



Sixth regular session

THE AGENCY'S SAFEGUARDS

Memorandum by the Board of Governors

1. In paragraph 5 of its resolution GC(IV)/RES/71 the General Conference invited the Board of Governors to report at its sixth regular session

"on the results of the general review to be undertaken of ... [the Agency's safeguards] ... principles and procedures after two years, in the light of the actual experience gained by the Agency as well as of technological developments."

2. In the Board's view, the experience gained by the Agency in the period of approximately a year and a half that the safeguards system has been in effect is insufficient to enable a comprehensive review to be made of the principles and procedures [1] on which it is based. It seems advisable, consequently, to delay a formal review of the safeguards document until the system has been applied on a larger scale and to a wider range of nuclear facilities.

3. Although, for these reasons, the Board has not found it possible to accept the General Conference's invitation to report on the subject at the sixth regular session, it nevertheless intends to keep the principles and procedures under examination, as new cases of application improve the Agency's understanding of the many problems involved. Such modifications of the safeguards system as may come to be needed as a result of experience will thus be developed by the Board at a suitable time, and will be communicated to the General Conference as soon as possible thereafter.

[1] Set forth in document INFCIRC/26.

