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International Atomic Energy Agency

General Conference

CC(VII)/265

1 October 1963

GENERAL Distr.

Original: ENGLISH

Seventh regular session

Agenda item 10
(CC(VII)/247)

GENERAL DEBATE AND REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR 1962-63

Statement by South Africa

Note by the Director General

1. On Monday 30 September the Director General received a communication from the delegate of South Africa pointing out that since the 79th plenary meeting on the afternoon of Friday, 27 September, extended well beyond the time limit fixed for it, and in deference to the President's wishes that the Conference adjourn that day at 5 p.m., the South African delegation refrained from asking to speak at the end of the general debate pursuant to the provisions of the last sentence of Rule 58 of the Rules of Procedure.
2. The delegate of South Africa has accordingly requested the communication to the Conference of the text reproduced below in lieu of the oral statement he had intended to make.

"1. In the course of the general debate allegations of a purely political character have been made against the policies of South Africa. As the South African delegation is satisfied that the General Conference of the Agency is not a proper forum for the conduct of political debates on subjects which have no relation to the functions and objectives of the Agency as determined by its Statute, it will continue to refrain from

entering into a discussion of the merits of such charges, believing also that it is in the best interests of this Organization that it concentrate on the scientific and technical objectives laid down in its constitution.

"2. However the delegation is constrained to draw attention to one statement, relating to the activities of the Agency, which was clearly based on misinformation or misconceptions. It was alleged in brief that all Afro-Asian scientists are unacceptable on South African territory and that it is impossible for members of the Afro-Asian group to take part in any seminar organized in South Africa.

"3. In order to correct any misconception on which this statement may have been based, the South African delegation desires to state that international scientific and technical meetings are from time to time held in South Africa which delegates from African and Asian countries may and do attend. Examples of such meetings in recent years are a Commission for Technical Co-operation in Africa (CTCA), Symposium on Sea Fisheries, a Scientific Council for Africa Meeting of Specialists on Treatment of Polluted Water, a Seminar on Agricultural Experiments organized by the Regional Committee for the Conservation and Utilisation of Soil, a Conference of the CTCA Inter African Committee on Maps and Surveys, a Conference of a CTCA Regional Committee for Geology, the Seventh Commonwealth Congress on Mining and Metallurgy. In no instance has the South African Government ever received any indication from such delegates, on the termination of the meetings, that they were not satisfied with their treatment or facilities for full participation on the same basis as every other delegate.

"4. Preparations have recently been initiated and invitations extended for the holding of the following future technical meetings:

- (a) The Ninth Meeting of the Regional Committee for Conservation and Utilisation of the Soil. The membership comprises nine African States and Territories;
- (b) A meeting of the African Postal and Telecommunications Union, membership of which includes the East African Postal and Telecommunications Union, Malagasy Republic, Congo (Leopoldville),

Camercons, Telecommunications Agency of Burundi and Rwanda and the Equatorial Postal and Telecommunications Union (Congo (Brazzaville), Gabon, Chad, Central African Republic); and

- (c) A symposium of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry of which some African and many Asian countries are members.

"5. It is also relevant to mention that plans have been prepared for the erection of an international conference centre in South Africa similar to centres which have been established elsewhere with the object of providing for all types of international conferences. The implementation of these plans is dependent on the frequency of international meetings in the future and the willingness of the African states to participate with South Africa in international collaboration in the many urgent scientific and technical problems of the African Continent."