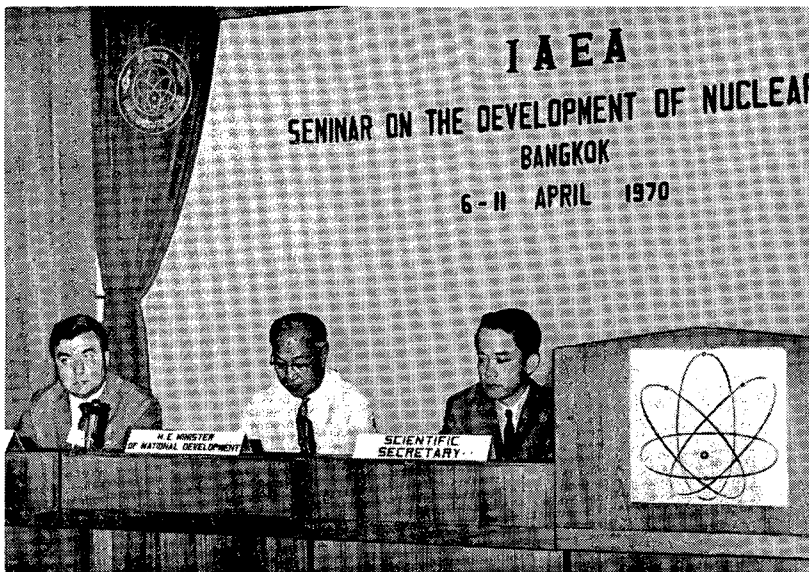


nuclear law reviewed

When an Agency Seminar on the Development of Nuclear Law was held in Bangkok during April, those taking part included two previous trainees with the Agency's Legal Division. Both hold important positions with their national Atomic Energy Commissions, one as Legal Adviser and the other as Chief Legal Officer. All others who attended are closely associated with drafting laws and regulations for nuclear activities.

Eighteen participants and observers from eleven Member States in South and South-East Asia, the Far East and the Pacific attended the Seminar, at which experience and recent trends in nuclear law were reviewed in conjunction with Agency staff and experts from the European Nuclear Energy Agency and the United States. It was opened by Mr. Pote Sarasin, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for National Development of Thailand, and Mr. Werner Boulanger (then the Agency's Director of the Legal Division) on behalf of the Director General, Dr. Sigvard Eklund. Mr. Pote Sarasin commended the Agency for promoting the sharing of knowledge and encouraging international harmonization of nuclear law.

The current status of nuclear legislation in Asian countries was discussed on the basis of submitted papers and of a draft survey of national legislation prepared by the Agency. A draft survey of existing licensing systems for nuclear installations was also made available for review, together with a report on the evolution of the licensing process in USA. Other reports covered many legal issues connected with the peaceful uses of atomic energy, in particular the harmonization of nuclear and maritime conventions for sea transport of nuclear substances. Emphasis was placed on the need of developing countries for further assistance in the elaboration of legislation dealing with the safety aspects of nuclear activities and liability problems. International supply of nuclear materials and legal arrangements for setting up joint research projects were also considered and criteria suggested for a practical approach to regional co-operation in research and development. The papers presented will be



Opening of the Bangkok Seminar on the Development of Nuclear Law.
Left to right: Werner Boulanger, then Director of the Legal Division, Pote Sarasin,
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development of Thailand,
and Ha-Vinh Phuung, Scientific Secretary.

published as part of the Agency's Legal Series, following the widespread demand for the book "Nuclear Law for a Developing World" issued after the first international training course held in Vienna in 1968.

Those attending included lawyers, scientists and administrative officers associated with the drafting of laws and regulations for nuclear activities in Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet-Nam.

Inter-regional training course

Under the Technical Assistance programme for this year, an Inter-regional Training Course on the Legal Aspects of Nuclear Energy for Member States in Africa, the Middle East and the Mediterranean area will be held in Athens from 7 to 18 December 1970. It is intended for administrators and lawyers who are co-operating with or may be called upon to assist national authorities on atomic energy in drafting legislation and agreements. The current status of nuclear legislation in the countries represented, as well as legal problems arising from the peaceful uses of atomic energy, will be reviewed. The teaching staff will include visiting lecturers. The programme will include lectures and working sessions covering the following topics:

- Legal framework for nuclear activities: basic requirements in terms of legislation; establishment of national atomic energy bodies;
- Safety regulations for activities involving radioactive materials and other radiation sources;
- Third party liability and related problems;
- International co-operation: instruments connected with the provision of technical assistance, the supply of nuclear materials and the setting-up of co-operative projects for research and development.