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Text of Communication of 26 June 2003 received from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia Concerning Restoration of Voting Rights

The text of a letter dated 26 June 2003 from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia and addressed to the Director General is reproduced herewith for the attention of the General Conference.

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

Since the first years of independence, the Republic of Armenia has been committed to the purposes and objectives of the IAEA and its mission to promote the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes. We have benefited substantially from the Agency's technical assistance programme, and from technical cooperation in regional and interregional projects. Nuclear power safety, as well as evaluation of seismic characteristics and radioactive waste management systems have been major areas of cooperation between Armenia and the IAEA.

Unfortunately, Armenia has accumulated arrears to the IAEA that have resulted in our losing voting privileges and therefore diminishing active engagement in the decision-making process. The Government of Armenia is anxious to participate fully in the work of the Agency, to settle its outstanding contributions and restore its voting rights.

The Government of Armenia undertakes to pay the total arrears to the Regular Budget and Assessed Programme Costs, as well as budget and programme costs assessments from 2003 onward, in accordance with the payment plans enclosed in the annex. Armenia also requests that the IAEA Board of Governors, in case it adopts a new decision, considers the possibility for a 10-year payment plan for the outstanding regular budget contributions as well.

Having made this commitment, the Government of Armenia asks that the General Conference consider restoring Armenia's voting rights with immediate effect.

Please accept the assurance of my highest consideration.

(signed) Vartan OSKANIAN

PAYMENT PLAN TOWARDS ASSESSED PROGRAMME COSTS
FOR GOVERNMENT OF ARMENIA

Assessed Programme Costs outstanding at 24 April 2003:		
1997	US\$	21,083
1998		74,172
1999		44,270
2000		25,033
2001		69,732
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Total arrears towards assessed programme costs	US\$	234,290
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One-tenth share	US\$	23,429
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<p>The yearly payment would comprise of the one-tenth share plus the amount due for the current year's assessment, i.e. the amount charged for 2002. This amount will be determined in the near future.</p>		

PAYMENT PLAN TOWARDS THE REGULAR BUDGET
FOR GOVERNMENT OF ARMENIA

Outstanding Regular Budget contributions::			
1997	US\$	74,892	
1998		75,348	
1999		37,967	
2000		16,380	
2001		10,338	
2002		<u>3,738*</u>	
Total outstanding	US\$	<u>218,663</u>	
Less cash surpluses: 1997-1999	US\$	<u>(6,817)</u>	
Total cash surpluses	US\$	<u>(6,817)</u>	
Total arrears to Regular Budget	US\$	<u>211,846</u>	
One-fifth share	US\$	<u>42,369**</u>	
Current year outstanding: 2003	US\$	<u>698</u>	plus Euro <u>2,940</u>
The yearly payment would comprise of the 1/5 share plus the amounts due for the current year's assessment.			

* US\$679 plus Euro 2842 assessed in 2002 at UN exchange rate applicable in April 2003 of Euro 0.929/1US\$

** Any adjustments required as a result of, e.g. return of cash surplus, etc. will be made in the final payment in the Fifth year.