

General Conference

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SIXTH REGULAR SESSION

OFFICIAL RECORD OF THE SEVENTIBLE PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Neue Hofburg, Vienna, on Monday, 24 September 1962, at 3.30 p.m.

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

- 1. Mr. da ROCHA (Brazil) said that as his Government was in favour of reducing the length of the general debate and the duration of the General Conference, he would confine his remarks to three points: the revision of the Statute, technical assistance and long-term planning.
- 2. The Government of Brazil believed the Statute should be revised in such a ` way as to enable the Agency to operate more effectively. On the whole it was a sound instrument, drafted at a time when international co-operation in atomic energy had been practically non-existent. The actual functioning of the Agency, however, had inevitably shown up some flaws, e.g. the arrangements for financing, in which connection the United Kingdom delegation had proposed an amendment to Article XIV_. The Brazilian Government, while agreeing that the present system of contributions to the budget was not satisfactory, was not in favour of making an isolated amendment to Article XIV or of abolishing the system of voluntary contributions. As the proposed amendment to Article XIV would affect other articles and hence the Statute as a whole, it should be considered within the framework of a revision of the Statute as a whole. Nevertheless, he wished to acknowledge the merits of the United Kingdom proposal, which represented a courageous first step, opening the way to other proposals that would eventually remedy the situation.
- 3. Technical assistance in the form of survey missions, technicians, fellowships and equipment had been a feature of the Agency's collaboration in the development of the Brazilian programme, and his Government had in turn honoured its commitments to the General Fund. As the most urgent and sometimes even dramatic need of the less-developed countries was to be able to apply radio-isotopes in medicine, he welcomed the announcement that the Soviet Union would help to set up six regional medical centres²/.
- 4. Brazil considered that the Agency's technical assistance programme should be designed to satisfy the immediate needs of the less-developed countries while having a logical, scientific basis that would enable the Agency to develop its assistance to the maximum. That led naturally to the concept of a

^{1/} GC(VI)/205.

^{2/} See document GC(VI)/COM.1/67/Rev.1.

long-term programme, which the Director General had proposed and the Board had endorsed , to take the place of the improvization that had been inevitable during the early years.

- 5. Brazil was ready to support an increase in the technical assistance and regulatory activities which, taken together, it regarded as the most important of all the Agency's functions.
- 6. The technical data so objectively put forward by the delegate of Pakistan at the panel on nuclear power showed the extent to which nuclear power was already competitive in the less-developed areas. Perhaps the Secretariat could compile relative data on conventional and nuclear power costs in those areas; most of the information should be already available in statistical abstracts and questionnaires previously sent to Governments. The information would be of considerable interest in drawing up the long-term programme.
- 7. Little could come of the hopes expressed and the suggestions put forward at the General Conference unless there was a relaxation in international tension. On that fundamental question Brazil was optimistic. It was inconceivable that any Government, without betraying the faith of its own people, could commit itself to such an enterprise as the disarmament conference now being held in Geneva unless its intentions were serious. Brazil was doing its utmost to ensure that the Governments represented in Geneva - of which it was one - would dispel the threat to world peace. That was the wish of mankind. best acquainted with the difficulties of the international situation occasionally let their imaginations fly, and started to plan in concrete terms for a world At the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations permanently at peace. (ECOSOC) in 1961, for instance, delegates had engaged in a detailed discussion about the use of the resources which would be released by total disarmament. A passing remark by a delegate that the disarmament conference had yet to reach agreement on the first sentence of the first paragraph of the preamble to the text of the disarmament agreement had brought the meeting back to reality. Brazil nevertheless hoped that the plans made for the future would not be made in vain.
- 8. Mr. PETRZELKA (Czechoslovakia) pointed out that many changes had taken place since delegates to the Conference on the Statute had decided that the Agency should become the principal body for providing assistance in atomic

³/ See document GC(VI)/203.

energy to the developing countries. The Agency had failed to live up to what had been expected of it, and had become a stray link in the United Nations system, carrying out work of a routine nature only. The Secretariat effectively handled the tasks imposed by the Board and the Conference, which met regularly and agreed on programmes that were subsequently implemented. So, formally speaking, everything was in order, and nothing would seem to prejudice a positive appraisal of the Agency's activities in 1962. The Czechoslovak delegation, however, believed that any such conclusion could be reached only if the Conference adopted a rather low standard for its review — and to do so would neither help the Agency nor facilitate its future work.

- The use of nuclear power as a source of energy in the modern world was too serious an issue to justify a purely routine approach. The Agency had still done nothing to further the solution of the most urgent and most pressing contemporary problem, namely the achievement of general and complete disarmament, without which it could not hope to develop its activities to the full. and complete disarmament would not only relieve mankind of the threat of nuclear war, but would also release for peaceful purposes the vast resources now employed on a world-wide scale for armaments. Atomic energy should no longer be a means of destruction but should become a source of power and help in removing poverty, illness and destitution, especially in the economically less-developed countries. Unfortunately, a majority of Member States had prevented the Agency from adhering unequivocally to a programme of general and complete disarmament, and the necessity of supporting such a programme had not been emphasized in Agency If the Agency was to fulfil the provisions of Article III.B.l of the Statute, which called upon it to "conduct its activities in conformity with policies of the United Nations furthering the establishment of safeguarded world-wide disarmament", it would have to throw its authority behind the demand for general and complete disarmament. He wholeheartedly supported the Polish suggestion that the Board should prepare a survey of the consequences of disarmament for the peaceful uses of atomic energy.
- 10. Even in the absence of a disarmament agreement, which was being thwarted by the stubbornly aggressive attitude of the imperialist powers, the existence of the Agency was justified and certain activities could be fully developed. It was essential, however, to devote all efforts to such activities, and not to squander finances on undertakings that only served to divert the Agency from its

true objectives. The results of the Agency's 1961 activities were far from satisfactory. Although the Agency had been in existence for several years, no clear-cut policy had yet emerged, and energy and money were dissipated on a variety of different activities. It must once again be emphasized that technical assistance to developing countries for nuclear energy purposes should be the Agency's principal function, to which all other activities should be subordinated. Thus only could the Agency fulfil its mission and make rational use of the financial resources at its disposal.

- ll. Funds that could be used for technical assistance were being diverted to such activities as the development of safeguards or research in the Laboratory. Large appropriations were still allocated to those activities, although experience had upheld the objections to safeguards raised by the socialist countties. Likewise, the results of the work performed in the Laboratory fully justified the reservations expressed in the past by the Czechoslovak delegation; the cost of operating it was considerable and, with the possible exception of the standardization of isotopes, the value of the results problematic. It was highly doubtful whether the Agency was justified in undertaking large-scale measurements of radioactive fallout from nuclear explosions when a special organ had been set up for that purpose by the United Nations, to say nothing of the fact that almost all Member States performed similar work in their national laboratories.
- 12. The Agency had also devoted a great deal of attention in 1961 to regulatory activities, i.e. to the standardization of rules and regulations and the creation of uniform international conditions for collaboration in the peaceful uses of atomic energy. Such work was very valuable, particularly for the future, and his Government had participated in a number of the Secretariat projects. Unfortunately, however, there appeared to be a tendency for the Agency to devolop its regulatory activities to the detriment of more urgent tasks such as technical assistance. His delegation sometimes had the impression that the real needs of Member States were ignored in favour of attempts by certain countries to elevate their own standards and norms to an international level, in order to secure world markets for their own products.
- 13. Paragraph 2 of the introduction to the Board's annual report stated that technical assistance activities had decreased in 1961. His delegation strongly disapproved of the assertion that the main reason for that decrease had been the

insufficient level of voluntary contributions. The main reason was in fact that the Agency had spent large amounts on secondary activities, that administrative expenditures were high, and that the Agency had not fully availed itself of offers made to the General Fund. Finally, as the document on technical assistance provided by the Agency in 1961 made clear , even the funds assigned for technical assistance had not been fully utilized.

- 14. In that connection, his delegation wished to state emphatically that the proposed United Kingdom amendment to Article XIV of the Statute did not offer an acceptable solution; it represented an attempt to make a fundamental change in the whole system of technical assistance and in the very concept of the Statute. Should the amendment be accepted, Czechoslovakia would not consider itself bound to pay its contribution to any budget produced under the amended version of the Statute.
- 15. In assessing the Agency's technical assistance to the developing countries, the Czechoslovak delegation could not but comment on the continued provision of substantial assistance to Chiang Kai-shek's puppets in Taiwan, who pretended to speak in the name of China, despite the fact that the only representative of the Chinese people was the People's Republic of China.
- 16. All those abnormal features of the Agency's work resulted from the fact that the Agency, its main organs, and the Secretariat, were in the tow of the imperialist powers, whose first purpose was to assert their interests and aims. The majority of responsible posts within the Secretariat were held by citizens of the United States and its allies, whereas citizens of the socialist and neutral countries represented a minority only. A radical change was needed to adjust the staffing of the Secretariat to the present balance of forces in the world, ensuring that in both the Secretariat and the Board the principle of representation according to the three existing groups in the world was strictly respected.
- 17. The Conference was meeting at a time when certain circles in imperialist countries, blinded by anti-Communism, were striving to reverse the course of history by force and aggression. Armaments allocations in the budgets of the imperialist countries had reached astronomical figures. The North Atlantic Pact (NATO) countries had taken a further step towards realizing their plans for

^{4/} GC(VI)/INF/52.

making NATO the fourth nuclear power, and West German revenge-seekers and militarists now took the future nuclear armament of the Bundeswehr for granted. The Agency should not let that situation pass unnoticed; it should do its utmost to help prevent the possibility of an outbreak of war.

- 18. The Agency's programme also had positive aspects which could be regarded as contributing to international co-operation in the use of atomic energy. A number of fellowship-holders had been trained and many States had gained useful experience. The Agency had been appointed Executive Agency for a relatively large Special Fund project in Yugoslavia. The exchange of scientific information was also significant. Those activities illustrated possibilities which the Agency should continue to expand, and it was for their sake that his Government still favoured the Agency and would continue to support its fruitful actions.
- 19. Czechoslovakia had further developed its programmes in various branches of nuclear science and technology. Agency officials had been invited to the Czechoslovak power reactor development centre, where experimental work had been successfully performed on the pressure vessel for a 150 megawatt heavy-water power reactor. New technical and technological problems in the construction and equipment of a nuclear power station had been solved, and the work was When the power station finally went into operation, Czechoslovakia would be able to offer its experience to countries which might be interested in similar projects. The Institute for Nuclear Research and other bodies were now engaged on projects for improving a heavy-water, gas-cooled power reactor, which might become the model for further power stations to produce sufficient electricity for the planned development of the national economy. Radiation sources and labelled compounds were being used in numerous industrial, agricultural, medical and research institutes, and a series of measuring instruments and auxiliary equipment had been manufactured. Czechoslovakia could now design, build and equip complex facilities for the nuclear power industry, and many young specialists had been trained. Those achievements were the result of co-operation between Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union. Czechoslovak specialists had acquired knowledge at Soviet universities and research institutes, and in certain cases could now help in advancing nuclear technology in the Soviet Union itself. In addition, international co-operation had been successfully developed on a

multilateral and bilateral basis with other socialist countries. Czechoslovakia was ready to co-operate with other countries and in particular, within its possibilities, to provide assistance to the developing areas of the world.

- 20. In the past his Government had offered voluntary contributions that had not been seriously utilized. It had therefore decided at the Conference in 1961 to offer equipment which could serve an immediate purpose. A cobalt-60 unit had been installed at the University of Alexandria where it was being used not only to combat disease but to train new doctors. His delegation and those of other socialist countries had co-sponsored the draft resolution recently submitted by the Soviet Union, and, under it, intended to provide, through the Agency, one complete therapeutic irradiation unit, consisting of a powerful cobalt and caesium source, auxiliary and manipulating equipment, and one oncological unit with twenty-four beds. It was prepared to train operating staff for the unit and to draw up the necessary plans for installing it. His Government had also decided to offer each year to candidates from the developing countries 15 scholarships at the Faculty of Technical and Nuclear Physics, 15 scholarships at the Intermediate School of Nuclear Technology and 5 scholarships at national research institutions.
- 21. A very successful Agency symposium on the biological effects of ionizing radiation at the molecular level had been held in Czechoslovakia in 1962, and the Czechoslovak Academy of Science had organized a summer school on theoretical physics under Agency sponsorship. Both had made a considerable contribution to co-operation and mutual understanding between scientists of many countries. His Government was ready to offer the Agency facilities for organizing a further symposium in Czechoslovakia in 1963.
- 22. Czechoslovakia was convinced that the Agency's problems must and could be solved, and that it could become an outstanding example of the possibilities which peaceful co-existence offered to the world. His Government would do its best to help the Agency to fulfil that noble promise.
- Mr. de ERICE (Spain) said that his Government was convinced that only close and loyal co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy between all countries could achieve the results that all peoples of the world desired. At the present time, when the natural resources of Africa, America and Asia were

^{5/} GC(VI)/COM.1/67/Rev.1.

awaiting more rational exploitation, the use of atomic energy was fundamental to the betterment of millions of men. In order to achieve adequate food production, greater well-being and higher living standards, co-operation between all Governments was essential. Spain would do its utmost for the development of international collaboration in the interests of all the developing countries.

- 24. He wished to inform the General Conference of Spain's achievements in research and international collaboration in the peaceful uses of atomic energy since the 1961 session. Without external assistance, Spanish scientists had constructed two Argonaut reactors at the experimental centre near Madrid; they were being used exclusively for research purposes by students of the engineering schools of Barcelona and Bilbao. Work had proceeded on a heavy-water moderated reactor with organic coolant, which would soon be completed. Prospecting had revealed that Spain had sufficient uranium to provide a surplus that could be used to meet the needs of other countries; it could also supply services for the analysis of ores and the analytic testing of nuclear materials, and precise information about analytic techniques for ore prospecting and quality control. Training could be provided for a wide programme of radio-isotope applications in medicine, industry and research, and in physical and chemical analytic techniques.
- 25. In spite of its broad atomic energy programme, Spain had received relatively little technical assistance only \$1200, a very much smaller figure than it offered to the Agency for its technical assistance programmes.
- 26. The fundamental purpose of the Agency was to bring the atomically-advanced countries and the less advanced countries together, with a view to making experience and resources available to the developing areas, training staff for them, and providing equipment. Fellowships must be made available to students from all countries, without discrimination. By making their greater knowledge available, the more advanced countries would further international collaboration in the peaceful uses of atomic energy and ultimately ensure that better use was made of natural resources.
- 27. He congratulated the Director General on his leadership of the Agency during the preceding year.
- 28. Spain was in favour of the amendment to the Statute increasing the Board's membership to twenty-five, to include two new representatives from one of the developing areas. It might even be worth considering the ECOSOC recommendation

^{6/} CC(V)/RES/92.

that the executive bodies of the specialized agencies should comprise approximately one-third of the total membership. The question of wider representation should be considered by the Board. Moreover, the General Conference should have wider powers so that States not represented on the Board could not only make their views public there but also influence the Agency's development. Spain was ready to join with other delegations in submitting a proposal to that end.

- 29. Proposals had been made with a view to introducing biennial programming within the framework of annual budgets. Although that would create difficulties for countries like his own which had currency problems, he would support the proposal, since the advantages far outweighed the disadvantages; to relieve the difficulties of countries whose currencies were not convertible, contributions might be made acceptable partly in convertible and partly in non-convertible currencies. Under the biennial system, the Director General would have much more flexibility in planning, and the developing countries could submit more specific and valuable projects; there might also be some reduction in the rate of increase of the Regular Budget.
- 30. In connection with the amendment to the Rules of Procedure proposed by Iraq , he suggested that the Director General and the Board study the possibility of bringing the Cenference Rules of Procedure into line with those of the General Assembly of the United Nations.
- Mr. MUSHIETE (Congo Leopoldville) said his Government welcomed the Agency's activities and, in particular, its constant interest in the developing countries. The Congo, which was the first country in Africa to possess an atomic reactor, felt it was especially entitled, because of its past record and present contribution, to take part in the Agency's work on the peaceful uses of atomic energy. Courses on the use of radioisotopes in medicine and agriculture had been held in Leopoldville in 1960, and further courses for technicians would be held in 1963.
- 32. He was glad so many delegations attached great importance to the development of regional centres and was very interested in the Soviet proposal which emphasized the need for such centres in developing countries. It would be preferable and less costly, however, if the Agency were first to make full use of the existing centres. Thus it was regrettable that the Agency had not yet taken

^{7/} GC(VI)/INF/55.

^{8/} GC(VI)/202.

a more positive approach to his Government's offer, made in October 1961, to place at its disposal the reactor and its ancillary facilities in Leopoldville which, according to Agency experts, were excellent. The services of an assistant radiochemist had been requested and, undoubtedly, the provision of additional staff would considerably enhance the scientific and educational value of the work being done. The fact that voluntary contributions fell short of the target fixed was a further reason why the limited funds available should be used to the best advantage and the Agency's assistance devoted primarily to improving standards in the existing centres. In providing assistance, it should be borne in mind that the developing countries could play a very active part in the practical application of atomic energy.

- 33. For the reasons stated, it was desirable that the Congo should be more actively associated with the Agency's work and his Government had, accordingly, instructed him to request the General Conference to give favourable consideration to its candidature for a seat on the Board. If elected, the Congo would be in a better position than most developing countries to make a valuable contribution to the Agency's work in Central Africa.
- 34. The <u>DIRECTOR GENERAL</u> said the co-operative spirit which had prevailed during the general debate was stimulating and encouraging and the Secretariat would make every effort to justify the confidence placed in it by delegations.
- 35. Referring to the regret expressed by a number of delegates that the Agency did not carry out its work more rapidly, he pointed out that much of the Agency's work required prior agreements, often involving lengthy negotiations. He would carefully study the suggestions made for expediting the Agency's working procedures. The idea of having a relatively small and highly qualified scientific and technical staff, such as could help to expand the Agency's activities and bring about a further improvement in their quality, appealed to him very much.
- 36. He welcomed the interest shown in long-term planning and hoped it would be reflected in a corresponding willingness on the part of Governments to participate in the work by making the necessary experts available. He believed there was unanimous agreement that the long-term plan should take full account of the plans for the United Nations Development Decade, and that it should be sufficiently flexible to enable it to be adapted to the national development programmes of countries that were becoming industrialized.

- 37. He noted both the importance attached to the Agency's role with regard to nuclear power and the criticism simultaneously levelled at its dearth of new ideas. He hoped those comments would be reflected in the long-term plan that was to be submitted to the Board and the General Conference in 1963. He was keenly interested in the suggestion that the work of power experts in the various United Nations organizations and the World Power Conference should be co-ordinated to the maximum extent possible.
- 38. He was impressed by the importance many delegates attached to regulatory activities, particularly those relating to transport, radiation protection, the disposal of radioactive waste and the use of radioisotopes for specific purposes.
- 39. Every country seemed to lack experts in radiation protection. He therefore welcomed the proposal that arrangements be made to ensure more widespread training of health physicists.
- 40. In order to plan for 1964, the Agency needed to know, as soon as possible, whether there would be a third Geneva-type conference. That would be decided by the General Assembly, but the Member States would have to take the initiative. A third conference would involve the Agency in a lot of additional work. If no conference was held in 1964, the Agency would probably have to hold smaller conferences on similar topics or, as had been suggested, a Geneva-type conference on a smaller scale.
- 41. The interest shown in regional centres was most encouraging and the suggestion that, in planning the establishment of such centres, Africa should serve as an experimental area, was worthy of serious study. Due consideration would, of course, have to be given to the possibility of having regional centres in other areas as well.
- 42. He was deeply gratified that delogations had reached a wide measure of agreement and shared a common approach with regard to the Agency's scientific and technical objectives.

THE AGENCY'S ACCOUNTS FOR 1961 (GC(VI)/215)

- 43. Mr. HADI (Indonesia), Rapporteur of the Administrative and Legal Committee, presented the Committee's report on the Agency's accounts for 1961 (GC(VI)/215).
- 44. The draft resolution contained in document GC(VI)/215, paragraph 3, was adopted unanimously.

OPENING DATE OF THE SEVENTH REGULAR SESSION

- 45. The <u>PRESIDENT</u> said that the General Committee had decided to recommend the Conference to set Tuesday, 24 September 1963, as the opening date for the seventh regular session.
- 46. The recommendation of the General Committee was accepted.

ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE AGENCY'S ACTIVITIES (GC(VI)/197, 198)

- 47. The <u>PRESIDENT</u> drew attention to the Board's recommendation concerning the Agency's annual reports to the General Assembly of the United Nations for 1961-62 (GC(VI)/197) and to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) (GC(VI)/198). He invited the Conference to consider, first, the draft resolution appearing in the first recommendation.
- 48. The draft resolution contained in document GC(VI)/197 was adopted unanimously.
- 49. The <u>PRESIDENT</u> invited the Conference to consider the draft resolution appearing in the second recommendation.
- 50. The draft resolution contained in document GC(VI)/198 was adopted unanimously.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE AGENCY'S STAFF PENSION COMMITTEE

- The <u>PRESIDENT</u> explained that since the last regular session one member of the Staff Pension Committee had left Vienna and another had said he would be unable to continue to serve. Therefore, under the agreement with the United Nations for the Agency's participation in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund⁹, the General Conference would have to elect two members to the Pension Committee. Mr. Franco-Netto of Brazil and Mr. Hadi of Indonesia had been proposed for election.
- 52. Mr. Franco-Netto (Brazil) and Mr. Hadi (Indonesia) were unanimously elected members of the Agency's Staff Pension Committee.

THE AGENCY'S REGULAR BUDGET FOR 1962 (GC(VI)/209)

53. Mr. KAKAR (Afghanistan), Rapporteur of the Programme, Technical and Budget Committee, presented the Committee's report on a proposed supplementary budgetary appropriation for 1962 (GC(VI)/209).

^{9/} INFCIRC/11, part III.

- 54. Mr. PETRZELKA (Czechoslovakia) moved that a vote be taken on the draft resolution in that report.
- 55. There were 41 votes in favour and 7 against, with 1 abstention. The draft resolution contained in document GC(VI)/209 was adopted.

THE AGENCY'S PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 1963 (GC(VI)/214)

- Mr. KAKAR (Afghanistan), Rapporteur of the Programme, Technical and Budget Committee, presented the Committee's first report on the Agency's Programme and Budget for 1963 (GC(VI)/214).
- 57. The <u>PRESIDENT</u>, in reply to a point raised by <u>Mr. FUKSA</u> (Czechoslovakia), said it had been his intention to deal with the draft resolutions annexed to the report one by one. He invited the Conference to vote on the draft resolution contained in Annex I: Regular Budget Appropriations for 1963.
- 58. There were 41 votes in favour and 7 against. The draft resolution contained in document GC(VI)/214, Annex I, was adopted, having obtained the required two-thirds majority.
- 59. The <u>PRESIDENT</u> put to the vote the draft resolution contained in Annex II: Operational Budget Allocations for 1963.
- 60. There were 40 votes in favour and none against, with 9 abstentions. The draft resolution was adopted, having obtained the required two-thirds majority.
- 61. The <u>PRESIDENT</u> put to the vote the draft resolution contained in Annex III: Use of the Working Capital Fund in 1963.
- 62. The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.
- 63. The <u>PRESIDENT</u> put to the vote the draft resolution contained in Annex IV: Biennial Programming within the Framework of Annual Budgets.
- 64. There were 42 votes in favour and 7 against, with 2 abstentions. The draft resolution was adopted.

SCALE OF MEMBERS' CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 1963 (GC(VI)/212)

65. Mr. KAKAR (Afghanistan), Rapporteur of the Programme, Technical and Budget Committee, presented the Committee's report on the Scale of Members' Contributions for 1963 (GC(VI)/212).

^{10/} See Rule 69(a) of the Rules of Procedure.

- 66. The <u>PRESIDENT</u> pointed out that the draft resolution recommended for adoption by the General Conference was based on the Agency's membership as at 31 August 1962.
- 67. There were 45 votes in favour and 6 against. The draft resolution contained in document GC(VI)/212 was adopted.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.