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on Tuesday, 27 September 1966, at 10.40 a.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. KADDOURA (Syria) said that his delegation extended its sincere congratulations to the Agency as a whole on the occasion of the tenth anniversary, and to the Director General and his staff on their untiring work in the service of the Agency's ideals and of its Member States.

2. Syria, as a small developing country, was eager to share in the benefits of atomic energy, but was faced by certain problems. It was in the rather singular situation of having a not inconsiderable number of scientific personnel trained in various branches of atomic energy, but had very few facilities for research, development and application in that field. That unfortunate situation was leading to a "brain drain" in two respects. Firstly, there was temporary and permanent emigration of many of Syria's best nuclear scientists to advanced

The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document GC(X)/INF/89/Rev.3.

countries. Secondly, the services of many nuclear scientists were being lost through their being forced, by insufficient opportunities for work in the atomic sciences, to direct their energies and talents to other fields.

3. That situation could be improved only through international and regional collaboration — on the international level primarily through the Agency, and on the regional level through the recently established Arab Council for Peaceful Applications of Atomic Energy. Arab countries with more experience in the subject, in particular the United Arab Republic, would extend their help to other Arab countries desiring to share in a common Arab atomic energy programme and having the resources to contribute to its success. The Agency would be well advised to discuss with that regional body the conditions of possible collaboration.

4. With regard to the assistance which Syria hoped and expected to receive from the Agency, he supported the many delegates who had urged the Agency to extend and develop its technical assistance programmes. There was no need to repeat the convincing arguments for such a course of action. In that connection, however, the International Centre for Theoretical Physics at Trieste could, and should, play a very important role in helping the small developing countries retain and develop their limited resources of scientific manpower. His delegation was full of admiration for the efforts of Professor Salam and his colleagues at the Trieste Centre to build up a first-class research school, which would be devoted not only to the advancement of scientific knowledge, but also to helping nuclear scientists from the developing countries.

5. His delegation also appreciated the various schemes worked out by the Centre to keep those scientists in close and fruitful contact with the main body of world nuclear scientists. He urged the Agency to continue to give all possible assistance to the Centre.

6. The Agency could also assist by sponsoring co-operation between two laboratories (one in a developing, and one in an advanced country). Some material help from the Agency for the developing country's laboratory might encourage such co-operation by the sister laboratory in the advanced country. In that respect, too, the Trieste Centre had its part to play.

7. Finally, he wished to express the appreciation of Syrian nuclear scientists for the significant contribution that the Agency's publications were making. He hoped the Agency would extend its efforts in that regard.

8. Mr. LE-VAN-THOI (Viet-Nam) expressed his

delegation's gratification at the Agency's record of positive, if limited, achievements under Dr. Eklund's leadership. The Director General had a difficult task to perform in reconciling the growing needs of Member States with available resources, and his delegation wished to assure him of its continuing sympathy and support in the work ahead.

9. Despite the tragic situation in which it found itself, the people of Viet-Nam was fully alive to the importance of tackling the problems of economic and social development which would have a direct bearing on the shaping of the country's future as soon as peace was re-established. In that connection his country was continuing to carry out a research programme, which, although modest, was designed to ensure a gradual extension of the use of isotopes to the two areas which were most clearly bound up with the life of the people of Viet-Nam, viz. medicine and agriculture.

10. In the medical field systematic use was now being made of radioiodine for the diagnosis of thyroid disorders. In some medical centres the same radioisotope had been used for therapeutic purposes. Assistance had been promised by the Agency which would enable his country to proceed with work on the fundamental problem of protein metabolism. Plans had also been elaborated with a view to developing therapeutic techniques in the National Cancer Institute.

11. The Office de l'énergie atomique, together with the associated nuclear research centre at Dalat, were in a position to supply most of the radioelements required by the Faculty of Medicine at Saigon. So far it had only been possible to supply radioelements in the form of liquids for oral administration, and the Agency's assistance in connection with the preparation of injectable radioactive solutions, particularly solutions of iron-55 and chromium-51, would be extremely valuable. The work of the Dalat Centre's Radiochemistry Division was concerned with the activation analysis of latex, powders from hevea leaves and local foodstuffs. In that connection the services of an expert in irradiation techniques would be very useful.

12. In view of the central role of agriculture in the economy of Viet-Nam every effort was being made to develop the country's research potential and to increase the number of technical staff available to the Radiobiology Division. The recent installation of a special glass-house at the Dalat Centre had greatly facilitated research on plant metabolism and the effects of X-rays and neutrons on rice, maize and soya bean seeds. The Research Division of the Ministry of Agriculture had now started to make use of nuclear methods to carry out soil studies.

13. The Agency had performed commendable regulatory work with regard to radiological protection, and his delegation fully endorsed the health and safety programme for the next two years. The Agency's work in that connection could not fail to be of value to the developing countries, where the need for appropriate legislation became more and more urgent as increased use was made of atomic energy for peaceful purposes. Viet-Nam hoped that the Agency would provide increased assistance of that kind by organizing practical training and courses for legal and administrative staff to enable such staff to become familiar with the various legal problems arising in the implementation of a nuclear programme.

14. Viet-Nam was following with interest the efforts being made by the Agency to encourage the pairing of laboratories in the developing countries with those in the advanced countries. The Agency had already succeeded in arranging for four such inter-laboratory co-operation projects, and he hoped that it would be possible to extend the scheme to Viet-Nam.

15. At the last session of the General Conference he had expressed certain hopes as regards the Agency's regional co-operation projects ¹⁾ and he was glad to see that work in that sphere had developed very much in line with those hopes. The tripartite programme of co-operation in neutron spectrometry ²⁾ and the co-ordinated research programme on rice and maize breeding had met with the general approval of the countries concerned. The efforts that were being made to discover areas of common interest testified to the importance which regional study groups attached to regional co-operation. In that connection Viet-Nam warmly supported a proposal to organize regional collaboration in activation analysis work made by experts from Thailand at a meeting of the Study Group on the Utilization of Research Reactors.

16. Because of its awareness of its own limitations his country attached great importance to the technical assistance programme, which, in its view, constituted one of the most promising aspects of the Agency's work. Viet-Nam placed great faith in that programme and hoped that its requests for technical assistance would be given sympathetic consideration justifying that faith.

17. His country wished to give practical expression to its faith in the value of international co-operation through the Agency by fulfilling the primary duty of all Member States to help the Agency perform its obligations towards those nations which were

most in need of increased international solidarity. Accordingly he was glad to announce that his country would make a voluntary contribution to the General Fund for 1967 that was based on its Regular Budget assessment for that year. In view of the trials which the people of Viet-Nam had undergone for more than 20 years and the sacrifices it continued to make in the interest of a better future, he hoped that that contribution, however modest it might be, would demonstrate the importance his country attached to international collaboration and also its desire to contribute to the welfare of all nations.

18. Mr. VELTZE MICHEL (Bolivia) recalled that the establishment of the Agency had stemmed from the misgivings felt by Members of the United Nations. The Government of Bolivia had joined the Agency and given it full and determined support. The Agency fulfilled the urgent need for an international body which would not only devise and administer a world-wide system of safety and control in the utilization of nuclear energy, but would also study, finance and grant technical assistance to developing countries in connection with peaceful uses of atomic energy. Those principles formed the guide-lines of Bolivia's international policy in atomic energy matters.

19. Bolivia hoped that the tools of modern science could be put to good use in its valleys, its mines and factories, and it was impatient to learn how nuclear energy could help it to achieve true national liberation. Bolivia was a newcomer in the field of nuclear science and was anxious to adopt modern methods. The country had in fact already achieved some of its aims in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

20. The Bolivian Nuclear Energy Commission had been established about four years previously. Bolivia had joined the Agency a few months later and had since succeeded in launching a research programme which, in the case of nuclear medicine for example, consisted of measures to combat endemic goitre through the use of radioisotopes, the determination of haemodynamic, cardiopulmonary and haematological parameters under high-altitude conditions, and research on hypertension in relation to the kidneys and as a function of high altitude. WHO had included Bolivia in the "Black Zone" of its goitre classification and the country was therefore planning to extend its anti-goitre programme, which had started in La Paz, to Sucre, since in some parts of the latter region up to 90 % of the population was affected.

21. Radioisotopes were also being used extensively in agriculture, and Bolivia had set itself the goal of eradicating various insect pests and diseases. It

1) See document GC(IX)/OR.96, para 94.

2) See document INFCIRC/56.

was realized that that objective could be achieved most quickly by using radioisotopes. The problem of the fruit fly was a serious one for his country, since in some areas the entire fruit crop was damaged and the annual loss amounted to about 60 million Bolivian pesos (5 million US dollars), an excessive amount for a country with such a small national income. His Government was therefore paying special attention to the problem and thought it would be necessary to take emergency measures and to ask the Agency for its assistance in using the new methods and techniques that it had developed.

22. The mineral wealth of Bolivia was immeasurable and its possibilities were attracting international interest. Some six months earlier, aerial photographic and geophysical surveys had been carried out for the purpose of delimiting the metal-bearing regions of the Andes mountains in Bolivia. Assistance in interpreting the results obtained was of vital importance for locating future sources of radioactive minerals. In addition, there were many accessible points at high altitudes in Bolivia which were suitable for the installation of special laboratories. The Cosmic Radiation Laboratory at Chacaltaya, situated at a height of 5300 meters, had done valuable research on cosmic rays even though it was operating on limited funds. It was carrying out studies on atmospheric activity and on changes in the intensity of cosmic radiations, as well as research on electromagnetic states in interplanetary space, which would be of great value for interplanetary exploration programmes.

23. His Government was of the opinion that effective use could be made of nuclear energy only when the necessary Bolivian staff had been trained, and that involved a readjustment of study programmes in schools and universities and a modernization of the curricula of technical schools. Those changes could be made only with effective assistance from the Agency under its fellowship and training programmes. In that connection, Bolivia had signed bilateral agreements with Argentina and Brazil.

24. Bolivia had been one of the countries that had joined in the call for the denuclearization of Latin America, which had led to the submission of a draft resolution to the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1962. It had also played an active part in the discussions of the Preparatory Commission for the Denuclearization of Latin America. His Government endorsed the statement of Mexico expressing the hope that the Agency would in due course consider the possibility of applying its safeguards system under a Latin American denuclearization treaty. 3)

3) GC(X)/OR.103, paras 74 and 75.

25. His Government considered that the results of research carried out by the International Centre for Theoretical Physics at Trieste were of great importance for the advancement of nuclear science.

26. On the occasion of the tenth session of the General Conference, Bolivia wished to congratulate Dr. Eklund and the Secretariat on their efficient execution and administration of the Agency's programmes and, in particular, bearing in mind the general atmosphere of anxiety throughout the world, it wished to reaffirm its determined support of the principle that atomic energy should be used in the service of humanity, economic development and, above all, peace.

27. Mr. SALVETTI (Italy) said that the tenth General Conference was an ideal occasion for reviewing the past activities of the Agency and for obtaining valuable indications for the future. He gratefully acknowledged the excellent work accomplished by the Agency, and was particularly gratified that the results achieved greatly exceeded expectations, bearing in mind the large number of Member States and the deep ideological, social and economic differences between them. That the Agency had remained faithful to its statutory aims, thus giving the maximum possible impetus to the technical and economic advancement of the peaceful uses of atomic energy, was largely due to the invaluable efforts of the Director General and the Secretariat.

28. The Agency's activity in the past year had been mainly directed towards the important field of technical assistance. However, even the commendable efforts it had made had still been inadequate to meet the many and complex requests for assistance, especially in view of the importance of atomic power in furthering the industrialization of developing countries.

29. Special mention should be made of the Agency's work on many problems related to the use of atomic energy, such as those concerning various aspects of safety, waste disposal and the desalting of sea water. Italy was particularly interested in the latter problem, whose solution might prove extremely beneficial to the economic development of certain regions, and had already drawn up programmes of study and research; the problem was a major one for many countries.

30. The extension of contacts between the Agency and other international organizations in sectors of mutual interest in order to avoid duplication was also deserving of commendation.

31. The International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste was one of the Agency's most important achievements. At the end of its second

year of operation it was unanimously acknowledged as one of the leading institutions in its field, and it served as an excellent demonstration of how common scientific interest could help in overcoming the political and ideological barriers between peoples. There was no question as to the need for keeping the Centre in operation after the end of its first four-year period. He was therefore somewhat disturbed by the Programme, Technical and Budget Committee's approval of a resolution whereby any decision about the future of the Centre was to be submitted to further study.⁴⁾ All the implications of that decision should be carefully evaluated.

32. It was in order to meet the needs of developing countries and fill a gap in the Agency's activities that his Government had invested in the Centre sums amounting to nearly nine-tenths of the total spent on it. Recently, requests had been received to provide permanent facilities, including housing, for the Centre. However, in view of the latest development he had to inform delegations that his Government, while it had no intention of departing from the principle that more advanced countries should aid those less fortunate, would have to draw its own conclusions as to the implications of the vote by the Programme, Technical and Budget Committee.

33. Italy's nuclear programme was being successfully implemented. The three nuclear power stations at Latina, Garigliano and Trino Vercellese were producing over 6% of the total national power output, the figure having increased from 2 401 000 kWh in 1964 to 3 500 000 kWh in 1965.

34. The most important technological programmes of the National Atomic Energy Commission (CNEN) were the EUREX, PCUT, CIRENE and fast-reactor programmes and the related fuel programme. Considerable advances had been made in constructing the plants for the EUREX and PCUT programmes; the first cold running of the PCUT plant was scheduled to take place at the beginning of 1967, while the EUREX plant would go into operation in the course of that year. The CNEN-CISE-EURATOM joint programme for the CIRENE reactor, initiated by Italy, showed many promising technical features in the field of advanced thermal reactors. The reactor would use natural uranium in the oxide form and employ heavy water as a moderator, while its cooling was based on the "fog" principle. The programme was in an advanced stage of development, and a final decision would shortly be taken on the production of a prototype of substantial power. In the field of fast breeders, the next

objective was the construction of a fuel-element-testing reactor (PEC) with a power of about 80 MW(th).

35. Italy would continue to co-operate with the Agency in 1967, making a voluntary contribution of \$45 800, and providing through the National Atomic Energy Commission 20 fellowships for a total of 160 months of training.

36. Optimistic conclusions could be drawn from a review of the activities carried out under the Agency's programme. Progress in the past decade had exceeded all expectations, constituting a clear indication that nuclear energy had become one of the essential factors determining the economic growth and progress of the world.

37. Mr. RAVELOJAONA (Madagascar) said that it was a great honour and pleasure for him to make his delegation's initial contribution to the work of the General Conference. He took pleasure in welcoming Uganda and Singapore to the Agency.

38. Madagascar hoped that the Members of the Agency would work together in close collaboration and would pool their scientific knowledge and nuclear power resources.

39. Widespread application of safeguards and the drafting of truly international standards and legislation covering all nuclear activities would make a valuable contribution to the establishment of conditions conducive to peace, which the young nations and developing countries needed even more than the others.

40. One of the major tasks faced by international organizations consisted of bridging the gap between the rich and the poor, and the Director General had pointed out with regret that four out of five applications for technical assistance could not be satisfied.⁵⁾ It was impossible to overstate the special importance of technical assistance and of adopting fair and effective measures for implementation of the biennial technical assistance programme. It had to be remembered, in that connection, that the needs of the Member States would grow as the developing countries made increasingly wide use of atomic energy.

41. The radioisotopes laboratory in Madagascar was attached to the Faculty of Science of Tananarive University and had been equipped with the help of the Commissariat à l'énergie atomique (French Atomic Energy Commission) which also

4) See document GC(X)/COM.1/OR.72, paras 18 and 19.

5) GC(X)/OR.101, para 38.

helped with its operation. It consisted of two sections: a medical section with scintigraphic equipment and appropriate clinical facilities, which was already collaborating with hospitals in the capital; and an agricultural section, which was working on the labelling of fertilizers and insects and the use of neutron moisture meters, in conjunction with the Agronomic Research Institute and the Madagascar Scientific Research Institute. The laboratory possessed rooms for treatment and research, and an air-conditioned room for counters. An electronics technician was responsible for the operation of the counting equipment and repaired it on the spot when necessary.

42. The laboratory accepted young graduates from the Faculty of Science and, since the beginning of the year, had been organizing weekly lectures and practical introductory work on the principles and techniques involved in the use of radioisotopes in medicine and agriculture.

43. A radiodiagnosis and radiotherapy service was to be set up in the new Central Hospital in Tananarive. The question of training specialists in nuclear medicine already had to be considered; young doctors were interested in specializing in that branch and Madagascar hoped that the Agency would grant fellowships and training facilities.

44. With the existing system of organization and the scientific staff already working in Madagascar it would be possible to undertake research contracts on subjects figuring in the Agency's Programme for 1967-68.⁶⁾ So far as the developing countries were concerned, the Agency's research contracts were closely bound up with its technical assistance activities, the training of specialists and supply of equipment. The award of research contracts immediately called attention to the lack of national specialists in the receiving country. Conversely, in the case of Member States which had only recently started using radioisotopes and radiation, the Agency should encourage use of the knowledge which its former fellows had acquired, and could best do so by awarding research contracts enabling them to keep in touch with the experts and laboratory that had trained them.

45. By participating in the Agency's assistance programmes, the developing countries demonstrated their confidence in the Agency and their conviction that it was the organization best able to help them in accelerating their development; effective assistance from the Agency would enable them to reduce the gap separating them from the better-endowed nations. In fulfilling the mission which the Member States

had allotted to it — to help maintain peace and increase the prosperity of nations — the Agency would show that there was hope for mankind.

46. Mr. PRADO (Brazil) observed that, on the occasion of the tenth regular session of the General Conference, it would be appropriate to attempt a summary of what the Agency, as a whole, had accomplished during the period which had elapsed since its establishment.

47. All in all, the Agency certainly had ample reason to be proud of its performance. It had fostered and promoted international co-operation, and had been active in the study of world-wide problems related to the utilization of atomic energy. It had convened an impressive number of scientific meetings covering all aspects of nuclear affairs, and had disseminated much valuable information, particularly in the form of conference and symposium proceedings and periodicals. The Agency was now embarking on a new venture on a world-wide scale, namely the organization of an international nuclear data system which would embrace all the producers and users of such data.

48. Of great importance was the assistance afforded by the Agency to the programmes of the developing countries, and its help in the training of scientific and technical staff by means of fellowships, courses and special missions was also of great significance.

49. His delegation wished to thank the Agency for its help and assistance to Brazil throughout the nine years which had passed since its inception. The scientific and technical missions sent by the Agency, the equipment which had been provided, and the fellowships which had been granted to Brazilian candidates had undoubtedly been of considerable assistance to the country in the implementation of its national atomic energy programme.

50. On its side, Brazil had always been an enthusiastic participant in the work of the Agency. He recalled that that participation had started at the very beginning when, in 1955, Brazil had been a member of the 12-Power group which had worked on a draft of the Statute in Washington. The Conference on the Statute, held in New York in 1956, had had a Brazilian as its President, a Brazilian had served as Chairman of the Preparatory Commission and, later on, as Chairman of the second Board of Governors, and the Scientific Advisory Committee had included a Brazilian representative ever since its establishment.

51. In his statement on the work of the Agency, the Director General had made special reference to certain problems which would soon have to be faced. In particular, Dr. Eklund's observations on the Agency's technical assistance programme, and

6) GC(X)/332.

his indication that, with its present resources, the Agency would be able to satisfy perhaps only 20 % of the requests made by developing countries, gave grounds for considerable anxiety. It was indeed disturbing to observe, in that connection, that between the last budget and the one which the Conference was being called upon to approve at the present session there was an increase of only 1.4 % in the resources allocated to technical assistance activities.

52. That was why the Brazilian delegation associated itself with those who felt that Member States, particularly those more advanced economically, should endeavour to make larger contributions to the Agency's technical assistance programme. It was unfortunate that that programme depended upon voluntary contributions, but the situation could to some extent be eased if every Member State contributed to the Operational Budget at least in the same proportion as it did to the Regular Budget.

53. In view of the limited time allowed for the general debate, he would refrain from listing all the present highlights of nuclear activities in Brazil. A survey of that kind would include a reference to recent discoveries of promising ore deposits, and an account of the continuing expansion of Brazilian atomic centres, of new developments in laboratories and plants handling nuclear materials, and of the growing interest and participation of local industry in the atomic field.

54. He would, however, comment in a little more detail on the present situation regarding nuclear power in Brazil. Systematic studies had been going on since 1963 on the country's hydro potential. Collection of data and their evaluation had begun in Central South Brazil, which included the most industrialized area of the country, and where power requirements were increasing at an annual average rate of nearly 11 %. The studies that had been made showed that large hydro plants could be built at a very reasonable unit cost. That fact, and the existence of other power resources not fully evaluated until recently, probably rendered nuclear power plants unattractive as an immediate proposition. In north-eastern Brazil on the other hand most rivers had torrential regimes, there was no coal, and oil had to be transported from distant refineries. There were only limited hydro resources in that area, and there was also a serious shortage of fresh water. That problem might be solved by the construction of dual-purpose nuclear plants.

55. Although the overall situation, in terms of the energy resources available, did not warrant the immediate construction of power reactors in Brazil, as time went on other considerations would come into operation and would mean that a definite nuclear power plant programme would be required.

Recourse to nuclear power would possibly have to be made within about two decades, and accordingly the main Brazilian nuclear centres were undertaking feasibility studies on proven and advanced reactor types. In conclusion, he wished to reaffirm his Government's confidence in the future of the Agency, and its belief in the ideal of co-operative development of atomic energy which had motivated the Agency's establishment.

56. Mr. ZALZALAH' (Iraq) congratulated the Director General and all those who had contributed to the success of the Agency in the past nine years. He also wished to welcome the new Member States which had joined the Agency since the last General Conference. The continuous increase in membership was a clear indication of the importance generally attached to the Agency, and it was noteworthy that new States in particular had shown great interest in availing themselves of the knowledge and skill at the Agency's disposal.

57. In February 1966, the Board of Governors had approved the allocation of a cobalt unit to Iraq. His Government was grateful to the Agency and to the Government of the Soviet Union for that donation, and had allocated more than £500 000 to the Medical Radiological Centre in which the unit was to be installed. Work on Iraq's research reactor would be completed in 1967 and the project, with its attached research centre, would employ about 130 technicians.

58. The Director General had already mentioned two points of vital importance to the future of the Agency. 7) The first was the revision of the Statute, Article XVIII.B of which read: "At the fifth annual session of the General Conference following the coming into force of this Statute, the question of a general review of the provisions of this Statute shall be placed on the agenda of that session." Since then five additional years had elapsed and no revision had yet been undertaken. His delegation believed that the time had come to bring the Statute, in the Director General's words, "into line with reality". The Agency's membership had almost doubled since its foundation, and all the new Members were developing countries. Although the Director General was to be congratulated on his efforts to obtain a more equitable post distribution, there was still a high concentration of representatives of advanced countries in senior posts and holding permanent contracts. In view of the marked variations in the relative importance attached to the various functions of the Agency, he believed that appointments should be made rather by long-term than by permanent contracts, and he wished

7) GC(X)/OR.101, paras 33 and 38.

to appeal to those countries which were over-represented on the staff and whose nationals were concentrated in senior posts to relinquish some of those posts in the interests of fair representation on the basis of geographical distribution.

59. The second point mentioned by the Director General was the lack of sufficient funds to meet the needs of developing countries. In view of that fact, he believed that other activities, such as research contracts and the Laboratory, should be kept under strict control lest they adversely affect the technical assistance programme, and should be reviewed in the very near future. There was also scope for improvement in the allocation of research contracts; they should not always be given to the best qualified institutions, which would eliminate the element of training, and it might also be advisable to restrict the total sum which could be allocated to any one State.

60. His delegation also recommended that a maximum limit should be set to the allocations for the Seibersdorf Laboratory. The Laboratory should have a well-defined long-term programme, and an annual list of its requirements should be presented to Member States in advance to guide them in making contributions in kind. It would indeed be a great help to Member States if a complete list were produced of all the donations to the Laboratory in the past, together with an indication of their estimated value.

61. Regional centres seemed to him to complement the technical assistance programme. There was a genuine need for an increase in the number of such centres, especially in the developing countries within each region; their expenses could be brought within reasonable limits by making their programmes complementary to each other, each specializing in a definite field.

62. Finally, he wished to refer to the question of safeguards. States in the Middle East were disturbed by the fact that atomic weapons might be introduced into the area at any time, if they were not there already, and therefore supported all the efforts to establish denuclearized zones, which should include the Middle East and Africa. The safeguards system should be accepted by all countries, whatever their size and stage of advancement, and should apply to all nuclear projects.

63. While the danger of proliferation of atomic weapons should not be minimized, the parallel danger of poverty and famine, which might prove to be equally disastrous for mankind, should not be forgotten. The work which the Agency could perform in that field should not be under-estimated. The challenges facing the Agency were great, and

it was the individual and collective responsibility of all Member States to see that they were met.

64. Mr. MUJICA GALLO (Peru) said his delegation was convinced that today there was greater need than ever to help strengthen the will to peace, i.e. to promote in every way the principles proclaimed by the United Nations concerning world disarmament and the use of the power of the atom solely for peaceful purposes.

65. His delegation fully agreed with the Mexican delegation on the pressing need for the Agency to play a part in promoting the establishment of a permanent denuclearized zone in Latin America, through its safeguards system as envisaged in the Statute, thus giving henceforward its support and the weight of its authority to the efforts that were being made to elaborate an appropriate multi-lateral instrument for denuclearization of the Latin American continent.

66. Despite the differences of approach the Argentine delegate had mentioned ⁸⁾, the agreement on essentials and the sincere intent underlying those differences would lead to a practical meeting of minds on the matter. Undoubtedly, if differences on the matter — understandable from the human point of view — were resolved through the influence of an enlightened ideal and more than two hundred million human beings joined together to free themselves of the frightful responsibility implicit in the nuclear threat, the Agency, in contributing to the success of that exemplary moral achievement, i.e. the speedy conclusion of a treaty for the denuclearization of Latin America and the suppression of traffic in nuclear weapons throughout the continent, would once more have acted within the spirit of its immediate objectives. At the same time, in a world that was dangerously sceptical, confidence in its effectiveness as an organization would be strengthened, thus augmenting the trust reposed in the moral authority of those directing it. Ever since 1964 Latin America had been endeavouring to bring a denuclearization treaty into being. In 1967 its efforts to that end would be redoubled when the Preparatory Commission to study the conclusion of such a treaty would meet again.

67. On the occasion of the Agency's tenth anniversary, Peru wished to congratulate the responsible leaders of the Agency who were carrying out its mission of promoting world peace and prosperity, for the especial benefit of the developing countries, the overwhelming majority of which called for preferential treatment in the matter of assistance from the Agency. Peru was proud of being a founder Member of the Agency. He would avail himself

8) GC(X)/OR.103, para 32.

of the opportunity to express appreciation of the timely collaboration lent by the Agency in technical matters and research. He would also like to thank the Austrian Government for its hospitality.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE AGENCY [GC(X)/345]

68. The PRESIDENT invited the Conference to consider the recommendation of the Board of Governors concerning the application for membership of the Agency made by Sierra Leone, in respect of which the Board had submitted the draft resolution set out in document GC(X)/345.

69. Sir William PENNEY (United Kingdom) expressed his pleasure at the fact that another member of the Commonwealth was joining the Agency.

70. Mr. SAFOUAT (United Arab Republic) and Mr. LINDSAY (Ghana) supported the application for membership made by Sierra Leone.

71. *The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.*

72. The PRESIDENT stated that, in accordance with Article XXI.C of the Statute, Sierra Leone would become a Member of the Agency as soon as its instrument of acceptance of the Statute had been deposited with the United States Government.

OPENING DATE OF THE ELEVENTH REGULAR SESSION

73. The PRESIDENT said that the General Committee had requested him to recommend to the Conference on its behalf that the opening date of the eleventh regular session should be Tuesday, 19 September 1967. The Austrian authorities had, however, informed the Director General that they would find it more convenient if the session opened on 26 September, and the General Committee accordingly recommended that Tuesday, 26 September 1967 be set as the opening date of the eleventh regular session.

74. *The recommendation of the General Committee was accepted.*

THE AGENCY'S ACCOUNTS FOR 1965 [GC(X)/346]

75. Mr. VELTZE MICHEL (Bolivia), Rapporteur of the Administrative and Legal Committee, introduced the Committee's report on the Agency's accounts for 1965 [GC(X)/346].

76. *The draft resolution contained in document GC(X)/346 was adopted.*

77. Mr. VELTZE MICHEL (Bolivia), Rapporteur of the Administrative and Legal Committee, introduced the Committee's report on the Agency's relations with intergovernmental organizations [GC(X)/347].

78. *The draft resolution contained in document GC(X)/347 was adopted.*

ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE AGENCY'S ACTIVITIES [GC(X)/336, 337]

79. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the recommendation of the Board of Governors [GC(X)/336] relating to the Agency's report to the General Assembly of the United Nations for 1965-66. As the draft resolution submitted by the Board was couched in the same terms as similar resolutions adopted by the Conference in the past, he suggested that it be adopted.

80. *The draft resolution contained in document GC(X)/336 was adopted.*

81. The PRESIDENT invited the Conference to consider the draft resolution submitted by the Board in its recommendation [GC(X)/337] concerning the Agency's report to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations for 1966-67.

82. *The draft resolution contained in document GC(X)/337 was adopted.*

APPOINTMENT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR

83. The PRESIDENT recalled that in 1963 the General Conference had appointed the President of the Court of Accounts of the Federal Republic of Germany as External Auditor of the Agency to audit the accounts for the years 1964, 1965 and 1966. It was therefore necessary for the Conference to make a further appointment at the present session.

84. The President of the Court of Accounts of the Federal Republic of Germany was prepared to accept reappointment, and he (the President) therefore proposed that he be appointed to audit the Agency's accounts for the year 1967.

85. *The President's proposal was accepted.*

86. The PRESIDENT expressed gratitude, on behalf of the General Conference, to the External Auditor and his staff, who had discharged their task in an extremely competent and conscientious manner.

**VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE
GENERAL FUND FOR 1967 [GC(X)/340/Rev.4]**

87. The PRESIDENT said that at 6 p.m. on 26 September the Director General had received pledges of voluntary contributions from 52 Member States to a total equivalent to \$1 246 562.

88. He pointed out that the total pledged was far short of the proposed target of \$2 million for voluntary contributions to the General Fund for 1967, and appealed to Member States for more

and increased contributions in order to make up the deficit.

89. Everyone realized that the Agency's operational activities were entirely dependent on the voluntary contributions of Governments to the General Fund. The amount of money in the Fund could be regarded as determining the Agency's ability — or inability — to assist developing countries, which was one of its main objectives, and he was sure Member States would not wish to see the achievement of that objective hampered by lack of funds.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.