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**General Conference**

THIRD REGULAR SESSION

OFFICIAL RECORD OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Neue Hofburg, Vienna,  
on Tuesday, 22 September 1959, at 11.15 a.m.

Temporary President: Mr. SUDJARWO (Indonesia)

President: Mr. FURUUCHI (Japan)

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\* GC(III)/88/Rev.2.

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N.B. The list of delegations attending the third regular session of the General Conference was issued as document GC(III)/INF/25/Rev.2.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT declared the third regular session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency open and invited the delegates to observe one minute of silence dedicated to prayer or meditation.

2. All present rose and stood in silence for one minute.

ADDRESS BY THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT

3. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT extended a welcome to all delegates and observers who had assembled for the third regular session of the General Conference. In the early years of the Agency's growth the regular annual sessions of the General Conference were extremely important and were concerned with much more than the mere routine business of approving reports and draft resolutions submitted by the Board of Governors and the Director General. The Board and the Secretariat had both done their utmost during the preceding year to implement in the best possible way the decisions and recommendations adopted at the second regular session, and the Conference owed them its gratitude and appreciation. However, it also had its own special task of ensuring that the Agency developed in the right direction, and at the right speed, interpreting correctly its noble purposes as embodied in the Statute. Under Article V of the Statute the General Conference was authorized to take the guiding decisions not only for the activities of the Board and the Secretariat, but also for the policy governing the development and growth of the Agency as a whole. That was not an easy task. People all over the world had placed great hopes in the Agency, and many Member States - especially those from the less developed areas of the world - were impatient to obtain benefits from it as soon as humanly possible. Those sentiments were not only prompted by the immediate needs of the countries concerned, but also by the belief that the foundation of the Agency should be a turning-point in the history of the utilization of atomic energy - a turning away from destructive to constructive uses.

4. However, the Agency's Statute, cautiously drawn up by practical politicians, did not directly aim at replacing the military uses of atomic energy by its peaceful uses. Unfortunately, outside the Agency's control, military development still went on, giving rise to a tragic situation in which the Agency was

starting to build up a better life and civilization for all peoples of the world, while surrounded by an unceasing production of nuclear weapons, already sufficient to obliterate human life many times over. It was that deadly challenge which gave the Agency its greatest significance, that of bringing about the change from the military to the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

5. It was therefore imperative for the Agency to face its task in a revolutionary spirit, without which it could never adequately meet the rightful expectations of its Member States. Although great ideas had been invested in the foundation of the Agency, in terms of financial support it had started very modestly. In order to bring about the cherished idea of giving peoples throughout the world the greatest benefit from the atomic revolution, an amount of about US \$6.5 million had been earmarked for 1959. That sum represented only a very tiny fraction of the amount the peoples of the world had to pay for the armaments race, estimated at about US \$300 million a day.

6. It was not sufficient to work only for the life and the development of the Agency; its ideals must be fought for as well. The problem, in its essence, was not merely a matter of technique or money, but of the mind of man himself. Should the atom be harnessed for peace or for war? That was the crucial choice with which mankind was faced. The Agency's Conference, led by scientists and politicians alike, could show the world a way out of its dilemma, by creating conditions which would bring about the right choice, the only choice possible, namely peace.

7. Fortunately, the Conference was meeting in a better international climate than in the previous year. International tensions seemed to be relaxing somewhat, and that should be beneficial to the Agency's work. There seemed to be a new prospect for the conclusion of an agreement to ban nuclear weapon tests; that would release money, materials, equipment and technical skill which could be utilized for the peaceful purposes of the atomic age. Great disarmament proposals were being put forward. Those crucial questions must be dealt with in a spirit of determination for peace. They could be the prelude to a new and great era, the real era of peace, bringing benefit not only to the Agency but to the whole of mankind.

8. In conclusion, he wished his fellow delegates success in the deliberations of the Conference, and hoped they would keep constantly in mind the Agency's

great task. He felt sure that his successor to the post of President of the General Conference would provide inspiring guidance in achieving the common goals of peace and prosperity.

#### 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. AHMAD (Pakistan) nominated Mr. Furuuchi, head of the Japanese delegation, who had been a Governor since 1957 and had been Vice-Chairman of the Board of Governors during its first year. His personal qualities were well-known and admired, and he had consistently sought to further the well-being and success of the Agency, making notable contributions during the difficult initial period of its existence. His talents and experience made him an eminently suitable candidate.

11. His support for Mr. Furuuchi was not based on personal reasons alone. Japan had been the first country to receive the full shock of an atomic explosion, and had since made a remarkable recovery, technically and economically, winning the admiration of the world. As the Agency was dedicated to extending the peaceful uses of atomic energy, it was fitting that a representative of Japan should be called upon to preside over the Agency's Conference, thus demonstrating to the world that all efforts should henceforth be directed towards harnessing the atom for the good of mankind.

12. The good relations between the Governments of Japan and Pakistan, and the help which Japan had given his country in the reconstruction of its economy, made him particularly happy to propose Mr. Furuuchi. It would be very gratifying to see a representative of an Asian country once more selected for the honour of presidency.

13. Mr. FOSTER (United States of America) seconded the nomination, pointing out that Japan had been one of the staunchest supporters of the Agency and had consistently demonstrated its faith in the Agency's future. Japan was the first Member State to request Agency assistance in supplying nuclear materials and to accept Agency safeguards against the diversion of materials to military purposes. Mr. Furuuchi's personal qualifications were well-known.

He had served both his country and the Agency ably and well, and was thoroughly familiar with the Agency's programme and work. The United States delegation was confident that he would preside over the meetings with fairness and ability.

14. In supporting the nomination of Mr. Furuuchi, the United States delegation was also recognizing the important role which Japan had consistently played in the Agency's early formative years. Japan had made an outstanding contribution towards helping to establish the Agency on a sound basis. For those reasons, he felt sure that Member States would be happy to elect the delegate of Japan as President of the third regular session of the General Conference.

15. Mr. NOVIKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he felt obliged to comment on the nomination made by the two preceding speakers. At that moment, discussions were being held between the Heads of Government of the Soviet Union and the United States of America in an attempt to lessen tension between the East and the West. Those discussions had been hailed as the beginning of a "thaw" and the dawn of a new era. The Soviet delegation therefore regretted that the General Conference was beginning its labours with practices which recalled the period when the cold war was at its height and was sorry to note that the initiative in doing so lay with the United States delegation.

16. A few months previously the East European countries had proposed Mr. Nadjakov of Bulgaria for the presidency of the third regular session. A representative of the West had been chosen for the first regular session and a representative of the Arab-Asian countries for the second. The countries of Eastern Europe had supported both those nominations and had hoped that similar respect would be shown to the Bulgarian candidate. Until a week before no objections had been raised and no other candidate had been mentioned. Just before the Conference had opened, however, the United States mission to the Agency had begun to exert pressure in order to have the representative of Japan elected President of the Conference. No objection to the candidature of Mr. Nadjakov had been expressed, and all attempts to negotiate with the United States delegation had been fruitless. The introduction of the Japanese candidature, which placed Member States before a fait accompli, was a sign that the United States delegation was still pursuing the old bankrupt policy of

negotiating from a "position of strength"; it was a denial of the principle of co-operation about which the United States delegation liked to speak. It could hardly be said that the countries of the Asian region were claiming the post of President of the Conference.

17. The East European countries wished to nominate Mr. Nadjakov, a well-known atomic physicist, Director of the Institute of Physics of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and Vice-President of his country's Board for the Utilization of Atomic Energy for Peaceful Purposes. He had been head of the Bulgarian delegation at the first and second United Nations International Conferences on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy and head of the Bulgarian delegation at the previous regular and special sessions of the Agency's General Conference, as well as at the present session.

18. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT pointed out that, although it was not usual to have more than a single candidature for the presidency of an international conference, and although he himself regretted that there was more than one on the present occasion, the second nomination was perfectly in order. There was, however, no rule which stated that the presidency of the Conference should be allotted to representatives of different geographical areas in succeeding years.

19. Mr. de ERICE (Spain) said that he wished first of all to congratulate the Temporary President on the way in which he had guided the proceedings of the General Conference at its previous session.

20. He was conscious of the considerable merits of both the candidates who had been nominated but, in the interests of that spirit of harmonious co-operation to which the delegate of the Soviet Union had himself referred, he supported the delegate of Pakistan's nomination of Mr. Furuuchi.

21. The delegate of the Soviet Union had urged the principle of equitable geographical distribution in support of his nomination. Reference to Rule 34 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference made it clear, however, that equitable geographical distribution was a consideration which only concerned the election of the Vice-Presidents. That was in accordance with procedure in other international organizations - the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), for example, and the United Nations itself, where two Latin American candidates had been elected Presidents of two almost successive General Assemblies.

22. His delegation supported the Japanese candidature for three reasons. Firstly, Mr. Furuuchi had been associated with the work of the Agency since its inception, and thus knew all there was to know about the machinery of the Conference. The organization of the Conference and its debates was more important in electing a President than the principle of fair geographical distribution. Secondly, it was extremely fitting that a representative of Japan should be elected, in view of the fact that Japan had been the first country to suffer the effects of an atomic explosion. Thirdly, previous Presidents of the Conference and Chairmen of the Board of Governors had been diplomats, and it would be well to preserve that tradition.

23. Mr. MELLER-CONRAD (Poland) said that his delegation supported the nomination of Mr. Nadjakov. The candidature had been put forward through diplomatic channels a long time previously, and reflected the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

24. The delegate of Spain had pointed out that the presidency of the Conference had previously been occupied by diplomats, which was surely all the more reason for now electing an eminent scientist, especially in view of the fact that international relations were improving. The election of Mr. Nadjakov would have a symbolic value for the Conference.

25. His delegation had not forgotten Hiroshima, and did not oppose the election of a representative of Japan on principle. However, there was little ground for believing that the election of Mr. Furuuchi would be of much value in avoiding future Hiroshimas, since it would be the result of a political manoeuvre.

26. At a time when the cold war was abating, it would be well if the Conference gave an example of international co-operation which had not so far been forthcoming from any other international organization. He therefore appealed to the delegate of Pakistan to withdraw his nomination so that the Conference could unanimously elect a single nominee.

27. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT, in the absence of further comments, invited the Conference to take a vote by secret ballot, and asked Mr. Bittencourt (Brazil) and Mr. Barton (Canada) to act as tellers.

28. The result of the vote was as follows:

<u>Number of ballot papers:</u>	61
<u>Invalid ballots:</u>	7
<u>Number of valid ballots:</u>	54
<u>Number of abstentions:</u>	None
<u>Number of members voting:</u>	54
<u>Required majority:</u>	28
<u>Number of votes obtained:</u>	
Mr. Furuuchi (Japan)	39
Mr. Nadjakov (Bulgaria)	15

29. Having obtained the required majority, Mr. Furuuchi (Japan) was elected President of the General Conference for its third regular session.

30. Mr. Furuuchi (Japan) took the chair.

31. The PRESIDENT expressed the gratitude of all to the head of the Indonesian delegation for having been good enough to act as Temporary President of the Conference, and to the Austrian Government for its hospitality. He had been deeply touched by the honour which the Conference had done to his country and himself by electing him President, and was particularly grateful for the kind words addressed to him by the delegate of Pakistan. He undertook to do all in his power to contribute to the success of the session.

32. It was clear that all nations must co-operate as closely as possible if the basic statutory objective of the Agency to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world was to be fulfilled. In particular, problems such as nuclear radiation, environmental contamination and waste disposal called for a concerted effort by all nations and, where appropriate, international regulations.

33. After certain initial difficulties, inevitable in any new organization, the Agency could look back with a reasonable measure of satisfaction on the solid progress achieved during the past year. The Agency's technical assistance activities had been substantially expanded. It was becoming a world reference centre on atomic energy questions and, in that connexion, it was encouraging to note that the Head of the Central Atomic Energy Utilization Board of the Soviet Union and the Chairman of the United States Atomic Energy Commission had

recently reaffirmed that their countries would make every effort to pass on to the Agency all useful information on the peaceful applications of atomic energy developed by them and help it to disseminate that information to all Member States.

34. The major part of the Agency's activities had been devoted to the application of radioisotopes and other radiation sources in industry, agriculture and medicine and to the use of nuclear energy for the generation of electricity. Special attention should be drawn to the Agency's attempts to increase the possibility of utilizing nuclear power in the less developed areas of the world. The Agency had also made considerable progress during the year under review in connexion with regulatory functions. In particular, valuable work had been done by expert panels on civil liability, the safe transportation of radioactive materials, and waste disposal.

35. If the Agency were to fulfil its tasks and responsibilities under the Statute, it was particularly important that Member States should co-operate by making voluntary contributions to the General Fund. The Agency could not meet the less developed countries' growing need for technical assistance and guidance unless it were equipped with adequate financial resources. The Conference would be called upon to approve the Programme and Budget for 1960 which the Board of Governors, after careful examination, had decided to recommend for its approval.<sup>1/</sup>

36. Although there were considerable scientific, technical and economic obstacles to the development of atomic energy for peaceful purposes, the benefits which all nations would receive if those obstacles were overcome would be even greater. He therefore believed that the Conference should reaffirm its confidence in the future of the Agency and in its ability to meet the challenge before it, and should once again pledge all possible support. In that way it would help to ensure that present and future generations enjoyed the fullest benefits obtainable from nuclear energy.

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<sup>1/</sup> GC(III)/75.

#### APPOINTMENT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

37. 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: Ceylon, Czechoslovakia, Iran, Italy, Peru, Philippines, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United States of America and Venezuela.

38. The proposal was adopted.

39. The meeting was suspended at 12.30 p.m. and resumed at 12.50 p.m.

#### ELECTION OF THE VICE-PRESIDENTS

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

41. Mr. CEDERWALL (Sweden) nominated the following Member States: Bulgaria, France, Greece, India, Mexico, Pakistan, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America.

42. Mr. RAGGATT (Australia) seconded the nominations.

43. The Member States referred to were declared elected to the eight Vice-Presidencies.

#### APPOINTMENT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

44. 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 invited nominations in accordance with that rule.

45. Mr. de ERICÉ (Spain) nominated Brazil, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

46. The Member States referred to were declared elected to the General Committee and the Committee itself duly appointed in compliance with the provisions of Rule 40 of the Rules of Procedure.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.