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### OFFICIAL RECORD OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Neue Hofburg, Vienna,  
on Monday, 26 September 1966, at 3.20 p.m.

President: Mr. SARASIN (Thailand)

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\* GC(X)/343.

#### GENERAL DEBATE AND REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR 1965-66 [GC(X)/330, 341] (continued)

1. Mr. N'GUEMA N'DONG (Gabon) extended his Government's warmest congratulations to Uganda and Singapore on their admission to the Agency.
2. He said Gabon had not been independent at the time of the establishment of the Agency, to which it had been admitted only in 1963, shortly after the opening-up of the Mounana uranium deposit. His delegation would therefore not proceed

to review the Agency's achievements during the last nine years.

3. Nevertheless, he would stress that the Government of Gabon had always followed with the greatest interest the Agency's activities in its various fields of competence. In particular, it had noted that one of the Agency's main preoccupations was to bring the benefits of atomic energy to the developing countries. He hoped that that trend would be maintained and intensified.

4. The African continent was destined to assume increasing importance in both the production and

utilization of nuclear materials. The question might be asked, therefore, whether the matter of African representation on the Board of Governors should not be re-examined.

5. Although Gabon was a producer of uranium, it was still only a minor consumer of that material, mainly in the somewhat restricted field of medical applications. However, Gabon would shortly approach the Agency with a request for the services of an expert to draft legal provisions relating to nuclear energy. Aware as it was of the Secretariat's activities and efficiency in that respect, Gabon was convinced that the assistance it received would be extremely valuable.

6. The Government of Gabon fully supported the Agency's objectives and was happy to be able to take part in the joint efforts to achieve them.

7. Mr. PEIRIS (Ceylon) said that while appreciating what the Agency had achieved, his delegation was conscious of the fact that much more could and should be done. It earnestly hoped that the Agency would find new ways of providing the developing countries with information and expertise concerning atomic science and research. Ceylon would support any constructive suggestion for the evaluation and assessment of the Agency's activities.

8. His Government had noted with satisfaction the results which were being obtained in power generation and was glad to share the optimism that had been expressed for the future. Access to cheap sources of power was of increasing importance to the developing countries, which were struggling against heavy odds to improve their economies and the living standards of their peoples.

9. Those countries were in the unenviable position of having to run at full speed merely in order to avoid losing ground. They were thus forced with an ever-increasing need for technical knowledge, including that relating to the use of isotopes in agriculture, industry and medicine. Ceylon attached great importance to the Agency's technical assistance and acknowledged the valuable help which it had already received from the Agency. Any move to hold a larger number of seminars in the developing countries would receive Ceylon's whole-hearted support. The Agency might also wish to consider the desirability of undertaking additional regional projects, particularly in agriculture and medicine, with provision for the free exchange of techniques and results.

10. The establishment of a radioisotope centre at the University of Ceylon had made it possible to conduct courses for undergraduates taking science subjects, and those courses had proved highly bene-

ficial. The centre would be pleased to accept candidates from other countries in any study course which the Agency might be able to organize making use of the facilities of the establishment, and the authorities concerned had already suggested radiological protection and nuclear medicine as suitable subjects. The Agency had also been contacted regarding the possibility of developing the establishment into a regional centre for training and research.

11. Studies already carried out indicated that the sterile male technique might be useful in controlling or eradicating *Filaria*. It was hoped that the Agency, in collaboration with WHO, would conduct a pilot experiment using that technique in Ceylon, where very suitable sites were available.

12. His delegation realized that the Agency could not take the action Ceylon hoped for unless it had sufficient funds, and therefore noted with regret that the Agency's budget had, in real terms, been shrinking over the past three years. Ceylon had made as large a financial contribution as its meagre resources permitted and hoped that the more fortunately placed countries would enable the Agency to extend its efforts to harness nuclear energy for the benefit and prosperity of mankind. Ceylon would continue to make whatever small contribution it could towards furthering the Agency's aims.

13. His delegation supported the remarks made by earlier speakers regarding the inadequacy of representation of the developing countries in the Secretariat, and hoped that the matter would soon be rectified.

14. Regarding the International Centre for Theoretical Physics at Trieste, his delegation recognized the usefulness of the work done by that institution and noted that the Board of Governors would shortly be discussing the future activities and financing of the Centre. His Government would reserve its position pending the completion of that examination.

15. The developing countries required an extended period of peace and stability if they were to proceed successfully with their plans for economic development, and they were disturbed by the fact that Asia had become a centre of strife and tension. They drew some consolation from the belief that extension of the Agency's activities might produce a corresponding reduction in the tensions and a lessening of the dreadful possibility of a nuclear holocaust. The Ceylonese Government hoped that the Agency would lead the nations of the world to the conviction that the energy of the atom should be applied exclusively in the interest of progress and prosperity.

16. Mr. SUDARSONO (Indonesia) remarked that, as the Agency was soon to embark on its second decade, the time was opportune to assess its past policies and achievements and consider its future aims and objectives. In commenting on those matters, he would make it plain that Indonesia was fully aware of the difficulties the Secretariat had to overcome in carrying out the Agency's functions and duties.

17. In general, it might be said that the Agency had satisfactorily fulfilled the expectations and hopes placed in its creation, as exemplified by the aims set out in Article II of the Statute, although opinions would no doubt differ on points of detail.

18. Undoubtedly the Agency had played a significant part in the development of the peaceful uses of atomic energy in the developing countries, including Indonesia, largely as a result of the willingness of the more advanced countries to give the requisite aid and assistance. However, there was much more that the Agency could do, not only through technical assistance but by way of promoting activities and advising on the formulation of programmes. The Agency's technical assistance, apart from its primary purpose, served to stimulate the growth of scientific activity, thus contributing to the general development of science in the developing countries. And it would be tragic if, in assessing the effectiveness of technical assistance, intangible benefits of that kind were not given due weight.

19. The recent trend towards biennial programming, regional co-operation and integration of the Agency's programmes within the general development programmes of the recipient countries was most welcome, and it was to be hoped it would be intensified.

20. Indonesia would welcome comments by the Agency on its atomic programme. At the moment it was engaged in reviewing plans and redrafting programmes to bring atomic energy development into step with the general economic development plans; and advice from Agency experts could be valuable in that work. Incidentally, his country would be glad to pass on information to other developing countries on the lessons learnt from its past experience in matters relating to the administration and execution of its programme.

21. It was only through the provision of technical assistance to the developing countries that the Agency could truly achieve its objectives, with the emphasis on accelerating and enlarging the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world, and on allocating resources so as to bring the greatest possible general benefit to all areas of the world. To that

end, a bigger proportion of the funds should be allocated in the future to technical assistance.

22. His country also welcomed the emphasis in the Agency's work on symposia and panel meetings on nuclear power. The ever-increasing number of orders being placed for nuclear power plants was evidence that that form of electric power generation was now competitive and that the nuclear industry had a bright future before it. Although a petroleum-exporting country, Indonesia was interested in nuclear power with a view to utilizing its thorium deposits and because of the contribution a nuclear power programme would make to its scientific capability and industrial progress. It planned to follow the example of other developing countries whose nuclear power programmes had been conducive to scientific development and self-reliance in the peaceful applications of atomic energy, and looked forward to active help in that task from the Agency.

23. Much attention had been devoted in recent years to the question of the Agency's safeguards. According to Article II of the Statute, the Agency's safeguards should in reality apply only to facilities set up with assistance from the Agency. But recently the Agency had been burdened more and more with the task of safeguards inspection of reactors constructed with no Agency assistance whatsoever. There was thus a danger of neglecting the principal objective to which he had already drawn attention. Indonesia was not opposed to safeguards in principle; it was merely against their indiscriminate application. As a signatory, it hoped that the Moscow test ban treaty could be extended to cover underground tests and further that the United Nations conference on nuclear disarmament would succeed in reaching a satisfactory agreement.

24. Indonesia was still in the process of development, and attention was primarily devoted to improving living standards and advancing the well-being of the people. Therefore it was not in a position, in common with other developing countries, to spend vast sums of money on non-economic projects or programmes. The funds at the Agency's disposal were very limited and greater allocations should be made for technical assistance, at the expense of activities not directly related to the developing countries' needs.

25. His delegation supported the call for a review of some aspects of the Agency's activities. It would appeal to Member States to contribute more to the General Fund. His Government would contribute for 1967 as in previous years. However, it would suggest that Member States give consideration to a basic change in the financing of technical assistance.

26. His delegation also placed great importance on improved representation in the Secretariat of nationals from the developing countries. The experience gained would be invaluable later to the respective national authorities.

27. Research contracts should be awarded exclusively to developing countries. There was no reason why an advanced country with an established research and development programme in atomic energy should be allowed recourse to the Agency's limited resources. In general, what he was advocating was that all activities should be directed to the needs of the developing countries in accordance with the Agency's objectives.

28. In conclusion, he welcomed Singapore and Uganda as new Members of the Agency; the beneficial uses of atomic energy should be available to all countries of the world.

29. Mr. KRASIN (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the fact that the peaceful uses of atomic energy had recently begun to take more definite shape and the technical achievements in that field had become universally recognized was an excellent portent for the tenth (anniversary) session of the Agency's General Conference.

30. At the same time, international co-operation, while contributing enormously to technical progress, could not develop if political questions were ignored.

31. The present international climate in which the Conference was working was burdened by a number of circumstances. As a result of the war against the Vietnamese people a tense situation, endangering international security, was developing. That war, in which the most barbarous means of human destruction were used, was a challenge to the whole of mankind. By leading to a serious aggravation of the international climate, it was preventing the consolidation of international co-operation, for the sake of which the Agency had been set up ten years previously.

32. The situation in Europe also aroused grave concern among all to whom international peace and security were dear. The present policies of the ruling circles of Western Germany posed a direct threat to peace in Europe and the security of the European nations. Those circles, which were quite unconcerned about the vital interests of the German people itself, demanded the revision of the post-war frontiers in Europe and obstinately sought access for the Federal Republic of Germany to the nuclear weapons of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. In Western Germany itself the establishment of a scientific and industrial infrastructure, which at a given moment might become

the basis for the manufacture of its own nuclear weapons, was being speeded up.

33. The peoples of Europe, including the Byelorussian people, on whom during the Second World War German militarism and fascism had inflicted incalculable suffering and caused the death of millions of its sons and daughters, could not view with unconcern the dangerous events taking place in Western Germany.

34. The tenth session of the Agency's General Conference was an opportunity for summing up the Agency's activities not only for the past year but also over the whole decade of its existence. The Byelorussian SSR, being one of the founder States of the Agency, looked back with satisfaction on the past decade. It had been a period of rapid development in atomic science and technology, particularly nuclear power. Whereas in 1956 the first nuclear power plants in the world had only been starting to operate, at the present time there were already several score of such plants, with a total capacity expressed in millions of kilowatts. Whereas ten years previously competitive nuclear power had been only a hope, the desirability of making wide use of nuclear power plants was now recognized.

35. It was pleasant for him, as a person who had devoted twenty years of his life to the development of nuclear power, to note such a speedy development in that new branch of science, which was providing mankind with the basis for technical progress.

36. The Agency's activities had greatly contributed to that speedy development. In the interesting lectures delivered during the present session on 23 September the representatives of scientific and industrial bodies had expressed their complete confidence in the emergence of nuclear power as an economic proposition.

37. In other sectors too the peaceful uses of atomic energy were developing at an accelerated pace. In many countries of the world radioisotopes were being widely used. Scientific knowledge of the atomic nucleus had also made great headway.

38. Obviously progress in nuclear science and technology during the past ten years would have been considerably greater if atomic energy had been used solely for peaceful purposes, to further human progress. Unfortunately, however, atomic energy continued to be a factor in building up military potential, which could not but hold back the development of peaceful branches of atomic science and technology. General and complete disarmament, the banning of nuclear weapons, their manufacture and use, and the destruction of existing

stockpiles of nuclear weapons were not only the prime condition for the maintenance and consolidation of peace on earth, but could also become an important stimulus to the rapid development of atomic science and technology for peaceful purposes. Therefore all scientists, and the Agency itself, were vitally concerned with the achievement of nuclear disarmament. In that connection, he noted with regret that the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament in Geneva, which had been instructed by the General Assembly of the United Nations to seek ways of achieving agreement in the field of nuclear disarmament, had still been unable to reach agreement.

39. During the ten years which had elapsed since the Agency was set up, the Byelorussian SSR had also achieved no little success in the peaceful uses of atomic energy. Since 1962 it had been successfully operating an IRT-2000 reactor, with which extensive research was being carried out. In 1965 a second reactor had been started up, the "Roza" critical assembly, designed for research in reactor physics.

40. A radiochemical laboratory and gamma-irradiation plant were operating successfully in the Byelorussian atomic centre. With the help of those facilities research was being conducted in radiochemical processes, and technological methods for the production of new materials were being devised. The radiochemical treatment of timber apparently offered particularly good prospects.

41. The Nuclear Power Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Byelorussian SSR was the leading establishment in his country dealing with problems of nuclear power, reactor construction and nuclear research. It designed power reactors and conducted research in nuclear reactor physics with a critical assembly.

42. A number of other institutes of the Byelorussian Academy of Sciences were engaged in various types of research in conjunction with the Nuclear Power Institute. For example, research was being done with a reactor on the biological effect of intermediate neutrons on the heredity of microorganisms.

43. The activities of the International Atomic Energy Agency during the past decade showed that on the whole it was fulfilling its statutory functions. The Agency promoted exchanges of information on problems concerning the peaceful use of atomic energy, provided Member States with technical assistance in the form of experts and equipment and helped in training their scientists, and held scientific conferences, symposia and seminars on various problems of nuclear science and technology. The technical literature that was

published by the Agency was of great value for a large number of specialists. The Directories of Nuclear Reactors issued by the Agency<sup>1)</sup> were very important since they made it possible to draw on the experience gained in various countries.

44. He hoped those aspects of the Agency's activities would continue to develop and that the symposia and technical meetings on long-term trends in nuclear power and reactor physics would become a regular channel for exchanging experience between specialists of various countries. In his delegation's opinion, the Agency in its scientific information activities should focus attention on the problems of nuclear power as the most important of the peaceful uses of atomic energy. In that connection, the Byelorussian delegation supported the Agency's scientific conferences on reactor problems which were scheduled for 1967-68.

45. The international training courses and schools organized by the Agency were another valuable means of exchanging information and improving the training of scientists and should be further developed. Byelorussian scientists had on more than one occasion taken part in such activities and highly appreciated their usefulness.

46. There were however still some shortcomings in the Agency's work.

47. He noted with regret the fact that, despite the spirit and letter of its Statute, the Agency had not yet become a universal international organization in the field of the peaceful uses of atomic energy. A number of socialist countries, whose successes in atomic science and technology were widely known, were not permitted to join the Agency for political reasons. Among such countries was the German Democratic Republic, whose Government had recently addressed an important message to the Agency's General Conference<sup>2)</sup>. The delegation of the Byelorussian SSR supported the statement by the Government of the German Democratic Republic and, like the delegations of other countries, urgently requested the President to inform the delegates at the General Conference of its contents.

48. His delegation had serious observations to make regarding the staffing policy of the Agency's Secretariat. It considered that the distribution of posts in the Secretariat was not carried out entirely fairly. Some countries had too many posts, extremely influential and important ones, while other countries either were not represented in the Secretariat or had an insufficient number of posts. The Byelorussian SSR was one such country.

1) STI/PUB/9, 22, 53 and 73.

2) See document GC(X)/INF/91.

49. His delegation was concerned at the continuing growth of the Agency's Regular Budget, which was already approximately \$10 million. He considered that a definite ceiling for the Agency's administrative expenses should be set.

50. In conclusion, he declared his delegation's full support for the important initiative taken by the delegation of the Polish People's Republic<sup>3)</sup> and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic<sup>4)</sup> in expressing readiness to place their atomic installations under Agency safeguards provided that the Federal Republic of Germany did the same. That initiative, like the initiative of the German Democratic Republic, was an important new step towards extending the application of the Agency's safeguards.

51. He wished to express his confidence that the work on the peaceful uses of atomic energy would develop successfully on the basis of international co-operation and that the Agency would concentrate all its efforts on the fulfilment of the tasks which it was set under its Statute. He also wished to congratulate the new Members of the Agency, Uganda and Singapore.

52. Mr. TURAGAY (Turkey) said that his Government welcomed the increase in the number of Member States from 96 to 98.

53. As the international authority dealing with the greatest source of power that mankind had ever possessed, the Agency occupied a unique position in the field of international co-operation. By directing nuclear energy and techniques to productive uses it could play a great role in narrowing the gap between advanced and developing countries. It also had an increasing duty to ensure that the immense power of nuclear energy was used solely for peaceful purposes.

54. The world had reached a stage where technical development could make immense contributions to economic growth, but much of the progress achieved in that development had of course taken place in the advanced countries, thanks to the huge financial resources on which they could draw. The Agency should direct its main efforts to ensuring that the whole of mankind benefited from such development, by promoting the spread of the accumulated technical knowledge and know-how from the advanced regions to the less favoured ones.

55. The handicaps of the developing countries included low production and scarcity of power, which weakened their efforts to convert their economy from a predominantly agricultural basis to

an industrial one. That, plus the rapidly expanding world-wide demand for power, made it essential for the Agency to put more emphasis on nuclear power and power reactors. Much more work was needed on the evaluation of nuclear power costs, the development of reactor technology and the co-ordination of activities to enable Member States to choose the most suitable reactor for their purposes. At the same time the Agency should be able to play a more effective role in meeting the nuclear fuel requirements of Member States and helping them to develop their own nuclear resources, in compliance with Article XI of the Statute. It was the sincere wish of his Government that the Agency should progress towards fulfilment of one of its original aims, that of supplying nuclear fuels; that could of course be achieved only by building up a stock of such fuels.

56. One of the Agency's greatest future responsibilities would consist in protecting mankind from the dangers inherent in atomic energy. Even the peaceful uses of nuclear energy were accompanied by the accumulation of potentially destructive products, the control of which presented a serious problem. Also, if agreement were reached on disarmament, the Agency should be ready to take over control responsibilities in that field as well. In the meantime it could serve as a registration centre, by recording all transfers of nuclear materials.

57. His Government fully supported the Agency's efforts to improve its safeguards system, especially by extending the system to cover power reactors producing more than 100 MW(e) and reprocessing plants.

58. On the whole, technical assistance had constituted one of the more positive aspects of the Agency's work, in spite of the limited funds at its disposal. Integrated programming with certain well-defined objectives, together with efforts to simplify the legal aspects of technical assistance, had been important steps forward. On the other hand it was regrettable that, in spite of the needs of the developing countries, there had been a further decline in the number of fellowships awarded. That had been due, to a large extent, to delays in selecting host countries and, in some cases, to the shortness of the periods for which fellowships were offered.

59. Turkey was concentrating its efforts on research, on the application of isotopes in medicine and agriculture, and on training. However, an Agency mission which had visited Turkey in 1965 had concluded that power generation would have to be increased by at least 500 MW from 1975 onwards, and that a detailed system-planning study should be started by 1970 to determine the role of nuclear power stations in the period 1975-80.

3) GC(X)/OR.103, para. 56.

4) GC(X)/OR.104, para. 14.

60. He expressed his country's gratitude for the assistance it had received and voiced the hope that such assistance would continue and would be intensified. Turkey, for its part, had continued to work for the attainment of the Agency's objectives, in particular by acting as host to a number of meetings. An Agency study group meeting on developments in radiation techniques has been held at Istanbul in November 1965 and a panel meeting on research co-ordination on the treatment of aerosol and volatilization products during waste processing operations was to be held there late in 1966. In addition, a regional course on the use of isotopes in hydrology would take place at Ankara in 1967.

61. The Turkish Government believed that a model agreement based on the revised safeguards system and prepared by the Agency would, as a standardized text, both serve as a guide for Member States and help the Agency in applying safeguards agreements.

62. In conclusion, he wished to convey his Government's sincere good wishes for the success of the tenth session of the General Conference.

63. Mr. PELE (Romania) said the Agency was making great strides towards achieving effective international co-operation in a field of major importance for the future of mankind. It was efficiently tackling the various tasks with which it was faced, such as the training of staff, the practical application of new nuclear techniques, the provision of technical assistance to developing countries, etc.

64. The Romanian delegation sincerely hoped the Agency would do its best to intensify technical and scientific co-operation among all the countries of the world. It could do that both by spreading its experience in the nuclear field among Member States and by working out basic studies, of general interest, on all problems connected with the utilization of atomic energy. Romania would use every means at its disposal to support the Agency's efforts to further the common interests of all Member States.

65. The work of the tenth regular session of the General Conference was proceeding under conditions which demonstrated the necessity to eliminate the consequences of the cold war and to establish relations between all States based on the principles of national independence and sovereignty, equality of rights and non-interference in internal affairs. Romania was devoted to the cause of peace and international collaboration and was making its contribution towards restoring an atmosphere of co-operation in Europe and in the entire world.

66. His country recognized the inalienable right of every people to determine its own destiny, and

therefore identified itself fully with the people of Viet-Nam in its struggle for freedom and national independence. In that spirit the Government of Romania resolutely called for the immediate cessation of bombing in the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam and the termination of the war of aggression in South Viet-Nam, for withdrawal of all American military forces and foreign troops from that part of Viet-Nam, for the application of the Geneva Agreements and for respect for the right of the Vietnamese people to choose its own destiny.

67. Romania also considered that universality was an essential element in the Agency's structure. It could not remain indifferent to the fact that the People's Republic of China, a nuclear Power, was excluded from its rightful place in the Agency. Such an abnormal situation should be corrected as soon as possible.

68. The Romanian delegation warmly congratulated Uganda and Singapore on their admission to the Agency; it was convinced that those two countries would contribute to the cause of international co-operation in the Agency's field of activity.

69. The Agency had shown itself to be an organization of value to its Member States. On the present occasion also, the report of the Board of Governors [GC(X)/330 and 341] reflected an improvement in the Agency's work. The Agency was devoting constant attention to the question of nuclear power in accordance with suggestions made in previous years by many delegations, including that of Romania. The Agency was making a great effort to disseminate scientific, technical and economic information of high quality by means of conferences, courses, monographs and so on. In that connection, special mention should be made of the reports on the economic and technical aspects of nuclear power, the panel of experts on processing of low-grade uranium ores, the publication of comprehensive information regarding reactors, the development of methods for technical and economic calculations, and the publication of data on the construction and operation of reactors in Canada, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States.

70. In the Agency's Programme for 1967-68<sup>5)</sup> he particularly welcomed the steps to be taken in connection with the development of nuclear power, the studies to be carried out on the characteristics of the various components of a nuclear power station and the proposed meeting on the technical and economic aspects of nuclear power stations.

71. The training of staff should constitute one of the Agency's main preoccupations. The developing

5) GC(X)/332.

countries needed above all specialists who could make efficient use of technical assistance.

72. That problem could only be solved on a long-term basis and required still more careful attention. As an aid to fellows it would be useful if more information were available on training centres and on the facilities which they offered, the curricula of studies and advanced training, the basic qualifications required, the length of the courses and so on. The Romanian delegation was submitting a draft resolution jointly with Bulgaria, India, Italy, Mexico, the United Arab Republic and Yugoslavia, with the support of many other States, in connection with the important problem of education and training<sup>6</sup>).

73. The Agency's policy of offering fellowships had had positive results in 1965-66, but it would be better if more Type II fellowships and more travelling fellowships were available.

74. Gratifying results were accruing from the co-operation between FAO and the Agency, with their joint research programmes, and his delegation hoped that even more efficient collaboration would be established with WHO and UNESCO.

75. The Trieste Centre had proved its usefulness, and the Agency and UNESCO should therefore continue supporting the Centre, whose work was of high scientific value.

76. The Romanian delegation was pleased to note that every year the Agency developed and improved its technical and scientific information activities.

77. Continuous improvement could be noted in the programme of scientific meetings, which were devoted to subjects of major importance. The Agency's publications were of a high standard, from the point of view both of content and presentation. The Agency was also to be congratulated on its efforts to keep Member States informed of the latest scientific works published by various laboratories, thereby facilitating a useful exchange of scientific data.

78. Mention should also be made of the work done in connection with the development of radiological health and safety standards, the transport of radioactive materials (of great use to national authorities) and radioactive waste disposal.

79. He then drew the Conference's attention to various aspects of Romania's nuclear programme. In Romania the applications of nuclear physics and technology were proceeding satisfactorily in

various fields of activity ranging from pure research to research in medicine, agriculture, prospecting, the chemical industry, metallurgy, etc. The results obtained had been of substantial economic benefit to the country.

80. The Romanian nuclear power programme provided for the installation by 1975 of several nuclear power stations having a total capacity of about 1000 MW(e). Romania was hoping for fruitful co-operation with the Agency, especially in connection with the training of experts and various technical and economic problems.

81. Mindful of the Agency's needs, the Romanian Government had decided to present it with six complete electronic radiation counting sets to a value of some \$10 000. That gift was additional to the offer of 15 short- and long-term fellowships which had already been announced.

82. In conclusion, he hoped that the Agency's second decade would open with attainment of the objectives which had been set, in an international atmosphere compatible with fruitful co-operation between all nations, large and small, in the interests of universal progress, peace and happiness.

83. Mr. YEN (China) said he found it most inspiring to take part, for the first time, in the work of a body dedicated to the advancement of science for world peace.

84. As a founder member of the Agency his country was a most staunch supporter of the high principles enshrined in its Statute. At the moment it possessed only one research reactor but before long several power reactors would be in operation to meet the ever-growing demand for electric power. Extensive work had been done in using isotopes and radiation sources in medicine and agriculture and a start had also been made in industrial applications of radioisotopes. Development plans, he would stress, were entirely related to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

85. International co-operation was a prerequisite for full achievement of the Agency's objectives. The partial test ban treaty and the Agency's safeguards system were specific steps towards that co-operation. His country was a signatory to the test ban treaty and also had entered into a trilateral agreement with the Agency and the United States Government, requiring it, *inter alia*, to adhere faithfully to the safeguards system. It would thus be seen that his country had done its utmost in the interest of international co-operation for world peace; and it was ready to support any future action by the Agency intended to make it even more difficult for atomic energy to be used for other than peaceful purposes.

6) Subsequently issued as document GC(X)/COM.1/99.



86. The Agency had an important part to play in promoting the welfare of mankind. Nuclear energy would meet many of the urgent needs of the world to-day for electric power, and would do so, to an even greater extent, in the future. The Agency's major responsibility was to map out a technical assistance programme designed to improve living standards, particularly in the developing countries. He was glad to note that the Programme for 1967-68 made provision for technical assistance in general training, the application of radioisotopes and radiation sources in medicine, agriculture, food preservation and health, and nuclear power.

87. It was on the development of nuclear power that the future of the developing countries would hang. The demand for power was a general measure of a country's prosperity and material well-being, and the Agency should provide technical assistance designed to develop either conventional or nuclear power - depending on which was the more economic - wherever needed.

88. With its research reactor, his country was producing 15 different isotopes in quantities sufficient to meet domestic demands for medical and agricultural purposes. Over the past few years, its power requirements had grown by about 14% a year on the average. A feasibility survey had already been completed and it was likely that work on the construction of the first nuclear power plant would begin around 1970. His Government wished to express its thanks to the Agency for the help given in that project. It was also grateful for help received in respect of other projects and for the research contracts awarded in connection with the mutation and uptake of labelled fertilizers and hot-atom chemistry, which were producing significant results.

89. In conclusion, his delegation would thank the Austrian Government for the hospitality and facilities extended to the Conference.

90. Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Chile) expressed, on behalf of his Government, great satisfaction with the Agency's important achievements. The steady growth in its membership was unmistakable proof of the confidence it inspired and of increasing world-wide awareness of its significance. He wished to congratulate Uganda and Singapore on joining the Agency. The fact that Chile approved of what had been accomplished did not mean, however, that there should be no changes in the general policy of the Agency, or in its structure and the nature of its operations. On the contrary, the Chilean delegation was convinced that the time had come for a thorough review of the Agency's activities with a view to adapting it more fully to the conditions and requirements of the world

to-day and helping it to fulfil its objectives more satisfactorily.

91. It had never occurred to those who had conceived the idea of setting up the Agency that it should have the responsibility of carrying on the large-scale research required for discovering new and peaceful uses of atomic energy or of devising new techniques for its utilization. Those tasks could be performed only with enormous financial resources, which were available only to a few countries, and - in many cases - either in conjunction with or as a by-product of military projects. The main function of the Agency, whose resources were very modest, should be to help less favoured countries to acquire the technology and facilities necessary for using atomic energy to promote their economic and social development.

92. Viewing the situation in that light, one could only come to the conclusion that the Agency was not really fulfilling its main objective, and that was not the fault of the Secretariat but of the Member States, which were not making the necessary financial resources available and which had permitted the Agency's primary task to be rendered ineffectual. What were \$100 000, or even the \$12 million of the Agency's total budget, compared with the thousands of millions of dollars which the Great Powers were spending every year on nuclear weapons?

93. Implicit in the United States proposal which had given rise to the Agency and which had received such widespread acceptance on the part of other Governments had been the idea of some kind of compensation for nations outside the group of nuclear Powers. That compensation would consist in the provision of substantial assistance in matters relating to the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

94. Also implicit in the proposal had been the idea of a ratio between what was invested in atomic energy for destructive purposes and the sums that would be allocated for using that energy to improve the living conditions of people in developing regions. The less privileged countries needed an intensification of the Agency's work in disseminating information on scientific advances in the peaceful uses of atomic energy. They needed its help in the training of physicists and physicians; they needed it to lend technical assistance in the building of reactors and of nuclear power stations and desalination plants. Chile and other developing countries had received extensive and effective help from the Agency in all those fields, but the organization did not have sufficient funds to give such assistance on an adequate scale.

95. It could be argued that the Agency was not

the only source of assistance and that help might be obtained on a multilateral or bilateral basis under other programmes. It should not be forgotten, however, that for many countries aid from an international organization could not be replaced by a different type of aid, especially as far as atomic energy was concerned.

96. Another important aspect of the Agency's activities was safeguards. No one could fail to recognize the importance of that function, and it was gratifying that more and more reactors were being placed under the Agency's safeguards system and that there was an increasing tendency for the administration of safeguards in relation to bilateral arrangements to be transferred to it as well.

97. The fact that the Agency was taking a steadily increasing part in the supervision of atomic energy installations was an encouraging development and a further step towards what should be the common goal, namely, that all such installations, in every country of the world, should be under the supervision of the Agency. He realized, of course, that that goal could not be achieved except under a general disarmament agreement, but any advance in that direction was a contribution to mutual understanding. For that reason, full support should be given to the suggestion of the delegate of Norway that States should be encouraged to submit their present and future peaceful activities in the field of atomic energy to safeguards on a unilateral basis 7).

98. On the subject of safeguards, he wished to refer to the plan for setting up a permanent denuclearized zone in Latin America. The delegate of Mexico had rightly pointed out that such a Latin American effort could not conceivably be successful unless it had the forthright and determined co-operation of the international community in general and unless the agreement on denuclearization was accompanied by suitable international controls 8).

99. The Governments which had participated in the preliminary discussions had already placed on record their wish that the Agency should take over the function of control and apply its safeguards system in the denuclearized zone. The Chilean delegation agreed with the statement of the delegate of Mexico that it was necessary that the Board of Governors, at its first meeting in 1967, should have at its disposal sufficient information to enable the Agency to be able to draw up agreements for co-operation in the application of its safeguards

system under the treaty on the denuclearization of Latin America 9).

100. Doubtless, one of the best ways of providing the Board with extensive information would be for the Director General to send an observer to the next meeting of the Preparatory Commission, to be held in January 1967. The Director General should have full authorization to take such a step and the Chilean delegation was confident that he would not fail to take that action.

101. On the subject of emergency assistance in the event of a radiation accident, Chile hoped that the Board, before the next session of the General Conference, would reach agreement on and give its approval to a draft agreement which would be satisfactory to all parties. His delegation trusted that account would be taken of its views on liability for damage which occurred, not as a direct result of an accident, but in connection with the provision of emergency assistance in the event of a nuclear accident.

102. In conclusion, he wished to express his delegation's gratitude to the Government of Austria, since the support of the host Government was an important factor in the satisfactory discharge of the Agency's tasks.

103. Mr. ESCHAUZIER (Netherlands) said that the present session of the General Conference marked the opening of the final chapter of the first decade of the Agency's existence. While such an occasion was an important milestone for any international organization, he thought there were ample reasons to celebrate that happy event with more than usual satisfaction in the Agency's case.

104. In the first place it should be recalled that the inception of the Agency had required lengthy negotiations, largely no doubt because both the nature and the objectives of the Agency differed considerably from those of other United Nations bodies. In fact, the setting up of an organization to promote the peaceful uses of atomic energy as a member of the United Nations family had represented a bold venture into new and unknown fields of international co-operation. The Agency had thus been handicapped in the years of its infancy, not only by the ordinary teething troubles, but also because of the problems and controversies arising from the unique and unprecedented functions assigned to it.

105. The main objectives of the Agency were twofold, on the one hand "to promote", and on the other "to restrain". It was a cause for con-

7) GC(X)/OR.104, para. 87.

8) GC(X)/OR.103, para. 74.

9) *Ibid.*, para. 75

siderable satisfaction that, in spite of the difficulties he had just mentioned, the Agency had now reached a degree of maturity which enabled it to focus its activities constructively on the simultaneous attainment of both those objectives. Under both heads, the Agency was now engaged in a wide range of activities, so that it was more than ever important to have proper co-ordination in drawing up and in implementing the Agency's programme.

106. That problem had several aspects, both internal and external. As to the first, it could not be denied that the Director General's efforts had yielded notable results, in streamlining the structure and the activities of the Secretariat in order to avoid overlapping and inefficient utilization of personnel. As to the external aspects, his delegation welcomed the fact that co-ordination of the Agency's activities with those of other organizations had been considerably intensified. It was clear that one of the main problems was the co-ordination of the Agency's technical assistance programme with assistance provided by the United Nations Development Programme, by other organizations or under bilateral agreements. He noted with satisfaction that the Secretariat was earnestly endeavouring to improve its programming procedures by adopting a policy of so-called "integrated programming". He was convinced that could not fail to be beneficial, provided Member States requesting technical assistance co-operated with the Agency by adopting the same principles of integrated programming on a national level. Similarly, the understanding and active co-operation of Member States would greatly facilitate the Agency's efforts to concentrate its activities on a number of priority areas of especial interest to developing countries, bringing its programme, as far as practicable, into line with the recommendations of the United Nations Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development.

107. However satisfying those and other developments might be, they did not alter the fact that, from the very beginning, the Agency had laboured under a lack of adequate financial means. With rising costs, the situation was now such that the Secretariat was forced to admit that it could do no better than "to make an optimum use of diminishing resources". Quite apart from the need for economy, co-ordination and concentration of effort, it was imperative, in view of the rapidly increasing number of requests for assistance, to put the Agency on a sounder financial basis. In his view, that might well prove to be one of the matters of special concern for the Board and the General Conference in the next few years. In that connection it would be appropriate for the Board also to consider realistically how far the Agency could go in supporting regional projects for the

establishment and maintenance of training centres and the like.

108. As to the "restraining" or safeguarding functions of the Agency, he expressed his delegation's deep satisfaction that the Safeguards System (1965)<sup>10</sup> had recently been provisionally extended to materials in chemical reprocessing plants. The process of transferring to the Agency responsibility for the administration of safeguards in relation to bilateral arrangements was perceptibly gaining momentum. Moreover, several large nuclear facilities had already been, or would be, put under the Agency's control unilaterally. That offered the Agency's inspectorate a unique opportunity to gain administrative and technical experience which would prove valuable if ever the Agency were called upon to play an auxiliary role, in accordance with Article III.B.1 of the Statute, "in conformity with policies of the United Nations furthering the establishment of safeguarded world-wide disarmament".

109. He hoped that in future more emphasis would also be placed on the Agency's custodial functions, embodied in Article XII.A.5 of the Statute, and, as a logical consequence, on the supply of nuclear materials, as provided for in Article IX.

110. The suggestion that had been made as to how the safeguards transfer procedures in relation to bilateral arrangements could be simplified<sup>11</sup> might well be further considered by the Board.

111. As regards the proposal for unilateral submission of peaceful nuclear activities to Agency safeguards, he would expect that in view of its political overtones the full implications of that proposal would be further clarified by the sponsors in the proper place and context.

112. Certainly the Agency had shown a remarkable capability to adapt itself to a changing pattern of technical and political factors, which it had been impossible for the drafters of the Statute to foresee. In his view the present session had brought to light a growing consensus about the Agency's future objectives. If that trend continued, ways and means could undoubtedly be found to overcome such deficiencies as were still inhibiting the Agency's forward march.

113. In conclusion he thanked the Director General and his staff for the excellent work in which he had been privileged to share while representing his country on the Board. The efficiency of its staff would be a valuable asset to the Agency in its future work.

10) INFCIRC/66.

11) GC(X)/OR. 103, paras. 44 and 45.

114. Mr. MASSANGU (Democratic Republic of the Congo) remarked that the Agency had laid down roots and was now one of the most important organizations in the United Nations family. Since 1957 the Agency had devoted itself to its task of promoting and facilitating in its Member States research to further the utilization of atomic energy for peaceful purposes. Its programme was ambitious, but already, it must be recognized, excellent work had been done. In his opening address<sup>12)</sup>, the Director General had drawn attention to the achievements the Agency might lay claim to - achievements made possible only through the prevailing spirit of co-operation and understanding which was a cause of envy to many, for the Agency had provided a noteworthy example of what could be accomplished by true international collaboration.

115. Undoubtedly, the safeguards system figured among the most notable of the results obtained by the Agency. For the developing countries, the control exercised over fissionable materials was in principle a matter for satisfaction, but control was applied mainly to advanced countries with large power reactors. In that connection, it was to be hoped that, in the event of the Agency's deciding that the reactor owners should pay the cost of inspection, the inspection of research reactors would continue to be free of charge.

116. Technical assistance represented another positive aspect of the Agency's work. All were aware that the resources available were inadequate to enable the Agency to meet all requests; yet when changes in the budget were proposed, invariably the purpose was to increase staff salaries and effect saving on technical assistance. It was to be regretted that the case was never the other way round. Another matter the Agency had to take into account was the administrative difficulties experienced in the developing countries; sufficient time must be allowed for files to be circulated among Government departments.

117. The Congo was particularly grateful to the Agency for the recently signed agreement under which, as a result of assistance from the United States, it would be able to convert its TRIGA Mark I reactor into a TRIGA Mark II model of 250 kW. His country was also placing great hopes in the three or four Agency experts who were being assigned to Kinshasa to train qualified nationals and take part in the regional course to be organized with the Agency's assistance in November 1966.

118. Having stressed the Agency's positive achievements, he would draw attention to the many

problems still remaining; in particular, there was the question of the revision of the Statute. The Statute still showed too little of the flexibility, streamlining and realism that marked the statutes of older organizations. It was time Member States realized the inadequacies, not to say errors, it presented. His Government had made suggestions for a number of amendments, only one of which had been submitted officially.

119. Most delegations were apparently in favour of the suggestion that the General Conference should meet only every two years. If one examined the agenda for the current session and eliminated from it customary formal items, what remained to justify annual meetings of the General Conference? The Administrative and Legal Committee, for instance, had exhausted its agenda in a quarter of an hour, which was all to the credit of its Chairman and members; doubtless, however, if it met for half an hour every two years, that would suffice. Furthermore, it had to be admitted that the Agency would function better if it had a biennial rather than an annual budget.

120. It was essential that the Agency, as a scientific organization, should respect scientific truths and duly established facts. With the passage of time one country could lose its status as a uranium producer whereas another might acquire that status, e.g. as a result of its achieving national sovereignty. Accordingly, only countries which were in fact producers of uranium should be designated for membership on the Board of Governors. Thus, the amendment proposed by the Congo in June 1965 had been designed merely to bring the text of the Statute into line with the true situation: the Board of Governors would select two countries every year, taking into account any developments that had occurred in regard to the production of source materials. It was to be regretted that the Board had not seen fit to study the question raised by the Congolese amendment and to submit specific proposals to the General Conference.

121. When the matter had come before it in September 1965, the Board had pleaded lack of time and the need for thorough study; it had stated that a study would be made in 1966 and that the Congo would be associated in the discussions. In February 1966, the question had been before the Board once again but had been postponed indefinitely; and no opportunity had been given his country to take part in the discussions nor had Member States had the chance to submit their views.

122. Article VI.A.2 of the Statute was unfortunately only one example of unwarrantable solicitude to ensure that certain Member States had seats on the Board. On the basis of paragraph A.1 of the

12) GC(X)/OR.101, paras. 28 to 54.

same article, certain countries were designated by the Board on the fallacious pretext of their being the most advanced in the technology of atomic energy; despite repeated calls to do so, the Board had so far taken good care not to state the facts on which the designations were based.

123. The Agency could not go on indefinitely in that way without seriously mortgaging the promising future opening before it. At the current session, marking a notable anniversary, all delegations should give serious thought to the question. In all sincerity, the Statute should be adapted to present realities and to the wishes of the great majority of Member States. If that were done, the smooth functioning of the Agency, far from being jeopardized, could not but be assisted.

124. Mr. HOCHSTRASSER (Switzerland) said it was customary on the occasion of a tenth anniversary to look back on past achievements. Undoubtedly the Agency had played a useful role in promoting the peaceful uses of atomic energy. Thanks were due to the Director General and his predecessor and to the Agency's staff, whose devoted work in the face of difficulties had placed the Agency in a position to-day to do effective work in many fields.

125. The commercial nuclear exhibition recently held in Basle had demonstrated very clearly that atomic energy had come of age. A number of countries now possessed excellent research facilities and a substantial body of competent nuclear experts, and industry had on offer, on a commercial basis, many products and services in the atomic field. That being so, some adjustment in the Agency's programme was undoubtedly called for. The obvious financial limitations on expansion of the Agency's budget required that some activities should be reduced as others took on added importance. In that context, the technical assistance programme had to be given particular attention. In some instances, other international organizations might be able to carry on where developments had reached the stage of routine application; he had in mind certain uses of radioisotopes in medicine and agriculture.

126. It was regrettable that more funds were not available to carry out the operational programme. As in preceding years, his Government would contribute to the General Fund an amount that was the same percentage of the target figure as its assessed contribution to the Regular Budget, in accordance with the General Conference resolution adopted five years previously<sup>13</sup>). Unfortunately, the recommendations in that resolution had been followed by too few Member States. Until a considerable

majority of the Member States, including the financially weaker countries, agreed to bear their part of the burden, it might prove difficult to increase operations. His delegation urged all the Governments concerned to reconsider their attitude in that matter.

127. In order to make the fullest use of available resources, efforts should be maintained to streamline the Agency's administration. Many activities were by now so well established that they no longer gave rise to discussions in the Board of Governors and the General Conference. His delegation therefore supported the proposal to introduce biennial budgets and to convene the General Conference only once every two years, as well as to cut down the number of Board meetings. Even with no change in the Statute, it was possible to take some steps to reduce the considerable expenditure on meetings of those two bodies. One would be to reduce the time devoted to meetings. In the case of the General Conference the general debate had come to determine the length of the session. An analysis of the statements made at the current session showed that the debate could be considerably shortened if speakers would limit their remarks essentially to comments and suggestions concerning the Agency's activities. However, in order to meet the legitimate desire to show what was being done in the atomic energy sphere in the various countries, the Agency could prepare a report on such national activities for submission to the Conference, based on material provided, if so desired, by Member States. He hoped the Board would examine all such possibilities and make specific proposals along the lines he had mentioned.

128. The advent of competitive nuclear power had added to the importance of safeguarding the special fissionable materials furnished by the Agency for peaceful purposes. His delegation welcomed the extension of the Agency's safeguards system to cover reprocessing plants. It was very desirable that the complete fuel cycle, and in particular its beginning and end, should be covered by the system. By controlling the fabrication and reprocessing of nuclear fuel, it might become possible to simplify the safeguarding of power reactors in particular. As experience was gained, it was to be hoped that the Agency would revise the existing inspection procedures to take advantage of such possibilities. The South African proposal for the introduction of bilateral transfer agreements should be carefully examined in view of the need for uncomplicated safeguards procedures. One field in which the Agency could offer valuable help at little cost would be in publicizing the safety of nuclear power plants, by circulating the relevant information published for the education of the general public in Member States.

13) GC(V)/RES.100.

129. As the current President of the Steering Committee of the European Nuclear Energy Agency (ENEA), he would like to express his satisfaction regarding the good collaboration that existed between ENEA and the Agency. Some tasks could best be undertaken on a regional basis prior to integration in an international framework. He accordingly hoped that the close and friendly relations between the two organizations would be maintained.

130. Lastly, he expressed the wish that the Agency would continue to thrive throughout the second decade of its existence and that it would be able to make further valuable contributions to the application of atomic energy for the benefit of mankind.

131. Mr. LINDSAY (Ghana) congratulated Singapore and Uganda, sister Commonwealth nations, on their admission to membership of the Agency.

132. The tendency among United Nations and other international organizations in recent times had been to endeavour to create and promote conditions which would abolish the unnecessary division of the world into developed and developing countries, since peace was clearly impossible in a world divided into haves and have-nots. It was in the context of those endeavours that the Conference should attempt to appraise the work carried out by the Agency during the years of its activity.

133. Since its establishment, the Agency, in consonance with the ideals of its founders and in pursuance of its statutory functions, had striven to promote and disseminate knowledge pertaining to nuclear energy with a view to ensuring that the vast potential of that new source of energy was used for the benefit of mankind rather than as an instrument of destruction. In that connection the establishment of the safeguards system was clearly a step in the right direction, and his delegation was glad to note that the system had now been extended to cover reprocessing plants.

134. While it welcomed the work done by the Agency in connection with the establishment of the safeguards system, Ghana looked forward to the day when it would be possible to bring the nuclear activities of all countries under an expanded safeguards system. In addition to arresting the arms race, such a development would help to ensure that the vast potentialities of nuclear energy were directed exclusively to peaceful purposes.

135. The developing countries had a vested interest in peace. In the United Nations and other forums their representatives had repeatedly made the point that the immense resources now being diverted to military uses would be better utilized in helping

to raise living standards in the poorer areas of the world.

136. The Agency had made great progress in other directions. Its provision of technical assistance to developing countries, although still somewhat limited by lack of funds, had been commendable. His country had been one of those which had benefited from that programme during the past year. In 1965 a mobile radioisotope unit had spent five months in Ghana providing training for a total of 89 persons. Ghana was also grateful to the Agency for the encouragement it had given in connection with its projected research reactor programme.

137. The work of the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Atomic Energy in Agriculture was a source of hope to the developing countries. Its programmes, which provided for work on rice and maize fertilization, the efficient use of water, entomology, the sterile male technique, rice breeding and production and the use of induced mutations in plant breeding, could make a valuable contribution to the solution of some of the urgent economic problems of the modern world.

138. The Agency had also displayed commendable initiative in its recommendations and studies dealing with the general problem of radiation. Its study groups, seminars and symposia had stimulated research and had helped to increase the general fund of knowledge on atomic energy. The Agency's publications had also made a valuable contribution in that direction. Useful work had also been done as regards the application of isotopes and radiation sources in medicine, biology, hydrology and industry.

139. He wished to associate himself with the congratulations that had been expressed by other speakers on the achievements of the Trieste Centre since its establishment two years previously, and he hoped that the Agency and Member States would continue to lend their support to the Centre in future.

140. It was clear that the Agency was striving to fulfil its primary duty of ensuring that nuclear knowledge was used to foster peace and to improve the lot of the poor areas of the world. As far as Ghana was concerned it would continue to assist the Agency in every way possible to achieve those aims.

141. While good progress had been made, improvements were possible in a number of fields. The Agency's technical assistance programme should reflect more accurately the needs of the world, and Secretariat staff should be more representative of the various regions of the world. Only a fully re-

representative Agency could accurately gauge the feelings and needs of those regions.

142. Ghana recognized that the Agency was a technical organization and that the criteria for determining membership of its governing body should be technical and not political. On the other hand, it was not reasonable to insist that a country should represent an area on the governing body if its political policies made it impossible for it to share with the other States of the area the technical skills and knowledge it acquired through participation in the work of the Agency.

143. In conclusion he wished to congratulate the Director General and his staff on the work they had done for the Agency over the past years and to wish them further success in their noble task of ensuring international co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

144. Mr. CONTRERAS CHAVEZ (El Salvador) stated that his country was now a member of the Central American economic integration group, a common market which had been set up in 1951 and which formed part of the Organization of Central American States, whose goal was the unity of that geographical region and whose present membership consisted of the Republics of Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and El Salvador.

145. A few years previously, the Agency had sent a preliminary assistance mission to the area. It had expressed the opinion, as far as El Salvador was concerned, that the use of nuclear power was not advisable at the time. Since then, however, electric power consumption had nearly tripled and it was expected that the rate of increase would rise sharply in the years to come. Since the hydro-electric resources of the Central American countries were being exploited to the maximum, it was obvious that within about ten years nuclear power would definitely become economic.

146. In the Central American region the United Nations, in co-operation with the Agency, was carrying out an experimental programme for the eradication of insect pests. The countries of the area were confident, in view of the importance of that work, that it would be possible to continue it until 1968, as planned.

147. Under its technical assistance programme, the Agency had during 1966 supplied \$4000 worth of equipment for the radioisotope department of Rosales Hospital and had sent an expert, who would remain six months, to reorganize the department and assist in the training of qualified personnel.

148. The delegate of Mexico had referred to the

favourable results that could be expected from the Agency's participation in the future treaty on the denuclearization of Latin America. At its meeting in May 1966, the Preparatory Commission for the Denuclearization of Latin America had actually envisaged the possibility of application of the safeguards system by the Agency as a means of control.

149. The delegation of El Salvador shared the view of the Mexican delegation concerning the desirability of the Agency's assuming an appropriate control function under the treaty to be concluded on the denuclearization of Latin America.

150. Mr. ALBERTO VELANDIA (Venezuela) expressed satisfaction at the admission of Uganda and Singapore to the Agency.

151. He recalled that in August 1961 the Venezuelan Government had decided to halt the operation of Venezuela's R.V.1 reactor, which had become critical a few months before. It had taken that action because it had not then had available the staff to run the installation and because it had seemed likely that three years would be required to train the minimum staff for operating the reactor and the related laboratories. Moreover, research work in the country, and especially at the Venezuelan Scientific Research Institute (IVIC) had not been dependent on the reactor, so that its temporary shut-down could not affect progress in research.

152. The decision to cease operation of the reactor had been accompanied by a plan for the training and utilization of staff. That plan had been presented at an international seminar held at Bariloche, Argentina, in November 1961 and had met with the approval of the participants. A summary of the plan had been published by the Agency.

153. The predicted results had been achieved and the decision taken in 1961 was beginning to bear fruit. Between 1962 and the present time, 185 scientists and technicians had received training in the use of isotopes with equipment donated by the Agency. Thirty-five technicians and scientists, trained in reactor technology, physics, radiochemistry, health physics, electronics and other related subjects, were now available.

154. Since October 1965 nuclear activities in Venezuela had again been in full swing and the IVIC was at present carrying out an intensive programme covering many subjects. During 1966, work had been started on a study of the possible nationwide use of radioisotopes and radiation sources in industry and food technology, respectively.

155. During the present year, a seminar on the operation and maintenance of research reactors had been held in Venezuela under the auspices

of the Agency, with the participation of 32 experts from Latin America, the United States, Canada and Spain. The Eighth Latin American School of Physics had also been held in Venezuela and had been attended by 70 Latin American scientists who had participated in seminars conducted by experts in the fundamental problems of modern physics.

156. Venezuela had participated in the meetings of the Preparatory Commission for the Denuclearization of Latin America, and the Venezuelan Government wished to express its appreciation of the Agency's assistance and co-operation in matters relating to the legal aspects of the application of the safeguards system. He did not think that it was appropriate, however, for the Agency to partici-

pate directly in the negotiations relating to the treaty itself, since the latter involved matters which lay outside the Agency's competence. The Venezuelan delegation did not feel that the Agency should participate in discussions of a political nature between Governments.

157. In conclusion, he wished to express his support of the extension of the safeguards system to reprocessing plants and of plans for making improvements in the International Centre for Theoretical Physics at Trieste. The Venezuelan delegation approved the Programme for 1967-68 and Budget for 1967 and expressed its gratitude for the Agency's assistance during past years in the development of nuclear activities in Venezuela.

*The meeting rose at 6 p.m.*