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President: Mr. BAFFOUR (Ghana)

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* GC(VI)/207.

The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document
GC(VI)/INF/56/Rev.2.

GENERAL DISCUSSION AND REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR 1961-62
(GC(VI)/195, 204) (continued)

1. Mr. DIALLO (Senegal) said that by electing the representative of an African country to the Presidency of the session, the General Conference had shown that the problems of the developing countries were very much in its thoughts. Those problems could be solved by strengthening international co-operation in scientific matters and, in particular, the Agency's part in it, for it was self-evident that the progress of the under-privileged countries depended on developing their power resources and training their technicians.
2. Fully appreciating the importance of the Agency's work, the Government of Senegal had arranged to be represented at the sixth session by the Minister especially concerned with research and scientific development - one of the key-stones in the national policy of economic and social development, the foundations for which had been laid in the first four-year plan (1961-64).
3. Senegal considered that science - constructive and not destructive - should provide one of the fundamental ways of enabling African countries to emerge from under-development and famine, reduce the constantly increasing gap between the advanced and less-advanced countries; and so become a factor making for peace and concord in international relations. As Senegal had had occasion to say at the United Nations, independence was for it only a means, its real aim being its own betterment. Science and technology could rapidly improve living conditions in countries that had recently become independent.
4. An extension of the peaceful applications of atomic energy could constructively alter economic conditions in such countries. The Senegalese Government had accordingly decided to keep in close touch with scientific bodies in the advanced countries, with the international scientific organizations and, more particularly, with the Agency; it could but welcome what the Agency was doing for the developing countries.
5. Pursuant to the very constructive recommendations made by a preliminary assistance mission, an expert had prepared an atomic energy development programme in collaboration with the Senegalese Government which was to be integrated in the four-year development plan. In conformity with the

objectives and general tendencies of the plan, that programme had the main object of encouraging radioisotope applications in agriculture and medicine, and establishing institutions that would enable Senegal to train nuclear scientists - although the latter would depend largely on the country's power requirements. As nuclear electricity might be competitive in existing circumstances in certain of the industrial areas, there was a proposal to establish at the University of Dakar an institute designed specifically for nuclear research, with its own research reactor, in anticipation of the time when the demand for energy would raise problems which would be more and more difficult to solve.

6. A radioisotope laboratory would soon go into service at the West African Cancer Institute at Dakar; centralizing work for various hospitals in Senegal, it would be expanded under the second four-year plan. The radioisotope laboratory at the National Agronomic Research Centre at Bambey would also be expanded to provide a larger laboratory that would deal with all aspects of radioisotope utilization in agriculture - agronomy, hydrology, radiogenetics and entomology.

7. The use of radioisotopes could not have been developed without the Agency's help, which had often been very valuable; but above all it would have been impossible without the assistance of France. Senegalese engineers and doctors had for the last two years been in training at the National Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology at Saclay. With the assistance of the French Atomic Energy Commission the Senegalese Government would organize a course in radioisotope applications in agriculture and medicine at the Faculty of Sciences in Dakar, mainly for nationals of the French-speaking Member States of the African and Malagasy Union.

8. Anxious to work constructively for African unity, the Senegalese Government would prepare its scientific research programme and design its scientific infrastructure to harmonize with those of friendly countries since the problems of under-development were regional and the same for all countries of the African and Malagasy Union and for the members of the Commission for Technical Co-operation in Africa (CTCA).

9. A specialized body, the African and Malagasy Organization for Economic Co-operation (OAMCE), had been set up within the Union. In one year, OAMCE

had proved to be one of the most original and fruitful experiences of the twelve Member States of the Union and had done much to promote African unity. It already had noteworthy achievements to its credit and, at the last Committee meeting in Douala, Cameroun, had laid the foundations of Pan-African scientific development.

10. Similarly, the Senegalese Government and twenty-five other independent African States supported CTCA. On the recommendation of its committee for scientific and technical research, OAMCE had recently decided to establish closer relations between CTCA, OAMCE and four international organizations (including the Agency) that were concerned with scientific matters. The role CTCA had always played in the solution of specifically African problems and in the co-ordination of research had not gone unnoticed by the newly-independent States, and practically all States which had worked together in CTCA with the former colonial powers were still members. Their first concern had been to transform CTCA into a Pan-African intergovernmental scientific organization.

11. Senegal, and no doubt other Member States of CTCA and OAMCE, regretted that CTCA was not represented at the present session. It was to be hoped that it would be invited to send a representative to the seventh session. An international organization concerned with scientific matters could not overlook CTCA without ignoring the real interests of the African people in its twenty-five Member States.

12. The people of Africa had confidence in science and hoped for much from the Agency's activities in the continent - expectations which he hoped would not be disappointed.

13. Mr. AMAMOO (Ghana) said he favoured strengthening the financial position of the Agency and so enabling it the better to fulfil its objectives, particularly as far as assistance to the developing countries was concerned.

14. Although the suggestion that the two seats for Africa and the Middle East on the Board should carry the right to vote pending the ratification of the amendment to Article VI of the Statute^{1/} was interesting, it seemed preferable to maintain the status quo until two-thirds of Member States had accepted the amendment.

^{1/} GC(V)/RES/92.

15. In June 1962, a conference organized by the Ghana Government at Accra and attended by 130 people had reached certain conclusions. First, that disarmament would release vast quantities of radioactive material for peaceful purposes, of high purity and so involving no technical processing difficulties, but an agreement would have to be reached to ensure that such materials would never be used for military purposes. Secondly, that because of the increase in the world's population, rising standards of living and the depletion of conventional fuels, nuclear power was bound to play an increasingly important role; if existing stocks of radioactive materials were made available to all nations at a very low price, the cost of power could be cut by from 15% to 20%.

16. The use of military stocks for peaceful purposes would make nuclear power competitive in almost all parts of the world, stimulate the development of nuclear and other industries, and intensify research on breeder and other reactors - in short, increase the contribution of nuclear energy to the well-being of mankind.

17. Although Article III.A.2 of the Statute emphasized that the needs of the less-developed areas should be considered, very little had been done for them since the establishment of the Agency. Africa could scarcely be said to have been favoured. For example, under the technical assistance provided by the Agency in 1961, Morocco had received \$16 581 and Senegal \$1373, while Ghana, Mali and Ethiopia had received no aid whatsoever. The Ghana delegation believed that the Agency could do considerably more to help the developing countries.

18. What those countries needed from the Agency was assistance in obtaining radiation sources and long-lived isotopes, like cobalt, to enable them to set up radiological departments in hospitals and train experts in all aspects of radiotherapy. They also needed help in solving the problems of agriculture and animal husbandry, since an improvement in crop yields and livestock production would contribute directly to the raising of living standards in the less-developed countries.

19. Ghana welcomed the research on the use of fertilizers in rice-growing areas and hoped for another programme under which radioisotopes would be used to combat diseases of the cacao tree. Such a programme would be sure of a warm welcome from the countries concerned.

20. His delegation proposed that a small committee be set up to make recommendations to the Board regarding the practical steps the Agency could take to help the African countries. Once the Agency had something positive to offer, many more of those countries would join and co-operate with it in achieving the objectives laid down in the Statute.
21. Ghana had certain reservations about the way in which the principle of geographical representation was applied in the Agency.
22. Turning to Ghana's own atomic energy programme, he said that, pursuant to an agreement concluded with the Soviet Union in 1961, Ghana was carrying out a programme that aimed at raising the economic and scientific standards. The first reactor would be completed in 1963, and other projects had been started. Important research work had been undertaken at the West African Cocoa Research Institute at Tafo. The Kwadoso Central Agricultural Station was ready to use radioisotopes and a laboratory was under construction. The expert on radiochemistry and the expert in the agricultural applications of radioisotopes, offered to Ghana by the Agency, would shortly take up duty. The University of Ghana and the Kwame Nkrumah University had well-equipped laboratories and qualified professors. The Government was preparing legislation to cover all aspects of present and future activities in atomic energy.
23. President Nkrumah had always said that Ghana was ready to collaborate with all African States on questions of atomic energy as on all other. It was to be hoped that the nuclear Powers and the Agency would help Ghana and Africa by setting up a regional nuclear training centre in West Africa.
24. Ghana would support every effort of the Agency to develop the peaceful uses of atomic energy.
25. Mr. DAS GUPTA (India) welcomed what the Agency had done during the past five years, within its limited resources, to help the developing countries. Nevertheless the time had now come to reorient the Agency's activities if the hopes it had aroused were to be fulfilled. In the next few years nuclear power would require greater attention. He was therefore pleased to note that the Director General had undertaken to formulate a long-term plan to help meet the needs of the developing countries in nuclear power, which held such rich promise.

26. The Agency should not on that account neglect its other activities, such as the application of radioisotopes in agriculture, medicine and industry, the training of scientists and technicians, and so forth. Those were equally important tasks. The long-term programme should therefore be balanced and comprehensive. He had noted with apprehension a recent tendency to divert Agency activities towards matters that were not directly within the Agency's competence; that could only injure the Agency and create avoidable financial difficulties. He therefore requested all delegates to keep in view, when formulating their recommendations, the Agency's proper sphere of work as laid down in the Statute. Every effort should also be made, in accordance with Article III.B.3 of the Statute, to use the Agency's resources "in such a manner as to secure efficient utilization and the greatest possible general benefit in all areas of the world, bearing in mind the special needs of the underdeveloped areas of the world."

27. He had listened with keen interest to the arguments put forward by the United Kingdom delegation in support of the draft amendment to Article XIV of the Statute,^{2/} submitted in an attempt to put right the Agency's financial difficulties. However, the Indian Government believed that it would perhaps be more useful to consider other means of increasing the resources available to the Agency for technical assistance. The Soviet delegation had recently stated that the socialist countries were offering 300 fellowships and valuable equipment. So generous an offer deserved praise, and he hoped that other advanced countries would follow that example. In that way the Agency would have no difficulty in meeting the needs of Member States during the next few years.

28. An amendment to the Statute should be accepted only as a last resort. The United Kingdom proposal directly contradicted the basic principle underlying the Statute. The Statute intended that all Member States should pay a contribution to the regular budget on the basis of the United Nations scale of assessment, while the operational budget, which should be the principal source of funds for technical assistance, should be financed from voluntary contributions. The purpose of that distinction was to avoid placing too heavy a financial burden on the developing countries with regard to technical assistance, encouraging them on the other hand to contribute voluntarily according to their

^{2/} GC(VI)/205; GC(VI)/OR.64, paras. 47-56.

ability. In his view, that was a cardinal principle and should not lightly be violated. In the world today there were developed countries on the one hand and developing countries on the other. It would be ignoring reality and putting the price for membership of the Agency too high if, for the purpose of financing, all countries were placed in the same category. To do so would defeat the very purpose intended by the proposed amendment to the Statute.

29. In addition, the division between the two budgets was a means of ensuring that the administration did not grow too bulky, and that the funds and resources were more fruitfully used for such activities as the Statute intended, for the benefit of Member States. Amalgamation of the two budgets would remove that distinction, and one should not be surprised to see Parkinson's Law come into operation with money being wasted on unnecessarily increasing the strength of the Secretariat. That was again contrary to the spirit of the Statute, and would defeat the very purpose of the United Kingdom proposal.

30. Financial difficulties were not confined to the Agency. Similar problems had arisen in other organizations, in particular the United Nations itself, where disagreement had arisen over participation in the cost of the United Nations operations in the Congo. It would therefore be premature for the Agency to try to tackle a similar problem merely by amending the Statute and eliminating one of its cardinal principles.

31. The Indian delegation therefore considered that the United Kingdom amendment should be dropped for the time being, and efforts made to find other ways and means of meeting financial requirements. It would be unrealistic to draw up a long-term programme without attempting at the same time to put the finances of the Agency on a more solid foundation. He therefore suggested that a fresh appeal be made to the advanced countries to make substantial contributions and to ensure that they were paid regularly. A similar appeal should be made to all the developing countries to pay voluntary contributions according to their ability and to ensure that their payments were regular. It would be most helpful if Member States could indicate two or three years in advance what contributions they intended to make. For its part, the Indian Government was fully prepared to take on such obligations, within the limits of its resources.

32. He wished to clarify his Government's position with respect to safeguards. The Government and Prime Minister of India had declared that India would not seek to use atomic energy except for peaceful purposes. The Parliament of India had also lately passed a comprehensive Act to that effect. His Government considered that international safeguards should be accepted only when they could be made universally applicable. To apply them only to the developing countries would not merely be discriminatory, but would also mean an infringement of their sovereignty. At the present time, when certain countries both in the East and the West were carrying out research for destructive purposes, it would be childish to talk of international safeguards applicable only to the developing countries, where the chances of misuse were the least.

33. Mr. El TOHAMY (United Arab Republic) spoke of the great advances in science and technology that the modern world had witnessed, and which everyone hoped would be placed at the service of mankind; he recalled, too, the disappointment that had been caused by the failure of the Geneva Conference on Disarmament. The United Arab Republic was convinced of the need for international co-operation in the peaceful utilization of atomic energy and confident that it could be brought about by a more wholehearted adherence to the Agency's objectives. Co-operation between States, bilateral or regional, would likewise make a valuable contribution to the progress of science and technology. The United Arab Republic's belief in that policy was demonstrated by the agreements it had concluded with the Agency and with different countries.

34. In that connection, the Board, on 16 September 1962, had approved a draft agreement on the establishment in Cairo of a regional radioisotope centre to serve the Arab countries.^{3/} The United Arab Republic had first proposed in 1958 that the Cairo national radioisotope centre should be converted into a regional centre, and a formal request in that sense had been submitted to the Agency in 1959. The request had been endorsed by the Board of Governors in June 1960. The national atomic energy establishment, in co-operation with the Agency, had organized two regional training courses in Cairo during 1961, the first on general applications of radioisotopes and the second on their

^{3/} INFCIRC/38.

medical uses. Both courses had been fully successful. In September 1962, the Arab countries, including the United Arab Republic as host State, had finally reached an agreement with the Agency. He paid tribute to the Director General for the active part he had taken in bringing about that agreement, which would enter into force in January 1963. The United Arab Republic was firmly resolved to honour all its obligations towards the centre. Although the proposed financial support by the Agency was inadequate to meet the centre's needs, his country was sure that success in the enterprise would show the need for more positive help to such projects.

35. The national atomic energy establishment had obtained, with the Agency's co-operation, a 560-curie cobalt unit for use in agricultural research. The Cairo University Hospital was now provided with a 3000-curie cobalt-60 teletherapy unit. The country would need six more units of the kind in all, which explained why his Government had asked the Agency in 1959 to supply one further unit for the Alexandria University Hospital. The Board had approved that request on 12 September 1962. The unit had been kindly offered by the Czechoslovak Government during the fifth session of the General Conference.

36. Although appreciating what the Agency had done, he nevertheless felt obliged to deplore the considerable time lag between the submission of the request and receipt of the unit. It was obvious that the technical assistance furnished by the Agency lacked efficiency and was always behind schedule - defects which were prejudicial to the developing countries. Radical changes should be introduced in the system of providing technical assistance.

37. In that connection he referred to the proposed United Kingdom amendment to Article XIV of the Statute. The United Arab Republic felt little inclination to support the amendment as it stood, but would support an amendment calculated to ensure financial stability and adequate funds for the technical assistance programme.

38. Coming to his country's activities in atomic energy, he stated that bilateral agreements for co-operation in research and development in the peaceful uses of atomic energy had been concluded with India and Yugoslavia. During 1960, the national atomic energy establishment had exchanged scientists with various countries and scientific institutions and it was ready, in its turn, to receive scientists who needed training. The 2 MW reactor, built

with the help of Soviet scientists, had reached criticality in July 1961, and had since been used for various investigations. A number of experiments concerned with neutron diffraction and fission physics and chemistry were in progress. His Government would be glad to place two channels of the reactor at the disposal of nuclear scientists from other countries for experimental purposes; the offer was open till the end of 1963.

39. The country's nuclear chemistry laboratory was now completely equipped; it had four main units, covering the production of radioisotopes, nuclear ores, reactor metallurgy and analytical chemistry. The radioisotope unit would produce the processed isotopes iodine-131, gold-198, sodium-24, potassium-42, chromium-51, sulphur-35 and phosphorus-32, as well as a variety of radiation sources and unprocessed isotopes. As from November 1962, the atomic energy establishment would be ready to deliver any of those isotopes to interested countries. The remaining three laboratory units were engaged in developing low-cost technical procedures for the separation of uranium, thorium and other reactor materials from Egyptian ores, and in studies on fuel-element production, fission-product chemistry, waste disposal, analysis and concentration of heavy water, and a waste decontamination plant. The establishment hoped that the construction of two new laboratories, one to deal with geology and raw materials and the other engineering and scientific instruments, would be finished in the course of 1963.

40. The country's power programme provided for the building of a reactor of about 100 MW electric. Preliminary studies had been made and further steps towards putting the project into effect would be taken during the current year.

41. In its future work, the Agency should place special emphasis on nuclear power technology with the overriding object of helping the developing countries.

42. The establishment of a long-term programme raised the question of safeguards. His Government had from the outset consistently opposed the safeguards system. It was convinced that the time had come to reconsider the original concept of the system, in order that the developing countries might be supplied with power reactors on conditions that were compatible with their dignity and therefore acceptable.

43. The United Arab Republic had made a voluntary contribution of Egyptian £5000 (\$11 261) to the General Fund for 1962 and would be making a contribution for 1963.

44. His delegation welcomed with enthusiasm the promising programme of aid to the developing countries which the Soviet Union had proposed, and noted that the United States delegation was in favour of asking the Board to study that proposal in detail.^{4/} The recommendation of the United States delegation that the Agency should direct more attention to nuclear power projects was also highly appreciated. It was by co-operation between the Great Powers that peace and prosperity would come, the ultimate aim of all mankind.

The meeting rose at 4.35 p.m.

^{4/} GC(VI)/OR.66, para. 47.