for the GTS network. That link ensured that Australia could be quickly notified and kept informed by the IAEA or other Member States of matters relating to the two conventions.

46. Australia's uranium exports for 1987 had been 3795 tonnes of U_3O_8 , which currently represented about 14% of the world's uranium needs. Production from the Olympic Dam Mine, one of the largest in the world, had started in July 1988.

47. ANSTO, formerly the Australian Atomic Energy Commission, was now operating with a more commercial orientation. It enabled nuclear science and technology to be used in industry, medicine and agriculture, and also maintained a significant regional and international standing in its areas of expertise. Its research and development programmes centred on the applications of radioisotopes and radiation in nuclear physics, biomedicine and health, environmental science and advanced materials. Work was continuing on SYNROC, the Australian-developed radioactive waste form. The non-radioactive pilot plant constructed at Sydney to demonstrate commercial-scale production of SYNROC had begun work. Results confirmed SYNROC's potential as an alternative to the borosilicate glass process, and ANSTO had entered into arrangements with counterpart organizations in the United Kingdom, Japan, and Italy for research and development work on it.

48. Australia had been engaged in research and development in nuclear science and technology for well over thirty years; the highest standards of safety had always been observed, and thus Australia had an excellent safety record, with no incident resulting in any adverse public health consequences taking place during that time. That level of commitment to safety would be maintained by ANSTO.

49. Australia had continued to seek protection of the marine environment through its opposition to the sea dumping of radioactive wastes, and in October 1987 had chaired a working group of the London Dumping Convention International Panel of Experts on Radioactive Wastes which had been established to examine the wider political, legal, economic and social aspects of radioactive waste dumping at sea. There would soon be a further meeting. Australia had also played a leading role in the negotiation of the texts of the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Rarotonga) and the 1986 Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region (SPREP Convention). The SPREP Convention had the most rigorous provisions of all international treaties governing the dumping at sea of radioactive waste.

50. Reports that radioactive waste had been dumped in African countries were cause for grave concern, even though the Agency had so far not been able to confirm that they were accurate. However, the proper management of nuclear waste was a matter of government policy for Australia, and it would be supporting acceptable measures to deal with the issues which those reports raised.

51. The nuclear industry had faced major challenges in 1988 from allegations of improper conduct. Some of those allegations had received considerable publicity. Those developments showed how important it was that public and private entities, whether engaged in the nuclear power industry or in nuclear energy research or its applications, should conduct their activities with the utmost propriety, having full regard for safeguards, safety and other regulatory requirements.

52. Australia acknowledged the genuine concerns of many, throughout the world, over issues involving nuclear energy and its applications. One current issue was food irradiation. In Australia, a parliamentary enquiry into the matter was underway and until its report had been considered, his Government would not be in a position to take a stance on food irradiation.

53. The parliamentary inquiry had also covered the Conference on Acceptance, Control of and Trade in Irradiated Food, to be held in Geneva in December. It would be desirable for the Conference to approach its work on

the basis of strict objectivity and not to rely on assumptions which were unsupported by scientifically established facts. Naturally, Member States participating in the Conference had the right to dissent from any of the Conference's conclusions.

54. The IAEA was facing many challenges in different areas. Support for the Agency's safeguards programme was of paramount importance. The Director General was to be congratulated on the achievement of a negative real growth budget, no easy feat in view of the many demands placed on the Agency. Australia strongly approved of the re-ordering of priorities reflected in the 1989 budget proposals before the General Conference. Australia also supported the proposed increase in the Working Capital Fund, to US \$4 million. However, increasing the level of that Fund addressed only the symptoms of the Agency's cash flow problems, not the cause. The Agency's financial difficulties, due to the late payment or non-payment of assessed contributions by many Member States, remained a serious issue. His delegation urged those Members which paid late or were in arrears to give the Agency the necessary financial support.

55. Australia had always upheld the principle of universality of membership of organizations in the United Nations system, and therefore believed that South Africa should not be prevented from exercising the rights and privileges of membership of the IAEA. There was a widespread inclination to isolate South Africa from the international community, because of its abhorrent system of apartheid. Australia's opposition to apartheid was well known - it was a system totally rejected by the entire international community - but it would not be in the interests of the Agency or the international non-proliferation regime to suspend South Africa from the Agency.

56. The IAEA had achieved a level of success and respect rare among international organizations and enjoyed strong support from the international community. It was important for that to continue. His delegation would continue to work with other members to ensure that it did.

57. Ms. TALLAWY (Egypt) said that the Agency had a major role to play in seeking to overcome the problems of development through the application of advanced nuclear technology. In order to make the technological option

available to all nations, four requirements had to be met: developing countries should be provided with nuclear technology and the economic and social conditions in those countries should not be used as a pretext to deny them that technology; the nuclear option should be a peaceful one; the nuclear option should not endanger human safety and the environment; and lastly, each State should bear all liabilities arising from its nuclear option, including waste disposal, and developing countries should not be used as reservoirs for dumping nuclear and toxic wastes that could cause severe damage to their peoples. Her delegation urged all States, particularly the developed ones, to support the draft resolution on the dumping of nuclear wastes in developing countries, submitted by Egypt on behalf of the African Group.

58. The Agency's General Conference coincided with the 20th anniversary of the entry into force of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which was closely linked with the Agency's functions and role in ensuring that nuclear energy was not used for non-peaceful purposes. The Treaty's requirements concerning the application of safeguards under the Agency's supervision constituted one of the major roles assigned to the Agency. Her delegation welcomed the reference made in the Director General's statement to the Agency's readiness to participate actively in the preparation of the Fourth NPT Review Conference which was to be held in 1989. It would be appropriate for that Conference to be held in Vienna, since many of the technical aspects of the Treaty, which were not less important than its political aspects, fell within the competence of the Agency. Egypt was one of the first countries which had acceded to that Treaty and had been motivated by its belief in nuclear non-proliferation, which was vital for the preservation of world peace and security.

59. Egypt supported all efforts aimed at declaring both Africa and the Middle East nuclear-free zones. South Africa had not yet complied with the Agency's resolutions by submitting all its nuclear installations to safeguards and had not even acceded to NPT. South Africa should therefore sign and ratify the Treaty immediately and submit all its nuclear installations to Agency safeguards forthwith, instead of resorting to further delaying tactics.

60. Israel shared South Africa's attitude regarding accession to NPT and submission of all its nuclear installations to the Agency's safeguards. Israel's reply to the Director General's letter, which had called upon Israel to submit all its nuclear installations to safeguards, was nothing but an attempt to evade its obligations by propagating the idea of establishing a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East through direct negotiations. Moreover, the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East, though important, was no substitute for Israel's accession to NPT and submission of all its installations to Agency safeguards. The Agency should initiate a technical study on the application of the safeguards system in the Middle East should a nuclear-free zone in fact be established. It was hoped that all States would support the draft resolution submitted by Egypt on that subject. The dangerous situation in the Middle East made it imperative for all States to exert pressure on Israel to induce it to accept the resolutions adopted by the United Nations and the General Conference for the sake of peace and stability in the region.

61. The strengthening of the civil liability system for nuclear accidents was vital for the promotion of nuclear energy and its peaceful uses. The conference to conclude a Joint Protocol relating to the application of the Vienna and Paris Conventions on civil liability, which her country would sign, marked an important step on the way to further international efforts in that connection. Expansion of the use of nuclear energy would require more legislation to govern the relations between States and the Agency should therefore continue the course which it had begun, with a view to establishing a comprehensive legal system covering all aspects of the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

62. With regard to the Agency's safeguards system, her country believed that the system played a key role in the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and the strengthening of world security in general and it should therefore be supported with a view to increasing its effectiveness. In order to reinforce that system, the Agency should participate in, and make use of, the current experiment in the field of safeguards resulting from the Treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union on the elimination of their intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles.

63. Technical assistance was particularly important for developing countries. The Agency and developed countries had a responsibility to help developing countries in their efforts to catch up with technical progress and to make use of the resources provided by the peaceful applications of nuclear energy. Her country attached great hopes to the arrangements for regional co-operation on the African continent. Her country also appreciated the efforts made, within the Agency to help developing countries to develop and finance their nuclear power programmes by carrying out studies on the problems and obstacles facing them in that field.

64. Efforts to implement the recommendations made by the Senior Expert Group which dealt with that question should be continued. Those recommendations covered four main fields: nuclear power project planning; public acceptance of nuclear power; project preparation and implementation; and project financing. Egypt commended the co-operation among the Agency, the World Bank and the United Nations Environment Programme aimed at planning and implementing nuclear power programmes in developing countries. It was hoped that full use would be made of those possibilities by combining the experience of the World Bank in financial analysis and planning with the experience of the Agency in nuclear and electric power planning in developing countries and the experience of UNDP in environmental protection.

65. The Egyptian nuclear programme had started by establishing the main basis for research and development on three major axes: programmes for research and development and for supporting nuclear power projects, including instrumentation and research work on reactors and the nuclear fuel cycle; programmes for the applications of radioisotopes and radiological sources in support of development projects in the industrial, medical, agricultural and environmental fields, including diagnosis, treatment, development of economic characteristics of industrial products, food conservation, pest control and medical product sterilization; and nuclear safety and radiation protection

programmes aimed at establishing criteria and standards for nuclear operational safety and for the protection of the population and the environment against the dangers of exposure to radiation and radiological pollution.

66. Egypt planned to establish various facilities, including: a central plant for processing radioactive waste; industrial irradiation units using gamma-rays and accelerated electrons; a pilot unit for manufacturing nuclear fuel rods; a second pilot research reactor; a national system for automatic environmental monitoring in Egypt; a multi-purpose cyclotron; and support for plants producing radioactive energy and sources as well as for units manufacturing nuclear and electronic instruments.

67. The Egyptian nuclear programme encouraged regional scientific and technical co-operation in the nuclear and radiological fields. Thus, several training programmes had been organized for specialized personnel from the Arab and African regions. Efforts in uranium exploration processes had been intensified and approximately one third of Egypt's total area had been surveyed for that purpose, revealing important discoveries which were now being developed and prepared for the production stages.

68. Despite the direct impact of the Chernobyl accident on public opinion in Egypt concerning the use of nuclear energy for generating electricity, Egypt still regarded nuclear energy as one of the main options for meeting its electricity demand. In the light of the studies on the accident and its consequences, carried out at international level with the effective participation of the Agency, Egypt aimed, in its nuclear programme, to guarantee the highest degree of efficiency in implementation and maximum operational safety through man-power development in all the spheres relevant to the different stages of nuclear power projects. Her country appreciated the efforts which had been made to complete revision of the NUSS Codes and keep them up-to-date and in line with the development of nuclear technology. Egypt had adopted those NUSS Codes as a basis for the nuclear safety standards applicable to its nuclear power plants and other nuclear installations. It also appreciated the co-operation in its nuclear programme received from the Agency and other specialized international organizations as well as from friendly States.

Although Egypt supported the Agency's draft budget for 1989, it did not approve of the application of the zero-growth rate to development activities in view of their importance for developing countries. With regard to the Indicative Planning Figures, the Egyptian Government had decided to make a contribution amounting to \$23 800 to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund.

69. Finally, there were some areas in which her delegation felt that the Agency's work could be enhanced. Firstly, it would be useful to summarize the results of scientific activities and ideas put forward during Agency-sponsored symposia and seminars and to prepare a report thereon for submission to the main Agency bodies. A committee could be established for that purpose on the same pattern as the Technical Assistance Committee, or the Administrative and Budgetary Committee.

70. Secondly, the amount of resources allocated to each of the Agency's activities should be radically reconsidered since the existing situation was not consistent with the tasks of the Agency as defined in its Statute. The principle of setting a maximum limit for contributions to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund conflicted with the idea of voluntary contributions. There were many funds in the United Nations system to which no such limitation was applied. That system could be changed or voluntary contributions could be made open and new sources of finance for development-oriented activities found.

71. Thirdly, it was important to support the Agency's information role in order to give the public a correct understanding of nuclear technology. The Agency could, for example, produce visual means such as video tapes to show the importance of the peaceful uses of nuclear power.

72. In conclusion, the nuclear option raised the question whether scientific invention and progress would provide solutions to the devastating problems confronted by humanity in the light of its limited resources. Her delegation believed that the role that the Agency played in the future could contribute an answer, or part of the answer, to that question.

73. Mr. AMROLLAHI (Islamic Republic of Iran) noted that if moral considerations were not taken into account, the applications of science and technology would eventually lead to the annihilation of the human race. His country firmly believed in the peaceful applications of nuclear energy and hoped that the Agency would also increase its efforts in that respect by providing more assistance to developing countries, while preventing non-peaceful applications.

74. During the past few years, there had been a continuous shift of emphasis in the Agency's role from promoter of global nuclear technology development to that of international regulator of nuclear technology applications in developing countries. The steady decline in the Agency's budget for the nuclear power and fuel cycle, technical assistance and promotional activities together with the continuous rise of the Agency's budget for safeguards clearly demonstrated that trend. That point had also been made by the Task Force of the Group of 77 in its report to the Board of Governors on the Agency's programme and budget for 1989 and 1990.

75. His delegation was not suggesting that safeguards and the monitoring of fissionable materials were unnecessary, but merely wished to point out that the peaceful applications of atomic energy were by no means uniform throughout the world. The Agency's assistance should be given primarily to developing countries and the burden of safeguards activities should logically be borne by industrialized nations. However, such priorities were often interchanged and the benefits of nuclear energy were enjoyed largely by industrialized nations and in fact only 20% of the world's population enjoyed the benefits of 95% of total nuclear-power-generated electricity in the world.

76. During the present decade, nuclear technology and its applications had been virtually stagnant in almost all developing countries. A developing country, intending to embark on a nuclear power programme, had to overcome numerous political obstacles. Bilateral and sometimes multilateral agreements were necessary as well as licensing agreements, various protocols, numerous guarantees, assurances and so on which effectively amounted to a loss of sovereignty for the country concerned.

77. In his statement to the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament on 13 June 1988, the Director General had refuted the contention that there was an inevitable link between civilian nuclear power and nuclear weapons. One of the Agency's main tasks should be to dispel such unfounded fears. Even countries such as his own which were party to NPT and which had accepted full-scope Agency safeguards were the object of discrimination. The Director General should therefore make special efforts to establish the effectiveness of the Agency's safeguards programme and to

convince politicians, in certain political power blocks, that no country which was fully covered by the Agency's safeguards programme had been able to use its nuclear power plants to manufacture nuclear weapons.

78. With regard to the composition of the Board of Governors, equal opportunities should exist for the membership and representation of all regions of the world on an equitable basis. A review of the existing membership of the Board of Governors showed that in fact 52.5% of the membership was consistently allocated to the American continent and Western Europe. Countries in South East Asia and the Pacific and in the Middle East and South Asia represented only 5% and 7.5% of Board membership respectively, which was by no means commensurate with either the size of the respective regions or with their respective populations. Even the proposed 10% increase in the total number of Board members would not significantly alter the present situation and the majority would still be held by the Western Bloc. Therefore, while his delegation supported the 10% increase in Board membership, it felt that as a final solution Article VI of the Statute should be modified. In the meantime, the proposed 10% increase should be adopted and allocated in a fair manner to the Asian and Middle East countries. The right of membership of the Board of Governors for those countries in the Middle East which desired a seat on the Board, should be given on a rotational basis, and the informal working group examining alternatives to Article VI should be given stronger support to achieve its objectives.

79. With regard to military attacks on nuclear installations, a resolution should be adopted to prohibit future military attacks on all nuclear installations devoted to peaceful applications, at any stage of construction or at any stage of utilization. The Agency's indifference to his country's repeated warnings on the need for specific steps towards the prohibition of military attacks on nuclear installations would pose much more severe consequences to the international community than those caused by chemical weapons. It should be recalled that the primary objective of the Agency was to safeguard not only the utilization of fissionable materials, but also the right of all Member States to benefit from nuclear technology. Such a resolution should also envisage clear mechanisms for penalizing the aggressor

country since mere condemnations did not constitute a sufficient deterrent. His country had suffered severely from that deficiency in the Agency's working apparatus and therefore proposed that the situation should be corrected for the benefit of other countries which might one day be affected by it. His country was, however, very grateful to the Director General for his special efforts in mobilizing a fact-finding mission to Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant following the latest military attack.

80. Although the Agency's safeguards programme was effective with regard to the installations to which it applied, it remained impotent when set against real nuclear proliferation. The Agency had no mechanisms to check vertical proliferation, while the dangers of horizontal proliferation were disproportionately exaggerated. At present, strategic nuclear weapons had a combined yield of some 20 000 megatons and formed a constant potential threat to mankind. It was deplorable that such real threats did not receive the attention which they deserved, whereas the improbable scenario of a Third-World country using a nuclear power plant to manufacture a nuclear device constantly received exaggerated publicity. Until a comprehensive programme for total nuclear disarmament was brought into force, the effectiveness of any safeguards programme, the NPT and the encouragement of new signatories to NPT remained questionable issues.

81. With regard to activities in the Islamic Republic of Iran, its Nuclear Research Centre had been very active in the production of various radioisotopes, in particular ^{99m}Tc and ^{131}I , for medical and industrial applications. Considerable progress had also been made in other areas such as solid-state physics and electronics; the Plasma Physics Department had been active in the study of plasmas and their applications, particularly in the area of nuclear fusion; the Gamma Irradiation Centre, established in 1986 with the aim of providing services for the sterilization of disposable medical products, had expanded its activities to the sterilization of foodstuffs and polymers; and efforts in the application of nuclear science and technology to agriculture had been increased to help alleviate some of the country's needs in that area. Finally, in the field of radiation protection, in addition to formulating regulations and standards and evaluating the safety of nuclear installations and issuing licences, the most important activity had been the

protection of the public and the environment against the biological hazards of radiation. His country had also been continuing its activities associated with the biological protection of the environment as a consequence of the Chernobyl accident and the monitoring of imported foodstuffs which might have been contaminated.

FIRST MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

82. The PRESIDENT said that the delay in fully constituting the General Committee meant that the Committee of the Whole had not started its work that morning. In order to ensure the smooth progress of the Conference's business, he suggested that the Conference suspend Rule 42 of its Rules of Procedure ad interim, so as to allow the Committee of the Whole to start its work before the General Committee met, and that the Conference request the Committee of the Whole to embark on a consideration of the matters proposed for initial discussion by it in the provisional agenda (document GC(XXXII)/834).

83. It was so agreed.

84. The PRESIDENT announced that the Committee of the Whole would meet at 3 p.m.

GENERAL DEBATE AND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1987 (GC(XXXII)/835) (resumed)

85. Mr. AL-KITAL (Iraq) noted that studies to select a site for Iraq's first power station had continued in co-operation with the Agency. The Iraqi Atomic Energy Commission (IAEC) had been able to install new laboratories for use by research workers and specialists in agriculture and biology and to develop the analytical chemistry, radiation protection and environmental monitoring laboratories. In addition, laboratory facilities for basic research in physics and reactor studies had been upgraded. Furthermore, the IAEC had devoted special attention to the production of isotopes and pharmaceutical kits and had provided additional facilities for that purpose. New laboratories and training facilities in several fields of atomic energy had also been set up.

86. Before the entry into force of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), there had been high hopes that it would prevent the spread of nuclear weapons to non-nuclear-weapon States and that it would promote and develop the peaceful applications of atomic energy in the States party. The Treaty was further expected to curb the arms race, to reduce the level of nuclear armament and to achieve disarmament in accordance with the obligations undertaken by all parties, in particular, the nuclear-weapon States.

87. It was satisfying to note that the number of States party to the Treaty had increased to 136 and that the non-nuclear-weapon States had complied with their obligations. However, the arms race was continuing and had escalated to new higher levels both quantitatively and qualitatively. At the same time, the nuclear-weapon capabilities of a number of regimes which had acceded to the Treaty had grown considerably. Moreover, it was becoming certain that Israel, in co-operation with South Africa, had acquired nuclear weapons.

88. Iraq, whose nuclear facilities devoted to peaceful purposes and placed under Agency safeguards in accordance with NPT had been attacked by Israel, regretted the failure of some parties to comply with their obligations under the Treaty. Those States had failed to condemn the Israeli aggression vigorously and decisively and had also failed to take strong preventive actions to deter the repetition of a similar aggression. The same States were still co-operating with Israel in a manner that would further enhance its nuclear capabilities. In doing so, they had seriously damaged their own credibility and that of NPT.

89. With regard to South Africa, the General Conference should not be deceived by that country's attempts to play for time. The suspension of the privileges and rights of membership of South Africa was already overdue and his delegation believed that the Conference should take the necessary action.

90. His delegation was also dissatisfied with the Secretariat's response to the General Conference resolution GC(XXXI)/RES/470 presented in the report entitled "Israeli Nuclear Capabilities and Threat" contained in document GOV/INF/554. Israel had totally ignored resolution GC(XXXI)RES/470, the United Nations Security Council resolution 487 (1981) and the relevant

resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly, which called on Israel to place all its nuclear facilities under Agency safeguards. Political protective measures aimed at covering up the Israeli nuclear armament activities were posing a frightening threat to non-proliferation in the region and were endangering peace and security.

91. The problem of pollution of the environment by the dumping of poisonous industrial wastes within the borders and the territorial waters of some States had created wide-spread apprehension. That problem was further complicated by the fact that developing countries, which were victims of such practices, lacked the technical and scientific know-how and the financial resources to deal with the problem. The international community should intensify its efforts to stop those dangerous practices. His delegation believed that the International Commission on Environment and Development established by the United Nations General Assembly resolution 38/161 of 1983 could play an important role in that respect.

92. His delegation fully supported the Agency's safety activities and attached special importance to international co-operation. Iraq had ratified the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency and had deposited the instruments of ratification with the Agency. However, its basic reservations on those conventions remained unchanged, in particular, the exclusion of accidents caused by armed attacks.

93. In conclusion, his country welcomed the treaty between the Soviet Union and the United States of America on the elimination of intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles and hoped that further agreements would be concluded.

Mr. Aamodt (Norway), Vice-President, took the Chair.

94. Mr. LEE (Republic of Korea) noted that nuclear power accounted for more than 16% of the world's electricity production and that its use would undoubtedly continue to expand. However, there were difficulties associated with international co-operation, non-proliferation and public acceptance of nuclear power and it was therefore important to strengthen the Agency's basic role, to redefine its future direction and to steer it away from extraneous issues.

95. International co-operation was indispensable for the implementation of nuclear power projects, particularly in the case of developing countries, since nuclear projects traditionally involved a developed infrastructure, skilled manpower, highly sophisticated technology and considerable financial resources. In that respect, his country appreciated the Agency's many activities to promote peaceful nuclear co-operation between advanced nations and developing countries. However, difficulties associated with access to advanced technology, the assurance of nuclear supply and availability of skilled manpower still remained.

96. His country felt that the Agency should focus more attention on the quality of technology transferred under its technical assistance and co-operation programme and should further expand its nuclear power and safety programmes. All international nuclear co-operation should be carried out under comprehensive internationally binding commitments to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons or the Tlatelolco Treaty and acceptance of the Agency's full-scope safeguards. His country welcomed Spain's accession to NPT and the recent decision of Saudi Arabia to follow NPT and hoped that those countries still remaining outside those Treaties would become party to one of them as soon as possible. If not, they should at least show their adherence to non-proliferation through voluntary acceptance of Agency safeguards for all their nuclear facilities and activities. That would help to dispel universal concern about non-proliferation and help to obtain much needed public acceptance for nuclear power.

97. There was growing concern among the general public about the safety of nuclear power. The Agency had made valuable contributions to increasing public awareness and to improving nuclear safety and radiation protection. The International Nuclear Safety Advisory Group (INSAG) had played a vital role in the development of basic safety principles and the revision of nuclear safety standards and the Operational Safety Review Team (OSART) missions had contributed not only to reassuring the operators, the licensing authorities and the public, but also to strengthening the confidence of neighbouring States. Public concern about nuclear energy was partly based on misunderstanding and ignorance and therefore it was important that the public

should be better informed about the benefits of nuclear power. In that connection the Agency should take a more active role by systematically developing and making available information, designing appropriate methods of public education and organizing seminars, workshops and/or expert group meetings on public awareness.

98. His delegation was pleased to note that, in 1987, as in previous years, the Agency had not detected any anomaly which would indicate the diversion of safeguarded materials or the misuse of facilities for the manufacture of nuclear weapons. There had also been welcome increases in inspection goal attainment and inspection efforts in spite of budgetary constraints and the extension of safeguards coverage. Nevertheless, his delegation felt that an in-depth study should be made of all possible organizational and procedural measures which could improve the efficiency and the reliability of the Agency's safeguards system and ensure optimum utilization of the limited resources available.

99. With regard to the Agency's technical assistance and co-operation activities, his country noted that there had been an increase in the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund (TACF), which reconfirmed the effectiveness of the principle of voluntary contributions and Indicative Planning Figures. It was, however, regrettable that although there had been considerable improvements in the pledges and payments of voluntary contributions to the TACF in 1987, there were still problems associated with non-payments or late payments of voluntary contributions for the TACF which would threaten the current technical assistance and co-operation system in the long term.

100. As a party to NPT, and under the Agency's full-scope safeguards, his country had ambitiously conducted its peaceful nuclear power programme under the international non-proliferation regime. At present, there were nine nuclear power plants in operation or being commissioned with over 7.7 GW(e) of installed capacity, representing 35% of the country's total electricity capacity. Eventually, the nuclear power programme in Korea would be expanded to meet the ever-growing energy demands, with two or more units being added in the mid-1990s.

101. Korea believed that the benefits of nuclear power should be made fully available to developing countries and it wished to share with other developing countries its unique experiences and the nuclear power technology which it had accumulated over the past 20 years. It had therefore been pleased to host and provide full financial support for the RCA Regional Workshop on Photon, Electron and Neutron Dosimetry in Radiotherapy in 1987 and would also host and provide financial support for the Agency's Interregional Training Course on Nuclear Power Project Planning and Implementation in November 1988.

102. In addition to the continued expansion of its technical assistance and co-operation to developing countries, it would further strengthen its internal non-proliferation system to ensure the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and fulfil its obligations as an Agency Member State in accordance with NPT and other international nuclear agreements. In that connection it had developed its own computer system for safeguards data processing and a legal framework for safeguards. In addition, as an emerging nuclear supplier, it would establish, in the near future, basic guidelines for nuclear exports as well as physical protection instruments for the safe use of nuclear power.

103. Mr. KANGAI (Zimbabwe) noted that the Agency had been very successful in fulfilling its objectives and his country welcomed the increased importance attached to safety-related work by the Agency and the greater emphasis which had been placed on the needs of the developing Member States.

104. The growing atmosphere of trust and increasing contact between the United States of America and the Soviet Union in the area of nuclear armaments was very welcome. Zimbabwe and other countries in the non-aligned movement and in the rest of the world would live more peacefully if the current trend of dialogue continued successfully. The vast amounts of money spent on nuclear weapon research and development could be much better used to alleviate many of the world's problems.

105. The agenda of the General Conference included once again an item on South Africa's nuclear capabilities. In 1987 a statement released by Mr. P.W. Botha hinted that South Africa would "soon" like to sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty but South Africa had taken no such steps. It should therefore be suspended from the Agency and subjected to comprehensive

international sanctions until it showed more respect for international opinion. Whilst the prospect of peace in southern Africa as a result of the United States-mediated peace talks between Angola, Cuba and South Africa was very welcome, past experience had shown that caution was necessary since South Africa had repeatedly violated the Nkomati Accord which it had signed with the People's Republic of Mozambique.

106. It was alarming to read in certain press reports about the wastes, some of which contained radioactive materials, dumped by industrialized countries in developing countries. His country did not accept that such activities were carried out solely by unscrupulous private business concerns and believed that the governments responsible turned a blind eye to those activities in the hope that the problem of toxic wastes would be "exported" from their territory.

107. Finally, with regard to the Agency's technical assistance activities his country welcomed the increasing awareness within the Agency of the importance of technical assistance to developing Member States and although his country was a relative newcomer to the Agency, it was already experiencing the benefits of Agency membership. It had fairly comprehensive legislation to cover the import, handling and use of radioisotopes and improvements were being made with the Agency's assistance. In addition, some Agency waste management experts were going to visit Zimbabwe before the end of the year. A radiation protection manpower training programme was being conducted with the Agency's assistance and his country hoped to be able to hold such courses locally for radiation protection workers. Numerous applications for Agency assistance had been made in the fields of hydrology, agriculture, medicine and the life sciences and some had already been approved. Zimbabwe already had a Nuclear Medicine Centre and it was hoped that a national calibration laboratory would be set up to calibrate all radiation equipment to ensure correct dosages.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.

