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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTEENTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Neue Hofburg, Vienna,
on Friday, 29 September 1967, at 3.20 p.m.

President: Mr. NEUMANN (Czechoslovak Socialist Republic)

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GENERAL DEBATE AND REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR 1966-67 [GC(XI)/355, 355/Corr.1, 366] (continued)

1. Mr. PRETSCH (Federal Republic of Germany) noted that the ten years since the Agency's first General Conference had been a period of successful work carried out in an atmosphere of growing mutual understanding. Past achievements justified the hope that the Agency would maintain its efficiency in promoting the peaceful uses of atomic energy, and his Government was eager to participate in the Agency's activities more than it had been able to do in the past decade.

2. His Government regarded the General Conference as an important opportunity for delegations of all Member States to exchange views with each other and with the Director General and his staff. In the rapidly changing world of nuclear energy it seemed appropriate to review international co-operation within the Agency at frequent intervals and to improve it in the light of scientific and technical progress.

3. His delegation would approve the report of the Board of Governors for 1966-67 [GC(XI)/355, 355/Corr.1 and 366], and support the Agency's Budget for 1968 [1]; however, he wished to comment on both documents.

[1] GC(XI)/360.

The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document GC(XI)/INF/96/Rev.2.

4. In 1961 the General Conference had requested the Board and the Director General to prepare a long-terme programme for the Agency's activities[2], and he was gratified that the Board was now proposing to present to the next General Conference a revised long-term programme for the period up to 1974. Many Member States had drawn up their own long-term nuclear programmes, which were generally flexible and could easily be harmonized with the long-term programme proposed by the Agency. A five-year programme for the period 1968-72 was being prepared in the Federal Republic of Germany.

5. While appreciating the fact that the Agency had used its limited resources in a concerted effort to help developing countries, he found it regrettable that in 1968 it might be possible to meet only about one third of the requests for technical assistance; it was disturbing to learn that the percentage of requests met had declined from 90 % in 1959 to 37 % in 1967. It therefore seemed essential to look for new ways of improving and increasing technical assistance. He welcomed the fact that a growing proportion of the work at the Seibersdorf Laboratory was directed towards meeting the needs of developing countries.

6. The agreement with the Government of Monaco on the International Laboratory of Marine Radioactivity, which would expire in 1968, should be renewed for an adequate period, as recommended in 1966 by the Ad Hoc Committee appointed to review and advise on its activities. He also welcomed the fact that the International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste had been awarded a substantial grant from a foreign foundation.

7. The Agency's programme of symposia, panel meetings, study tours and training courses had been successful. His Government was delighted to act as host for the Symposium on Fast Reactor Physics and Related Safety Problems to be held in Karlsruhe from 30 October to 3 November 1967, and was also prepared to support an IAEA/FAO training course on the use of isotopes in horticultural research, which was to be held in Hanover in 1968.

8. His Government was giving considerable attention to the Agency's ambitious project for the establishment of the International Nuclear Information System (INIS). The implementation of that project would require a careful step-by-step approach, in which the first step might be a detailed systems analysis combined with the proposed pilot project. It would be essential to gain support from the publishers of Nuclear Science Abstracts and to co-operate with EURATOM. His Government was willing to offer active assistance, and the atomic energy documentation centre in Frankfurt was also ready to co-operate.

9. The Agency's safeguards activities were assuming increasing importance in view of the rapidly growing number of nuclear power plants and the possible conclusion of a treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. While the General Conference was no place for discussion of the problems connected with that treaty, it might be useful to examine the new tasks in which it might involve the Agency, particularly since technical progress itself would increase the need for amendments in the safeguards provisions.

10. His Government noted the readiness to place their nuclear facilities under international safeguards expressed by Poland [3], Czechoslovakia [4], Hungary [5] and Bulgaria [6]. Such a welcome move should, however, be considered in the context of a world-wide non-proliferation treaty. All delegates were aware that such a world-wide treaty including international safeguarding of source and special fissionable materials was at present under negotiation by the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament in Geneva, and it was to be expected that countries not possessing nuclear weapons — like the four referred to — would apply effective international safeguards under that treaty rather than in the context of a special arrangement with the Federal Republic of Germany. It might not prove at all helpful to divert interest from the world-wide effort at a moment when the Geneva negotiations were expected to lead to a successful conclusion. He would remind delegates that all nuclear activities in the Federal Republic of Germany were already devoted exclusively to peaceful purposes, and were already subject to the all-embracing and effective international safeguards system of EURATOM. His Government was willing to consider all related actions in the framework of the European community. It appreciated the move of the four countries mentioned, in spite of its limited character, as a step towards giving effect to the principle of reciprocity, which meant that no country should take part in safeguards and inspection which did not accept international safeguards like those of the Agency, or the equivalent. Equal conditions for the peaceful nuclear activities of all countries were essential to ensure the world-wide acceptability of safeguards. His Government appreciated the fact that the Western countries possessing nuclear weapons either had already accepted such equality or were prepared to accept it in connection with a non-proliferation treaty, and it would certainly facilitate a world-wide acceptable solution to the safeguards problem if all nuclear-weapon countries would do the same. It was therefore not the Federal Republic of Germany which constituted an obstacle to a non-proliferation treaty.

[2] GC(V)/RES/105; the long-term programme is reproduced in document INFCIRC/50.

[3] See document GC(X)/OR.103, para. 56.
[4] See document GC(X)/OR.104, para. 14.
[5] See document GC(XI)/OR.112, para. 97.
[6] See document GC(XI)/OR.114, para. 16.

11. Two aspects of safeguards control appeared to be of particular importance. First, the application of safeguards should on no account be allowed to hinder research into nuclear energy or the most economic use of it. Secondly, from a technical point of view control of the flow of fissionable material would be sufficient to prevent its diversion for weapons production; it would not be necessary to control civilian nuclear technology as such. The aim should be to concentrate controls at certain strategic points and to make them as far as possible automatic, thus making it increasingly possible to dispense with control by inspectors; that would reduce the significance attached to the question of who in fact performed the inspection work. His delegation noted with satisfaction that the Board's report asked for greater effort in research into and development of control devices in order to improve and simplify safeguards techniques, while ensuring that they were tamper-proof and so designed as not to hamper the operation of facilities.

12. His Government was convinced that the Agency could make a vital contribution to the preservation of peace in the world by preventing the misuse of nuclear energy, in close co-operation with other organizations serving the same purpose. Existing control systems which had proved their reliability and efficiency should be acknowledged in accordance with paragraph 28(d) of the Agency's Safeguards System (1965, as Provisionally Extended in 1966) [7]. An agreement between the Agency and EURATOM would not only ease the Agency's burden, but would also ensure that the Member States of EURATOM were controlled in accordance with the same standards and by the same methods as those countries under direct control of the Agency.

13. In connection with nuclear development in the Federal Republic of Germany, he wished to mention briefly that two German public utility groups had decided to construct on the river Weser a nuclear power plant of 600 MW using a boiling-water reactor, and another of 640 MW with a pressurized-water reactor near the mouth of the river Elbe. Both power plants would be financed exclusively by the two groups concerned, with no support from the Government. They would produce electricity even more cheaply than would plants on the same sites using conventional fuel. New reactor development would be concentrated on fast-breeder and high-temperature reactors, and the funds to be made available for the next five-year plan would be divided roughly equally between fundamental nuclear research and technical development.

14. To support the Agency's activities for 1968, his Government intended to make the General Fund a voluntary contribution corresponding to its percentage share of the Agency's budget.

[7] INFCIRC/66/Rev. 1.

15. Mr. ISTINYELI (Turkey), after welcoming the Malaysian delegation, said that the regular increase in the Agency's membership showed the growing interest aroused throughout the world by international co-operation for the peaceful use of atomic energy.

16. There was no doubt that the use of radioisotopes and radiation, the applications of which were spreading so rapidly, would in the near future contribute to the prosperity of mankind. The Agency had played, and would no doubt continue to play, an important constructive role in that respect. Already in its first ten years, the Agency had achieved considerable success in the effective performance of its tasks: it had done a great deal to disseminate nuclear knowledge by publication, courses and symposia and to extend radioisotope applications in industry, agriculture, hydrology and medicine; it had also encouraged nuclear research by awarding research contracts.

17. Among recent developments which threw an interesting light on the future trend of the Agency's activities, special reference should be made to Agency safeguards. Allthough it could in no way serve as an example to countries in other regions, which had their own peculiar characteristics, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America showed the scope of the Agency's future obligations and responsibilities in that field. Turkey, which had always been in favour of the Agency's Safeguards System, noted with interest that the number of States accepting Agency safeguards was steadily increasing.

18. At the tenth session of the General Conference the Turkish delegation had stressed the need for the Agency to draw up a model tripartite agreement for the transfer of safeguards [8]. That problem was still unsolved. Turkey had also already declared its willingness to agree in principle that the administration of the safeguards at present applied by the United States to nuclear material supplied by it to Turkey should be transferred to the Agency. The competent authorities of the two countries were jointly working on the text of an agreement which would also be acceptable to the Agency.

19. Turkey was following with interest the work which it was hoped would lead up to a treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. The Agency would no doubt successfully discharge the new obligations which would devolve on it in that regard. Turkey considered it necessary to establish an effective system of controls, which should constitute the very core of such a treaty. It hoped the treaty would be universally approved and acceded to. Indeed, in its view, the two prerequisites for achieving the purposes of the treaty were that it should be generally acceded to and that it should include an effective system of controls.

[8] GC(X)/OR.107, para. 61.

20. There was a great technological gulf between Europe and North America, which it was being sought to close as much as possible. However, it was undeniable that there was a still greater gulf between the advanced and the developing countries. To close that gulf, a considerable responsibility rested both on the advanced countries and on the international organizations, particularly the specialized agencies of the United Nations and the IAEA. Atomic energy was in fact one of the main hopes of the developing countries. However, recent work had shown that one of the chief problems was how to provide the Agency with additional financial resources. It was to be hoped that in future the Agency would receive a wider measure of support from international finance and credit institutions. In that connection he noted with satisfaction that the Agency had entered into contact with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development in order to obtain fund for certain projects.

21. As regards technical assistance, the Agency must take the necessary steps to increase the supply of equipment, separately from the services of experts, and make a greater contribution to training scientists in the developing countries.

22. In general the Agency should undertake activities of practical importance, so as to contribute rapidly to economic development, rather than engage in theoretical research. The Agency must ensure that there was no duplication between its activities and those of national and other international institutions. The Agency and FAO had given a perfect example of collaboration by establishing the joint FAO/IAEA Division of Atomic Energy in Food and Agriculture. The collaboration established bteween WHO and the Agency was another example. In that connection, Turkey attached great importance to the legal aspects of the irradiation of foodstuffs, and was convinced that the Agency could play an important role by encouraging international collaboration and taking the initiative in that respect. The establishment of standard, internationally recognized methods of dosimetry for the irradiation of foodstuffs was a specific example of international collaboration which Turkey would like to see come about in the near future.

23. Turkey had continued to benefit from the Agency's technical assistance programmes, receiving expert services, equipment and fellowships. Turkish scientists had participated in numerous courses and symposia of great interest. In addition, an international course on radioisotope applications in hydrology and a symposium on the use of radioisotopes and radiation in irrigation studies and soil physics had been held in Turkey.

24. Finally he thanked the Director General and the Agency's staff for the co-operation and understanding they had shown in all their dealings with his delegation. He also thanked the Federal Government of Austria and the Municipality of Vienna for their hospitality to the Agency and for their generous offer to erect new premises for a permanent headquarters.

25. Mr. KRASIN (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said much of the credit for the great progress made in the peaceful uses of atomic energy, particularly in nuclear power, was due to the Agency. Even more would have been achieved if the world had not been shaken by events that strained international relations and inflamed the political scene.

26. The Byelorussian delegation joined with those who called for the immediate cessation of hostilities in Viet-Nam and the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Arab territories they had occupied. His own country had suffered greatly from war in the past, but now it was able to develop independently in the fraternal family of nations in the Soviet Union. The Byelorussian SSR greatly valued its good fortune and wanted all nations to be independent and happy. Its sympathy and good wishes were always on the side of nations fighting for their independence and national prosperity.

27. His country was now making successful progress in the peaceful uses of atomic energy and in the training of its own scientists, engineers and technicians. It also had an Institute of Nuclear Power, under the Byelorussian Academy of Sciences.

t28. The Institute carried out both fundamental research on the study of newly observed phenomena and applied research on the practical use of newly discovered laws. It possessed a 2000-kW atomic reactor, two critical assemblies, a number of loops for studies under reactor irradiation conditions, and numerous test and experimental facilities which were used for a wide range of work on the properties of new coolants.

29. The work of equipping several irradiation chambers with a powerful, 200 000-Ci gamma source would be completed during the present year.

30. His country also had other equipment such as a linear electron accelerator and a betatron, designed and used for medical purposes.

31. Many different studies were being carried out using radioactive substances. A considerable number of industrial processes in factories and workshops were controlled by means of radiation source equipment.

32. Byelorussian scientists were working together with the scientists of other Soviet republics. The scientific conferences and symposia held in Minsk had became a regular channel of communication not only between Soviet scientists but between the scientists of many countries.

33. At the V.I. Lenin Byelorussian State University,

specialists were trained for work on the peaceful uses of atomic energy. The University had a Faculty of Nuclear Physics with a qualified professorial teaching staff, various laboratories and the necessary technical facilities for scientific research. The Faculty of Nuclear Physics worked in collaboration with the Institute of Nuclear Power of the Byelorussian Academy of Sciences. Students from the University had the opportunity of doing practical work with different types of modern equipment such as a research reactor, critical assemblies and the test stands.

34. All those achievements reflected the tremendous development which a socialist republic had experienced as a result of the victory of the Great October Socialist Revolution, whose fiftieth anniversary would be celebrated during the present year.

35. Before the Great October Socialist Revolution, Byelorussia had been a backward outland of Czarist Russia.

36. Nowadays, Byelorussia had a highly developed industry and was becoming an important economic area. Since the Second World War dozens of new industries had been established, for instance the automobile and tractor industries, an electronics industry, an oil industry, etc.

37. In 1966 the Republic's industry had reached a level about 64 times higher than in 1913. Before the October Revolution Byelorussia had had no higher educational establishments or scientific research institutes, but now it had 190 scientific institutes with a total of more than 20 000 scientific workers. There were now 29 higher educational establishments in the country, with more than 116 000 students. The Byelorussian SSR had its own Academy of Sciences, with 28 scientific institutes.

38. Even the short account he had given of this country's technical, scientific and cultural development sufficed to show that the successful establishment of the scientific and technical basis for exploiting the newest branches of science, such as the peaceful uses of atomic energy, was a natural result of the great social changes which the nation had undergone as a result of the October Socialist Revolution.

39. The work carried out by Byelorussian scientific institutes on the peaceful uses of atomic energy could be illustrated by many scientific examples. The theoretical and experimental studies carried out at the Institute of Nuclear Power of the Byelorussian Academy of Sciences had shown that the use of dissociating gases as coolants might be of great thermodynamic importance and that, from the thermodynamic point of view, it was quite possible to obtain station efficiencies exceeding 50 % with the parameters attainable by contemporary reactors.

40. In radiochemistry, various chemical processes were being studied along with the possible industrial production of various marketable products obtained by the use of radiation.

41. Referring to the Agency's activities over the past year, he thought much useful work had been done in training, the dissemination of scientific and technical information, the granting of technical assistance, etc. He attached great importance to the Agency's efforts to try and establish a reliable safeguards system. The work done so far showed that the Agency could further develop its work in that field, and extend it to all the different processes in producing and treating fissionable materials.

42. The question of safeguards was directly related to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. His delegation was glad to note that definite progress had been made in the work of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament, which was discussing the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. His delegation supported the opinion already expressed by many speakers that it was desirable that a treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons should be drawn up without delay and that the Agency should be entrusted with the task of ensuring its enforcement. That would be a natural extension of the Agency's functions and enhance its authority.

43. Additional work in controlling installations and plants in service and the acceptance of new control functions would naturally involve some reorganization in the Agency and would require an increase in staff engaged on control duties. In putting those measures into effect, attention should be paid to the principle of equal representation of the three groups of States into which the world was at present divided.

44. His delegation highly appreciated the initiative taken by Poland, Czechoslovakia and the German Democratic Republic in offering, already the previous year, to submit their atomic installations to Agency safeguards if the Federal Republic of Germany would do the same. He welcomed the Hungarian and Bulgarian statements associating themselves with that offer.

45. His delegation noted the unconstructive attitude the Federal Republic of Germany had taken on the question. The position was that the Federal Republic, though a Member of the Agency, was not willing to agree to Agency control functions, while the German Democratic Republic, which was not a Member of the Agency, was acting in a fully constructive manner, in the spirit of the Agency's functions and activities. In his view the fruitful work of scientists in the German Democratic Republic in connection with the peaceful uses of atomic energy constituted a convincing argument for acceptance of that country as a Member of the Agency.

46. In view of the present rapid development of

science, great importance must be attached to an information service. His delegation thanked the Agency for its numerous reference publications, which were now of practical importance, and welcomed the Agency's intention to set up INIS.

47. Starting in January 1968 the Byelorussian Academy of Sciences would publish a new journal — Proceedings of the Byelorussian Academy of Sciences, Physics and Energetics Series — which would also regularly report work on nuclear data. Those articles would be systematically forwarded to the Agency as they appeared.

48. He also wanted to draw attention to the possible strengthening of the Agency's efforts to improve co-ordination with other international organizations.

49. He thanked the Agency's Secretariat for distributing reference material on the work of the Council for Mutual Economic Aid (COMECON). It was to be hoped that the Agency and COMECON would co-operate more closely in trying to work out an organizational basis for combining the efforts of different countries to promote the peaceful uses of atomic energy. His delegation expressed its willingness to co-operate in that work.

50. In his speech, the Soviet delegate had given an example of collaboration between several countries in connection with the powerful accelerators in operation and under construction in the Soviet Union.

51. In conclusion, the Byelorussian delegation wished success to all who were using atomic energy for peaceful purposes. It was convinced that the Agency would intensify and further develop its beneficial work and effectively help the nations of the world to benefit without delay from the blessings of contemporary science.

52. Mr. PASECHNIK (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the annual report of the Board of Governors and the Review of the Agency's Activities [9] gave a good insight into the Agency's work during the past year. From an analysis of those documents it was evident that the Agency was concentrating its attention more and more, as the years went by, on certain activities of special importance, among them exchange of experience in regard to nuclear power, the use of atomic energy for desalting sea-water, the applications of isotopes and nuclear radiation to promote worldwide prosperity, the provision of assistance to the developing countries in training scientists and organizing national atomic energy centres, and the further development of the Safeguards System.

53. He wished to dwell for a moment on the role of atomic energy in economic development. It was well known that the economy of the Ukraine had certain special features, the most important of them being an exceptionally rapid rate of industrial growth. In the years since the Soviet Government had taken power, industrial production in the Ukraine had increased 44 times over its pre-revolutionary level.

54. The Ukraine led Europe in the production of pig iron, steel, rolled products, natural gas, iron ore and various other raw materials and manufactured goods. In per capita production of iron ore, iron and steel and sugar, the Ukraine had outstripped the most highly developed European countries as well as the United States of America, and had taken over the first place in the world.

55. The vigorous growth of industry called for a correspondingly rapid development of power. Hitherto electric power had been supplied chiefly by thermal stations of large capacity equipped with large individual generating units. It was, in fact, with the large thermal plants that atomic power stations would have to compete if they were to prove their economic worth.

56. A second special feature of the Ukrainian economy lay in the Republic's unusually rich resources of organic fuel. Calculations showed, however , that the burning of enormous quantities of fossil fuel would not in the long run provide a satisfactory solution to the power problems. The experience of the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, France, the United States of America and other countries, together with long-term assessments of the energy balance in the Ukrainian Republic, suggested that atomic power stations would be economically justified in the very near future, even in the Ukraine.

57. Thus, it was fair to assume that in the next decade atomic energy would be supplying electricity to the Republic's power grid. However, the plan was not merely to increase power generating capacity by setting up nuclear stations, but to construct entirely new industrial aggregates, particularly in branches of industry requiring large amounts of electricity.

58. Not only were plans being prepared for the development of nuclear power, but atomic energy was to be used in other fields as well. Particular attention was being given to the use of radioisotopes and nuclear radiation for the development of technological processes and methods of automation and control, as well as for the production of materials with certain specific properties. The uses of radiation in genetics, microbiology and chemistry had also made good progress.

59. Ukrainian scientists were taking an active part in the Soviet Union's major atomic energy projects, more particularly in research on the physics of fast neutron reactors (in which the interactions of intermediate-energy neutrons with nuclei were

[9] GC(XI)/362.

being studied) and in work on the properties of hot plasmas, aimed ultimately at the construction of a thermonuclear reactor.

60. In those activities the scientists of the Ukraine were associated with many laboratories throughout the world. The Ukraine had taken part in all three international conferences on the peaceful uses of atomic energy [10] and participated in the Agency's conferences and symposia. It regularly placed the nuclear data obtained in its laboratories at the disposal of the Agency's Nuclear Data Unit, and supported the creation of INIS. The Ukraine would continue to assist the developing countries by lending the services of its experts.

61. Ukrainian scientists would continue their work on nuclear structure and on the mechanisms of nuclear reactions.

62. Special importance was being attached to theoretical research, and it was for such research that an institute for theoretical physics had been established in the Ukraine, a centre whose principal task lay in the development of nuclear theory and the physics of elementary particles. A substantial part of the Institute's regular staff would be made up of foreign scientists, and they would also be represented on its scientific council. The international course in theoretical physics recently held at Yalta had attracted scientists from all continents and could be expected to encourage broader collaboration.

63. Speaking of ways in which the Agency could strenghten its role in promoting the peaceful uses of atomic energy, he said that the Ukrainian delegation had heard with particular satisfaction of the successes other countries had achieved in applying atomic energy on a broad scale.

64. By now one could say with justification that all the conditions needed to realize the ideals enshrined in the Agency's Statute were at hand.

65. However, the eleventh session of the General Conference was taking place in an atmosphere of great international tension. Only recently the world had witnessed an aggressive war, unleashed by Israel against the Arab States. The situation in that part of the world had become extremely dangerous, and the conflict might flare up with renewed force at any moment.

66. The aggressive war of the United States of America in Viet-Nam was continuing and indeed gaining in scope. There was an ever-increasing danger that the imperialist circles of the United States would see in the use of atomic weapons a way out of the impasse in which they found themselves.

67. The Ukrainian Government was a staunch advocate of the prohibition of nuclear weapons and believed that existing stocks should be destroyed.

68. Now, more than ever before, it was vital to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. The conclusion of a non-proliferation treaty would open up more favourable prospects for the further development of the peaceful uses of atomic energy. The Ukrainian delegation therefore believed that the Agency should do everything in its power to facilitate the ultimate conclusion of a non-proliferation treaty. It welcomed the Director General's statement that the Agency was prepared to taken upon itself the control and safeguards functions under such a treaty [11], and would give the Agency its support.

69. The Director General's declaration in fact reflected the standpoint of most delegations. A discordant note had been sounded in the speech of the Australian delegate, who apparently believed the Agency to be a purely technical organization whose task consisted in solving the engineering problems associated with the construction of nuclear installations. But actually the Agency had, according to the terms of its Statute, much broader tasks; it had to ensure that atomic energy would be used for the preservation of peace, health and prosperity throughout the world, and that it would not be used for military purposes.

70. No less important for the Agency and its goals was an initiative taken by the delegation of the Soviet Union at the twenty-second session of the General Assembly of the United Nations: an important and indeed urgent question, that of a convention prohibiting the use of nuclear weapons, had been submitted for the Assembly's consideration, and at the same time the draft text of such a convention had been laid before it.

71. The extension of the Safeguards System to isotope separation plants took on special significance as the possibility of a non-proliferation treaty came closer. The Ukrainian delegation fully supported the proposals that had been made on the subject and believed that the Agency should go on to work out the technical requirements for the extension of the Safeguards System.

72. It also supported the proposal for a special committee on safeguards and control which would tackle the whole complex of problems associated with the Agency's future supervisory role under the terms of a non-proliferation treaty.

73. In conclusion, he wished to comment briefly on certain other aspects of the Agency's work.

74. The Secretariat's financial situation could not

[10] Held at Geneva in 1955, 1958 and 1964.

[11] GC(XI)/OR.111, para. 36.

but cause concern. As was apparent from the documents before the Conference, expenditure on the Secretariat itself had increased from $3.3 million in 1962 to $6.7 million in 1968; in other words, it had doubled in six or seven years. An increase of that magnitude was not commensurate with any increase in the volume of the Agency's work in fields of real importance to the developing countries and to the cause of international collaboration.

75. It was wrong that such a large proportion of the staff should hold permanent contracts, for that made it impossible to practise a fair geographical distribution. He hoped that the present year would be the last one when the Secretariat would be without a single staff member from the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

76. The systematic review of the Agency's activities carried out by the Board of Governors was something of positive value. The comments of Member States suggested a number of ways in which the effectiveness of the Agency's assistance to developing countries could be increased. In the opinion of his delegation, assistance to the developing countries in the peaceful uses of atomic energy remained one of the Agency's most important tasks. However, it was impossible not to protest against assistance to countries which in one way or another were engaged in aggressive activities, and which shared responsibility for the dangerous increase in tension in various parts of the world; he was referring to South Viet-Nam, South Korea, Taiwan and Israel.

77. It was also an unsatisfacory state of affairs that the principle of universality should continue to be violated in the Agency. A number of sovereign States were still deprived of their right to be Members. Thus, there was still no representative of the German Democratic Republic among the delegations represented at the General Conference, even though the scientists of that country had made an enormous contribution to nuclear science. A year earlier, during the tenth session of the General Conference, the Government of the German Democratic Republic had announced its willingness to place its installations under Agency safeguards, provided the Federal Republic of Germany did the same [12]. But the Federal Republic, a Member of the Agency, refused to do so and remained its own overseer. It was impossible seriously to believe that EURATOM, an organization whose Members belonged to the aggressive NATO bloc, could offer any reliable guarantee that fissionable materials would be used exclusively for peaceful purposes by the non-nuclear Powers, in particular by the revanchist circles of the Federal Republic of Germany.

78. By renouncing a policy of discrimination towards the German Democratic Republic and other countries, the Agency would only increase its prestige and influence.

79. Mr. NABAVI (Iran) said he proposed first to make some general comments on the Agency's activities as a whole and then to describe briefly what had been done and what progress had been accomplished in Iran during the past year in the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

80. Before going on to the main theme of his statement he recalled the very interesting suggestion which had been made at the previous session, to the effect that Member States should be requested to submit annually to the Secretariat, before the session opened, reports on the peaceful use of atomic energy in their respective countries [13]. By adopting that suggestion, which the Director General had referred to in his circular letter dated 30 June 1967, Member States would greatly assist the work of the General Conference. Moreover the sum total of such reports would provide a valuable source of information for all Member States. The Iranian delegation associated itself with the suggestion and hoped it would meet with general support.

81. The first part of his statement would be devoted mainly to certain comments relating to General Conference Resolution GC(X)/RES/217, by which the Board had been requested to review, in consultation with the Director General, the Agency's activities with a view to finding ways and means of increasing the assistance it gave the developing countries, and to submit observations and recommendations on that subject to the Conference at the present session.

82. The Board and the Director General had discharged that responsibility most creditably, and the Secretariat was also to be thanked for the very clear and full document it had submitted to the Conference on the review. The Iranian delegation noted with satisfaction that the review had been carried out in an objective and systematic manner which had yielded definite results of considerable value so that Member States were given a clearer picture of the difficulties and problems the Agency encountered in carrying out its task. The main difficulty was undeniably the inadequacy of funds. Iran had always discharged its responsibility vis-à-vis the Agency and, being fully aware of how important the financial aspect was, was continuing to pay its voluntary contribution as in the past and was even thinking of increasing it to the extent that it was able. Indeed the necessary steps had already been taken to that effect, and the Agency would shortly be informed of the result.

83. The review of the Agency's activities had also made it possible to know more clearly the views and desires of Member States regarding all

[12] See document GC(X)/INF/91.

[13] GC(X)/OR.107, para. 127.

its activities, and especially those which related to the provision of technical assistance to the developing countries. Nobody could disregard or minimize the assistance which the Agency had consistently given the developing countries ever since its establishment. Iran for its part had derived ample benefit from that assistance, for which it was grateful to the Agency. However the Agency's activities, in that field as in others, could and should improve quantitatively and qualitatively, and it seemed that that could only be done in the light of objective, systematic and regular reviews of its activities.

84. To be fully effective, any review of technical assistance should be undertaken by the assisting organization and the assisted countries. That idea, which had been adopted by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) for projects under the United Nations Development Programme, was no less valid for the Agency's technical assistance programme.

85. Indeed, the other aspects of technical assistance must not be lost sight of as a result of the attention directed to the financial aspect. The Agency must use its imagination in order to find the best way of improving the amount and the quality of technical assistance, for it was by no means certain that the present methods were the best. It was most desirable that the Agency pay special attention to the training of specialized staff. The quality and effectiveness of a programme depended very largely on the quality of the men who carried it out. Attention should therefore be directed primarily to the training of medium-grade scientists, including technicians. The question of technical assistance was bound up with that of co-ordinating the technical assistance programmes of the United Nations specialized agencies. Such co-ordination, on which the success of the programmes very largely depended, had been the subject of thorough consideration in ECOSOC for many years past. Suitable practical steps must be taken in the very near future to make that co-ordination, which was so important for the developing countries, more effective.

86. It had been rightly pointed out that certain developing countries were unaware of the role atomic energy could play in the fulfilment of their economic and social development plans. That was an extremely important point which had rightly engaged the Director General's attention. The Iranian delegation approved the steps it was proposed to take in that regard, as set out in paragraph 20 of Annex C to the review document. It considered that it would be extremely useful for those responsible for economic and social planning in the developing countries to have talks with Agency staff, and any suggestion or proposal made in that regard would have its whole-hearted support. It might be advisable to ask the Director General to study the problem and submit specific suggestions at the next session.

87. The review document contained some very sensible comments on the need to set up regional centres and to intensify regional collaboration, more especially among the developing countries. The criteria which, in the Director General's view, should govern the establishment of a regional centre, which were set out in paragraph 65 of Annex C, seemed reasonable, and the Iranian delegation endorsed them in their entirety. The growing need for water experienced by the countries in the region to which Iran belonged was prompting them to take advantage of the possibilities offered by atomic energy in order to achieve development in hydraulics. In that connection he referred to paragraph 75 of Annex C, which recommended the establishment of centres to apply nuclear methods of prospecting for water resources, one centre to be established in the Middle East. In the light of that suggestion the Iranian Government had decided to take the necessary steps with a view to establishing that regional centre in Iran. An official request to that effect would be communicated to the Director General and to the Agency, and the necessary negotiations would soon be set on foot. There were various factors which made Iran the most appropriate country in which to locate the centre. In the first place the progress it had made in the peaceful uses of atomic energy would facilitate establishment and operation of the centre. No less important, there was available a modern building, well equipped from the technical and administrative points of view, which could easily be adapted to meet the centre's requirements.

88. The Iranian delegation wished to reiterate its satisfaction with the results achieved in pursuance of General Conference Resolution GC(X)/RES/217. To aid and assist the developing countries in their heroic efforts was the main concern of the United Nations and the specialized agencies alike. Like other organizations in the United Nations family, the Agency could and should play its part in that great undertaking, and the review of the Agency's activities showed that it was called upon to play a much more important role in that field than in the past.

89. He then turned to the progress which had been achieved during the past year in the peaceful uses of atomic energy in Iran.

90. In the first place, the Iranian Government had set up by decree the Atomic Energy Council, whose task it was to lay down policy governing the peaceful utilization of atomic energy and to ensure that the decisions were put into effect. The Council, which came directly under the Prime Minister, was responsible for drawing up the necessary plans, arranging with various organizations and government departments for them to be put into effect, supervising their implementation, drawing up the atomic budget for the country, providing the necessary funds and facilities for carrying out the plans, ensuring the safety of nuclear facilities and acting as a link between the Government on

the one hand and foreign countries and international organizations on the other in atomic energy matters.

91. Secondly, a five-years plan was at present in process of being drawn up which would determine the scope and range of atomic energy work in the light of the benefits which the country could obtain from nuclear science and technology. The plan envisaged intensified activity in various fields. Relatively ambitious in concept, it none the less aimed primarily at paving the way for the future by establishing the necessary infrastructure for genuine nuclear projects of which the country would stand greatly in need.

92. Thirdly, construction of the 5-MW reactor at the nuclear centre attached to Teheran University had progressed in a very satisfactory manner, and preparations for going critical had now begun. Start-up was planned for January 1968. The reactor offered irradiation and experimental facilities including a thermal column, an irradiation chamber for gamma rays, various irradiation channels, two hot cells and a cell intended solely for medical investigations.

93. Fourthly, in order to ensure the training of scientific and technical personnel, the nuclear centre attached to Teheran University had extended and broadened the theoretical and practical training provided in various fields of nuclear science and technology, especially at the post-graduate level. It had secured the services of a number of young scientists who had recently returned to Iran, and hed sent a number of fellows to advanced centres abroad to receive the necessary training.

94. Finally, the use of radioisotopes and radiation had been developed. A well-equipped centre of nuclear medicine had been established at Shiraz University. Considerable improvements had also been made in the equipment of a centre on the medical applications of radioisotopes attached to Teheran University's faculty of medicine. Construction of a building housing laboratories for research into the use of radioistopes in industry, agriculture and medicine had just been completed. With a view to training radiation protection staff, a two-year course for hospital physicists had been organized at the centre with the help of Agency experts. Research on the radioactivity of mineral water and drinking water had been put in hand and the results already obtained had been published. Other work on the effectiveness of indigestible material as a chemical agent providing protection against radiation had been successfully completed and the results obtained were encouraging. Work had continued on the measurement of natural and artificial radioactivity in the atmosphere, rain-water and various food products. The ninth course on the use of radioisotopes in industry, agriculture and medicine had been completed. Twenty-five fellows, including doctors of medicine, agronomists, physicists and chemists nominated by various organizations and institutes, had successfully completed the course. So far, nearly 200 fellows had been trained in that way. It was intended to improve the equipment and staffing of the radiology and radiotherapy centres, and some work had already begun. As regards the use of radioisotopes in agriculture, work on fertilizer uptake had been organized with the help of an Agency expert and had been under way since early 1967. Twenty fellows had successfully completed a two-month summer course on nuclear electronics. Preliminary studies had been made for the prospecting and evaluation of agricultural and hydraulic resources. That work would be carried out in stages, beginning in a few months.

95. Relations between the Agency and Iran had developed very satisfactorily. An agreement had been signed in regard to the assistance which Iran was receiving from the Agency in connection with the research reactor which would shortly be started up in Iran, and the Agency, Iran and the United States had also concluded a tripartite agreement for the transfer of fuel for the reactor [14]. The necessary steps had also been taken to enable the Agency to discharge its safeguards responsibilities, in accordance with the agreement that had been concluded. The technical assistance provided by the Agency to Iran had grown during the past year. It had mainly taken the form of sending experts and equipment and granting long- and short-term fellowships. With the growth in Iran's atomic energy activities, there was no doubt that relations between it and the Agency would develop still more in the future.

96. Mr. KHAN (Pakistan) spoke briefly of the more recent developments in his country's nuclear programme. Pakistan had only limited resources to deal with the gigantic problems caused by disease, malnutrition, rising population and shortage of power, and, like many developing countries, had only comparatively recently realized the benefits to be derived from the peaceful uses of atomic energy in its economic development programme.

97. The Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission was engaged both in harnessing atomic energy for the production of electricity, in accordance with its 10-15 year plan, and in using radioisotopes and radiation sources, primarily in agriculture but also in industry and medicine. Its nuclear power plant, at Karachi, was scheduled for completion by 1970, and reactor feasibility studies were also under way in East Pakistan. The two radioisotope application centres were engaged in developing new varieties of various crops and work on disinfestation of stored food grains and preservation of fruit and vegtables.

98. In January 1967 the Commission had acted

[14] INFCIRC/97.

as host to an International Seminar in Low-energy Nuclear Physics at Dacca.

99. Turning to the achievements and shortcomings of the Agency, he stressed that they had to be judged in the light of the objectives enshrined in its Statute. He recalled that the Director General himself had stated at the preceding session of the General Conference that experience gained since the Agency's foundation had suggested the need for modification of those objectives and possible revision of the Statute [15]. His delegation was keenly interested in knowing more about the suggested modifications, and wished to see more emphasis placed on the responsibility of the developed countries to asist the Agency in achieving its objectives. He felt that that was important since the initial hope that sufficient funds would be provided by them to meet the legitimate needs of the needs of the developing countries had not been fulfilled and funds made available under the 1967 budget would only cover one fifth of the monetary value of the requests submitted in 1966 for assistance in the form of experts and equipment.

100. On the subject of the assignment of experts, he considered that the developing countries definitely required more equipment than expert services, and that equipment only should be supplied whenever trained local scientists were available. Moreover, short-term assignments of really outstanding experts would achieve the same results as one- or two-year assignments of second-rate ones.

101. Turning to the activities of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics, with which Pakistan had been closely associated from the start, he noted with gratification that its work had been outstandingly successful and that consideration was being given to its establishment on a more permanent basis.

102. He then pledged Pakistan's wholehearted support for the future activities of the Agency.

103. Mr. VELTZE MICHEL (Bolivia) said that the Bolivian Nuclear Energy Commission now consisted of three departments, dealing with applications in medicine and agriculture, scientific documentation and fellowships, and nuclear physics and engineering, respectively.

104. In medicine, apart from the routine work of cancer diagnosis and goitre treatment, the third course on radioisotope applications was being held at national level in co-operation with staff and equipment from the Brazilian Atomic Energy Institute.

105. In agriculture, the main problem was to combat the fruit fly, which was responsible for an annual loss to the country of $5 million; the fruit fly was a pest not only in Bolivia but in the whole of Latin America. Bolivia had asked the Agency for assistance, and the first stage of a project was now under way. In the same connection, an agreement had been signed with Peru whereby the latter, recognizing the seriousness of the problem, had placed a caesium source at Bolivia's disposal for irradiating fruit fly pupae.

106. The department of scientific documentation and fellowships was responsible for collecting documentation on nuclear energy and placing it at the disposal of all interested persons, and also awarded fellowships to Bolivian citizens for training in the nuclear field. His Government wished to thank the Agency for the efficient way in which applications for fellowships were handled. Offers had also been received from other Latin American countries: Venezuela, for instance, was making a number of fellowships available to Bolivia for 1968.

107. The department of nuclear physics and engineering was engaged principally in prospecting for radioactive minerals, and in that field, too, assistance was forthcoming from the Agency in the form of an expert who would spend three months in Bolivia. In nuclear chemistry technical assistance was also being received in the form of equipment and expert services.

108. Bolivia was making efforts to work in colboration with other countries, as the Bolivian Nuclear Energy Commission realized that the Agency's funds were limited; his country therefore tried to pursue a regional policy, avoiding any kind of programme duplication within the region. Bolivia was also keenly interested in participating in more conferences, courses and symposia, but frequently could not be represented because of the heavy travel expenses involved. For that reason his Government would be gratified if regional programmes in Latin America could be extended and if more scientific meetings could be held in Latin American countries, which were united by language, customs, traditions and ideals.

109. Finally, he wished to refer briefly to the Agency's responsibilities. At the preceding regular session of the General Conference many delegates had spoken of the progress made by their countries in nuclear energy, and a chronological review had been made of the duties and responsibilities that had fallen to the Agency since its establishment. At the start of the second decade of the Agency's life, it could be seen that every year brought new tasks. For example, there was now the possibility that the Agency would exercise control over atomic weapons. As time went on, the Agency would not only constitute an organ for regulating progress in the nuclear sciences, but would assume an enormous responsibility of a moral character. For many nations of the world the Agency would constitute their main hope of survival. The rate at which the world's population was increasing, the natural

[15] GC(X)/OR.101, para.33.

catastrophes which hampered increased agricultural production and better exploitation of the earth's riches, and the ease with which malignant diseases spread in areas of malnutrition could only be combated by the "peaceful atom".

110. Mr. CORREA MILLER (Peru) said that Peru had received technical assistance from the Agency for its programmes on radiological protection, distribution of radioisotopes and agricultural applications of radioisotopes. Visits had been received from missions to study the possibility of using nuclear power for desalting in order to relieve the water shortage in some arid regions on the coast, to investigate the prospects for using radiation to eliminate bacteria from fish meal, and to assess the advisability of installing a research and training reactor in Peru.

111. Peruvian scientists had attended Agency courses and symposia, and a symposium on the use of nuclear methods in prospecting for and exploiting mineral resources was to be held in Peru; he cordially invited Member States to send representatives to attend that symposium in Lima in November 1968.

112. The Peruvian Atomic Energy Board had received from the United States Atomic Energy Commission the generous gift of a 20 000-Ci caesium-137 irradiator which had been installed in Lima for use in an insect eradication programme, with particular reference to the Mediterranean fruit fly. That programme was of great economic importance not only to Peru but also to neighbouring countries suffering from the pest.

113. The French Government had presented to Peru an item of very modern equipment which had been assigned to the environmental radioactivity department.

114. In the medical applications of radioisotopes Peru had made great advances, which were fully on a level with those of countries at the same stage of scientific and technological development.

115. In the near future an extensive uranium prospecting programme would be initiated in the eastern region of Peru, an area which until very recently had been isolated but was now easily accessible; the first studies had yielded very satisfactory results.

116. As regards international relations in the field of atomic energy, Peru had signed bilateral treaties with Brazil and Israel, and hoped soon to conclude technical co-operation agreements with Argentina, Chile, Columbia, Ecuador, France, Mexico and Spain.

117. Mr. COSTA RIBEIRO (Brazil) welcomed Malaysia to the Agency.

118. The Brazilian Government wished to thank the Austrian Government for its offer to provide land and construct the building for the Agency's permanent headquarters. It also wished to express to the Director General and the entire Secretariat its appreciation for their excellent work throughout the past year.

119. The Brazilian Government had on several occasions stated its policy with regard to nuclear energy, considering it to be of great importance both for the development of the country and for the internal safety and progress of Latin America as a whole. A basic feature of Brazil's policy was that it did not wish to receive or manufacture nuclear arms, an intention which it had demonstrated by signing the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America, which made a clear distinction between the military uses of atomic energy, which were prohibited under the Treaty, and the peaceful uses, which opened up a vast range of possible applications from which Latin America could benefit.

120. In application of its policy, and in spite of its limited resources, the Brazilian Government had doubled the budget of the National Nuclear Energy Commission for 1968 and was studying the possibility of making even larger allocations. Brazil was intensifying its uranium prospecting programme, for which it was trying to get as much international co-operation as possible, in order to be able to make accurate estimates of its uranium reserves.

121. Nuclear power production was of great interest to Brazil. A joint committee of the National Nuclear Energy Commission and the State Electric Power Company had recently recommended to the Government the construction of a 500-MW(e) nuclear power plant which would go into operation in 1975 in the south-central part of the country, where all the necessary technical conditions were fulfilled. It had not yet been decided what type of reactor should be used in that plant, but Brazilian technologists and industrial concerns would take part as far as possible in its construction.

122. The possibility of constructing reactors in the country was being considered. Designs were to be prepared and a prototype constructed for the purpose.

123. No decision had been reached on the construction of reactors for desalting and power production. Such reactors could produce the fresh water needed by arid areas of the country, e.g. the north-east, but such areas did not and would not for some time have sufficiently large power requirements to justify their construction. However, it was quite possible that the demand would ultimately materialize as a result of the new applications of electricity in the chemical industries.

124. Brazil was very interested in the development of breeder reactors, especially those using thorium,

since the country possessed large deposits of that element.

125. The range of radioisotope applications in Brazil was being extended and the necessary work was under way for doubling the power of the São Paulo reactor and expanding its installations so as to increase and diversify radioisotope production.

126. It was not inappropriate to refer briefly to international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Brazil had been working since 1955 to reach its present stage of nuclear development and, to that end, it had concluded co-operation agreements with other Member States of the Agency. Mention should also be made of the Agency's efforts to increase technical assistance to the developing countries, including Brazil. His delegation was fully convinced that the lofty objectives of the Agency would gradually be achieved as scientific and technical co-operation between Member States became more effective. The present meeting in Vienna was a real contribution to the development of friendship, understanding and exchanges between all countries which saw in the development of nuclear techniques a source of prosperity and well-being for their peoples.

127. In addition to its existing programmes, the Agency's future activities would provide for new forms of co-operation and mutual assistance between Member States. One of them, the new INIS project, was of real value to all countries. The fact that the project was to be implemented gradually and cautiously would help to dispel some of the concern to which its huge scale had given rise.

128. Brazil considered that major conferences on the peaceful use of atomic energy and its importance for development, held under the sponsorship of the United Nations and other international organizations such as the Agency, might appropriately include a fourth Geneva Conference, in two or three years' time, in line with General Assembly Resolution 2056(XX). The United Nations might study other possibilities in collaboration with the Agency. It might, for instance, be appropriate to take advantage of regular meetings of the General Conference to organize atomic energy conferences similar to those at Geneva, but on a smaller scale and of more limited scope.

129. Brazil sincerely hoped that the Agency, in the service of all Member States, would continue fulfilling the valuable aims of its Statute.

130. Mr. NOVOTNY (Czechoslovakia) said that his delegation approved of the work of the Agency, its Secretariat and the Director General over the past year, and in particular of the progress which had been made in developing the Safeguards System. The Agency was now essentially ready to apply safeguards to experimental and power reactors and to other types of nuclear facilities, and had already acquired valuable practical experience of inspection.

131. The Agency must be ready to meet the task which might be entrusted to it of discharging a safeguards and inspection function under the treaty for non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. His delegation supported the proposal made by the Soviet Union that an ad hoc committee should be set up to study the extension, improvement and organization of the Agency's safeguards and control machinery. As its contribution to that activity, Czechoslovakia was studying methods of applying safeguards to a specific power reactor project.

132. His delegation attached great importance to the INIS project which, in its scope and technical sophistication, extending to the latest computer techniques, could serve as an example for an international information exchange system, aiding progress in all the participating States. Czechoslovakia was making the necessary preparations for the early creation of a national information centre which would collaborate with all the appropriate institutes and undertakings, and in particular with INIS.

133. The existing ways of exchanging information, including conferences and symposia, meetings, training courses and other forms of direct contact between specialists, had given excellent results.

134. His delegation felt that the Agency's co-ordinating activity in regard to reactor safety and health protection was also developing successfully.

135. Good results had been obtained in the developing countries in the use of radioisotopes in agriculture, medicine, sterilization of food products, etc.

136. His delegation shared the view that the Agency's effort to promote the practical application of atomic energy in various fields were of value to all Member States. However, not all the possibilities had yet been exhausted, as was shown by the review of the Agency's activities which had been undertaken in accordance with General Conference Resolution GC(X)/RES/217. His delegation hoped that the projects proposed and recommendations made by the developing countries in the course of that review would be taken into account in developing the new long-term programme and the programme for the next two years.

137. Czechoslovakia was participating as fully as it could in furthering the Agency's activities in close collaboration with it, as well as with COMECON, the Joint Nuclear Research Institute at Dubna and other organizations.

138. He would touch briefly on some of the most outstanding work of Czechoslovak scientists in nuclear energy in the course of the past year.

139. In 1966 construction had begun of a zero-energy heavy-water reactor having a core 3500 mm in diameter and 4000 mm high with a variable lattice pitch. Its initial programme would be made up of experiments for the second Czechoslovak atomic power station.

140. Czechoslovak scientists working at the Joint Nuclear Research Institute at Dubna had developed a rapid new "gas chemistry" method, with the aid of which it had been possible to isolate the element 104 and separate it from the other transuranium elements.

141. Another achievement was the experimental work on determining the source of infarcts using internal doses of a new substance labelled with mercury-203 or mercury-197.

142. He felt bound to repeat yet again that contrary to the principle of universality, certain States having a legal right to do so had not yet been able to take their place in the Agency. The fact that the German Democratic Republic, which had achieved great successes as regards nuclear power and in the production and use of stable and radioactive isotopes, was not a Member of the Agency, was indubitably a considerable hindrance to the Agency's activities. The communication from the German Democratic Republic sent to the General Conference in 1966 bore testimony to that country's constructive policies, its interest in the Agency's work and its support of the Agency's aims. There must also be a basic change in the present representation of China, which was unrealistic.

143. With regard to the Agency's technical assistance programme, his delegation in principle shared the view of the developing countries that preference should be given to projects of urgent importance to their economic development; they themselves should be able to determine the balance between the supply of equipment and the provision of experts.

144. His delegation felt it was regrettable that the Agency did not make a general economic assessment of the technical assistance provided. In view of the increasing requirements of the developing countries, Czechoslovakia had increased its contribution to the General Fund to 150 000 Czechoslovak crowns, and hoped it would be used principally to purchase Czechoslovak equipment for technical assistance projects.

145. His delegation agreed with those delegates who had expressed serious concern at the rapid growth in the Agency's budget. He fully recognized the need for ensuring that new tasks and obligations already incurred were adequately covered, but felt that not everything had been done to prevent unwarranted increases in administrative expenses, which were already so high.

146. The Agency's role in regard to safeguards and inspection was becoming exceedingly important.

147. The draft treaties for the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, presented to the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament in Geneva by the representatives of the Soviet Union and the United States, merited active support. It was clear from the statements of the Director General [16] and the President [17] that when the treaty was concluded the Agency would probably be entrusted with control functions. His delegation fully shared and supported that point of view. The fact that the Agency's inspection system had already been accepted by a large number of countries, and had recently been mentioned in the preamble to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America, clearly showed that the Agency could cope with that task. His delegation felt that the Agency could and should take upon itself the task of inspection when the non-proliferation treaty became a reality.

148. Together with Poland, Czechoslovakia had at the previous session of the General Conference declared its readiness to submit its nuclear facilities to Agency inspection. The delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany had now, after a year, welcomed those declarations and those of Hungary and Bulgaria, which had since been joined to it. Unfortunately, the Federal Republic itself had not followed that example.

149. The unwillingness of the Federal German Government to submit West German nuclear facilities to Agency inspection was linked with the negative attitude it adopted with regard to the conclusion of an agreement on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, and with the efforts of certain groups in the Federal Republic to obtain access to nuclear arms.

150. His delegation felt that the danger of the misuse of nuclear energy could not be disregarded at a time when United States aggression in Viet-Nam was constantly increasing and the occupation of Arab territories, like the other consequences of Israeli aggression had not yet been brought to an end. The threat to peace in those and other parts of the world could be removed only by unremitting efforts, to which the Agency too must make its contribution.

151. The Agency and its Member States were faced with problems whose solution was of great importance to the cause of world peace. He was convinced that the Agency's future activity, the constant efforts made to make it more effective and the constructive co-operation of States with one another and with the Secretariat would promote

[16] See document GC(XI)/OR.111, paras 33-36.
[17] Ibid., para. 9.

not only the further development of the peaceful use of atomic energy, but also the development of science and technology, the raising of living standards for the peoples of the world, an increase in mutual understanding and the attainment of world peace.

Czechoslovakia, in accordance with its policy of peaceful international co-operation, would continue to collaborate actively with the Agency and co-operate to the fullest extent in helping it to carry out its mission.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.