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General Conference

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

OFFICIAL RECORD OF THE FOURTEENTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Neue Hofburg, Vienna,
on Monday, 22 September 1958, at 3 p.m.

Temporary President: Mr. RAAB (Austria)

President: Mr. SUDJARWO (Indonesia)

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* GC(II)/57.

N.B. The list of delegations attending the second regular session of the General Conference was issued as document GC(II)/INF/17/Rev.3

OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT declared the second regular session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency open.

MINUTE OF SILENT PRAYER OR MEDITATION

2. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT invited the Conference to observe one minute's silence for prayer or meditation.

All present rose and stood in silence for one minute.

ADDRESS BY THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT

3. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT extended a welcome on behalf of the Federal Government of Austria and offered those participating in the Conference the wishes of the Austrian Government and people for the success of their work.

4. The International Atomic Energy Agency was called upon to make a decisive contribution to the activities which would enable mankind to enjoy in the near future the blessings of atomic energy. The Agency must not, however, confine itself to serving the cause of scientific progress, encouraging the exchange of experience and knowledge on a world-wide scale and providing the administrative machinery for such an exchange. It must also assist the technically less-developed countries to take advantage of the benefits of atomic energy.

5. Extraordinary progress had already been made in that field. Atomic problems were nowadays openly discussed and free exchanges of views on the subject could be held. Only thus, in peaceful competition and international co-operation, could atomic energy be used to conquer humanity's worst enemies, poverty, sickness and need.

6. However, many of the problems created by the use of atomic energy still remained unsolved, in particular the protection of human health and safety. Among the most important tasks enjoined on the Agency by its Statute were the investigation of suitable methods of applying atomic energy and the development of effective safeguard procedures.

7. To a very large extent the Agency had been able to justify the great confidence placed in it by the peoples and Governments of the world. The First

Annual Report of the Board of Governors to the General Conference^{1/} described important initial successes.

8. He wished to add a few words in his capacity as Federal Chancellor of Austria. The Austrian Government had particular satisfaction in placing the Hofburg at the Agency's disposal for the Conference's work. The Hofburg would be a worthy setting for the Conference's deliberations. Vienna itself was the capital of a country which through its international status seemed particularly well suited to offer favourable conditions for the Agency's work. The hall in which the plenary meetings of the General Conference were to take place would serve as a symbol; the walls of the Hofburg now housed the most up-to-date equipment and were to look down on discussions devoted to the problems of developing the newest sources of energy; past and present thus combined together to promise a fairer, better and happier future.

ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT

9. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT, citing Rule 34 of the Rules of Procedure, invited nominations for the office of President of the General Conference.

10. Mr. BHABHA (India) nominated Mr. Sudjarwo, head of the Indonesian delegation, who had taken a very active part in the work of the Conference on the Statute, the Preparatory Commission and the first session of the General Conference. His outstanding qualities and his long experience in international affairs made him eminently suitable to act as President of the second regular session of the General Conference.

11. Mr. BERNARDES (Brazil) warmly supported the nomination and proposed that the General Conference elect Mr. Sudjarwo by acclamation.

There were no other nominations.

Mr Sudjarwo (Indonesia) was elected President of the second regular session of the General Conference by acclamation.

Mr. Sudjarwo (Indonesia) took the chair.

12. The PRESIDENT expressed the gratitude of all to the head of the Austrian delegation for having been good enough to act as Temporary President of the General Conference. He was sure that he was interpreting the general

^{1/} GC(II)/39.

feeling in thanking the Federal Chancellor for his words of welcome. He (Mr. Sudjarwo) had been deeply touched by the kind words addressed to him by the representatives of India and Brazil. Expressing his gratitude for the honour done to his country and himself, he undertook to do all in his power to contribute to the success of the session.

13. The first session of the General Conference of the Agency had rightly aroused great hopes. The world was still wondering whether the atomic age would be the age of light sought by humanity or an age of darkness. The efforts of the world's leaders must be directed to providing an answer to that question. Limited though its field of action was, the second session of the General Conference must assist them in those efforts. The events of the past twelve months had maintained the hopes of mankind - indeed had raised them still higher. The participation of new Members was also a source of encouragement and would assist the Agency to achieve its objectives. Moreover, the second United Nations International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, held recently at Geneva (the Geneva Conference) had marked a new stage on the road which the Agency was following in the accomplishment of its tasks.

14. He had no doubt that the General Conference would consider the statement of the Director General and the report of the Board of Governors with good will and in the spirit which had marked the birth of the Agency. Without the patience and understanding of all countries, and more particularly, the close co-operation of the main atomic Powers, what had been achieved could not have been achieved. To build on that work and to ensure the final success of the Agency the harmonious co-operation of those Powers would be no less necessary in future.

15. It was true that patience was demanded but it was no less true that many Members of the Agency, especially those representing the "less-developed" or "under-privileged" areas, were impatient inasmuch as they had an urgent need to improve the welfare of their millions of inhabitants. It was therefore not without good reason that they placed their greatest hopes in the Agency, since it held out the promise to them of a fair share in the benefits of atomic power.

16. The Statute itself rightly emphasized the need to pay due regard to the special requirements of the under-developed countries. Those countries

contained two-thirds of mankind, whose well-being was an important factor for the prosperity and peace of the world. Hence the tasks that awaited the Agency were by no means small ones.

17. He had no doubt that in its wisdom the General Conference would respond to the challenge by taking decisions which would express its determination to give practical effect to the Agency's work in the interests of all, and which would turn it into an instrument capable - in accordance with its Statute - of accelerating and increasing the contribution of atomic energy to the peace, health and prosperity of the entire world. The decisions of the General Conference would be not only of great practical value to the Agency itself, but also of great moral value in the dawning era of atomic energy.

18. He promised to direct his efforts towards success in the common task, working in close collaboration with all the delegates, the members of the General Committee; the Director General, his staff, and the Chairman and members of the Board of Governors. He hoped that the second regular session of the General Conference of the Agency would mark a new step towards the peaceful use of atomic energy for the greatest possible benefit of the whole human race.

APPOINTMENT OF A CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

19. The PRESIDENT proposed that the Credentials Committee should be appointed immediately in accordance with Rule 28 of the Rules of Procedure, and should consist of the following Member States: Australia, Ceylon, Pakistan, Peru, Sweden, the Union of South Africa, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United States of America and Venezuela.

The proposal was adopted.

The meeting was suspended at 3.55 p.m. and resumed at 4.05 p.m.

ELECTION OF THE VICE-PRESIDENTS

20. The PRESIDENT, citing Rule 34 of the Rules of Procedure, invited delegates to submit nominations for the election of the eight Vice-Presidents.

21. Mr. BROCH (Norway) nominated the following Member States: Canada, Cuba, Philippines, Thailand, Turkey, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Arab Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

22. Mr. SOLE (Union of South Africa) seconded those nominations.

There were no other nominations.

Those Member States were elected to the eight Vice-Presidencies.

APPOINTMENT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

23. The PRESIDENT said that to comply with Rule 40 of the Rules of Procedure the General Conference had to elect four additional members to the General Committee. He therefore invited delegates to submit nominations in accordance with that Rule.

24. Mr. TAMMES (Netherlands) nominated France, Japan, Romania and the United States of America.

25. Mr. LUJAN (Venezuela) seconded those nominations.

There were no other nominations.

Those Member States were elected to the General Committee.

STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

At the invitation of the President, Mr. de Scynos, Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, mounted the rostrum.

26. Mr. de SEYNES (Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations), after conveying the wishes of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the success of the second regular session of the General Conference of the Agency, stressed the great importance of the session. The Agency had completed the first stage of organization and now possessed in its staff of technicians a tool which might be put to great uses. The General Conference was called upon to give direction to the activities of the Agency for the coming years, and on its decisions would depend to a large extent the success of those activities, not only for one year but for a long period.

27. The Agency could play an important role in economic and social matters, with which he was particularly concerned by virtue of the post he occupied. In previous years the United Nations had attached an ever-growing importance to the problems of raising the standard of living of the under-developed countries. The establishment of the Agency had aroused a great hope that the solution of the problem could be hastened by an international co-operative effort in the

atomic field. The recent Geneva conference had perhaps slightly damped that hope, but there was no need to be a prophet to foresee that some day atomic energy would make an important contribution to the progress of those countries which were still under-developed. International organizations should take a long view in planning their activities. On such a view the execution of a programme of action for the under-developed countries was already fully justified. The Geneva conference had also confirmed that peaceful uses other than the generation of power would bring to agriculture, industry and medicine benefits which, although less spectacular than those of nuclear energy, would be of ever-increasing value; it seemed that some of those uses could be put into effect immediately in under-developed countries.

28. The competent organs of the United Nations had followed with keen interest the development of the Agency's work, every part of which concerned problems closely bound up with the purposes of the Charter. Because of those bonds, co-operation between the Agency and the United Nations was indispensable and natural. Ten years' experience had shown that co-operation of that sort between institutions whose fields touched and sometimes overlapped, could not rest exclusively on the existence of an agreement, which was only its legal expression. To become living and fruitful, such co-operation must be continuous and creative; the organizations must at all times pay strict attention to each other's problems; joint schemes must be very flexible both in planning and in execution; and each organization must recognize the very great benefits which it could derive from the existence of the other.

29. A certain amount of co-operation, still modest in scope, had taken shape in the past year in a certain number of spheres, which the draft report to the United Nations General Assembly^{2/} summarized in detail. Now that the period of organization was over, new and larger spheres had begun to require fuller co-operation between the two organizations. Such spheres must widen and increase in number as the uses of atomic energy developed.

30. Many economic questions must be investigated and studied relating, for instance, to statistics, costing and the incorporation of nuclear energy into power systems. Although the purely nuclear aspect of those problems principally concerned the technicians of the Agency, their effect on the other forms

^{2/} GC(II)/40.

of energy and on economic development as a whole would be of particular interest to the United Nations, whose regional economic commissions offered further opportunities of fruitful co-operation. The effects of ionizing radiation were also important. The United Nations would, he repeated, always co-operate with the Agency wherever the need arose.

31. On behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, he thanked the Federal Chancellor and the Austrian Government for their welcome and hospitality.

STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

32. The DIRECTOR GENERAL welcomed the delegates, the representatives of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, the observers of non-member States and regional intergovernmental organizations, the representatives of non-governmental organizations, and all other persons present.

33. He said that no one who considered the impressive surroundings in which the General Conference was meeting and the ancient Viennese heritage of understanding and tolerance could doubt that Vienna would increasingly become a centre of international conferences and activity.

34. The Agency was deeply grateful to the Austrian authorities, who had gone to considerable effort and expense to help it to become established. In addition to the conference halls at the Hofburg, it was using the whole of the Grand Hotel for its Secretariat's offices. But arrangements had to be made for expansion; studies were in progress for the selection of a site for the permanent headquarters of the Agency, and for the housing of its staff.

35. He would review in turn the Agency's activity during its first year of existence, the programmes recommended for 1959, and possible additional programmes for the near future.

36. Thanks to the effective working relationship which had existed between the Board of Governors and the Secretariat, the Agency's efforts during its first year showed a distinct mark of progress and accomplishment.

37. Recruitment had been carried out with a high degree of care, thanks to the help given by the Secretariats of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies, which had seconded the necessary personnel. In accordance with the provisions of the Statute, recruitment had been based on efficiency, competence

and integrity, particularly in the scientific field. The wide geographical distribution of the staff was almost certainly unmatched by that of any other member of the United Nations family.

38. The Secretariat's first major task had been to prepare the budget estimates and programme for 1959, which had been revised by the Board of Governors and were now being submitted to the General Conference^{3/}.

39. Applications for 251 fellowships had been received from 25 countries, and 132 candidates had already been selected for placement. The ready response to Agency fellowship opportunities emphasized the great need for them, and so it was important that the target set in the draft budget for voluntary contributions to the General Fund should be reached by the generosity of the Member States.

40. A study of the need for nuclear training centres in Latin America had been completed by a team of experts headed by Dr. Norman Hilberry of the United States, which had visited 17 of the 20 Latin-American countries.

41. A directory of peacetime reactors throughout the world could be prepared if those Member States having reactors would reply to the questionnaires sent them. A similar compilation, to provide a source of information on every kind of atomic equipment and materials was also under way.

42. A technical library, which would be particularly useful for the less advanced countries, was being established. A small laboratory had been set up for the standardization of radioactive samples and the comparison of electronic equipment of different nations.

43. A panel of experts headed by Mr. Gunnar Randers of Norway had helped the Agency to compile a draft manual of practices for the safe handling of radioisotopes. When approved by the Board, it would serve as a code to be followed in all Agency projects and as a pattern for the many countries which did not have such codes.

44. He hoped that agreements at present being negotiated to establish conditions for the transfer of special fissionable material to the Agency would shortly be submitted to the Board of Governors.

^{3/} GC(II)/36 and Corr.1.

45. Already a considerable number of requests for technical advice and assistance, covering a wide range of atomic energy activities, had been received.

46. Several members of the Secretariat had participated in the Second Geneva conference. That conference had enabled the staff of the Agency to mingle with world scientists, discuss technical problems with them, and gather ideas for future activities. Because of its scientific staff, the Agency provided a forum for exchange of views between leading scientists of the world; it might well promote specialized scientific and technical gatherings in order to deal with specific subject areas and thus meet more precisely the needs of particular geographical regions. Its scientific competence would soon be further strengthened by the appointment of a high-level scientific advisory committee to advise the Board of Governors and the Director General on the direction of its programmes, and particularly to consider methods for exploiting the results of the second Geneva conference.

47. During its formative months the Agency had had to determine its position among the other international organizations dealing with the peaceful development of atomic energy on a world-wide and regional level, and its Relationship Agreement with the United Nations had the greatest significance^{4/}. The conclusion of that Agreement had been followed by the negotiation of other agreements with the International Labour Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Meteorological Organization. No formal agreements had yet been negotiated with the regional inter-governmental organizations, but the Agency was aware of the importance of close co-operation with them.

48. Turning to the Agency's accomplishments in the first year of its existence, he said that the services which it could offer, though interdependent, might be divided into two main spheres: first, direct service to individual nations or regions; and secondly, services of a universal nature to all nations, whatever their stage of development. Direct service included the entire range of assistance which the Agency might provide, such as fellowships, exchange of scientists, assistance to educational institutions, technical information, advice in planning, consultative missions, economic and

^{4/} GC.1/3.

technical analysis of proposed projects, research assistance and guidance, and supply of fuels, isotopes and equipment. The other field in which the Agency could serve included all those activities which would contribute to the establishment of a healthy environment for a truly international effort to exploit the peaceful potential of atomic energy.

49. One essential requirement, if the Agency were to provide under the most satisfactory conditions the facilities needed, was the development through international processes of uniform rules for health and safety wherever atomic energy activity was undertaken. There should also be developed a practical and universally applicable system of accounting and safe-keeping to ensure that international atomic development did not "further any military purposes". It could be foreseen that countries which produced source material from which weapons might be made would agree that all foreign shipments of uranium and thorium, for example, be registered with the Agency. It was essential for the Agency to undertake the co-ordination of research and other technical operations, and that it should itself engage in some branches of research, particularly on the construction and use of reactors. Some countries, it was true, had solved the problem in their national law, but there could be no fully satisfactory solution until it had been treated on a world basis. Such was the general direction which the efforts of the Agency might take.

50. Bilateral agreements were a temporary expedient only. Their conclusion had been quite natural before the creation of the Agency; but all States - in both the atomic and the non-atomic areas - should begin to utilize more and more the facilities which the Agency could provide. If nations found it necessary to continue bilateral agreements, there should also be world-wide acceptance of uniform health and safety practices and safeguards against diversion or loss of nuclear products. If bilateral agreements were to be continued alongside Agency assistance in obtaining nuclear fuel, some preferential terms must be given to the Agency by the offering countries, to induce governments to utilize the channels of true international co-operation. It was only by such international co-operation that scientific accomplishments, which were not the exclusive property of the nation responsible for them, could be put to the service of humanity in order to create a better world.

The meeting rose at 5 p.m.

