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### ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SECOND PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Neue Hofburg, Vienna,  
on Thursday, 26 September 1968, at 10.50 a.m.

President: Mr. SANDOVAL VALLARTA (Mexico)

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\* GC(XII)/390.

GENERAL DEBATE AND REPORT OF  
THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR  
1967-68 (GC(XII)/380,389) (continued)

1. Mr. KUNJARA na AYUDHYA (Thailand) stated that his country's atomic energy programmes were progressing steadily.

2. During the past twelve months, Thailand had acted as host to two Agency meetings in Bangkok, a study group meeting on the irradiation of snake-venom and a regional study group meeting on the irradiation of wood plastic combinations. His delegation hoped that the Agency would ensure that the results of those meetings were put to good use.

3. The unprecedented rate of increase in the demand for electricity in Thailand had induced the Government seriously to contemplate the use of nuclear power for electricity generation, and the Agency would shortly be sending a team of experts to Thailand for site safety evaluation.

4. Thailand attached great importance to the proposed programme on food irradiation to be conducted jointly by the Agency, the European Nuclear Energy Agency (ENEA) and the Oesterreichische Studiengesellschaft für Atomenergie (Austrian Atomic Energy Research Organization), and would give it support.

5. The Thai delegation was grateful to the Agency for its technical assistance. With less direct assistance from other sources, it was obvious that a developing country would look for increased support from international organizations like the Agency. Thailand regretted to hear that shortage of funds had seriously limited what the Agency could perform.

6. His delegation endorsed the statement on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons<sup>1)</sup> made by the Director General<sup>2)</sup> and expressed itself satisfied with the Agency's safeguards system. In connection with the Director General's remarks on the peaceful uses of nuclear explosions<sup>3)</sup>, his delegation's view was that it would in due course be most appropriate for the Agency as a technical organization to be entrusted with responsibility for work in that field.

7. Mr. NEUMANN (Czechoslovakia) began by stating that his delegation in principle approved the Agency's activities during the past year.

- 1) This Treaty, which is the subject of Resolution 2373 (XXII) adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 12 June 1968, is subsequently referred to in this record as "the Treaty" or "the NPT".
- 2) GC(XII)/OR.119, paras 29-34 and 48-53.
- 3) Ibid, para.52.

It adopted the same attitude regarding the Agency's Budget for 1969 and Programme for 1969-74<sup>4)</sup>.

8. Having regard to the present stage of development in the peaceful uses of atomic energy, the proposed trend of the Agency's future activities must be seen as an integral part of that development.

9. The Czechoslovak delegation maintained the view that the Agency's activities should take the following four main directions:

- (a) Effective international inspection and application of safeguards on the basis of the NPT;
- (b) The systematic dissemination of knowledge relating to the nuclear sciences, and their industrial application;
- (c) The co-ordination of substantial programmes on a world-wide scale for the utilization of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes; and
- (d) The provision of technical assistance to developing countries.

10. The Czechoslovak delegation considered the development of the system of safeguards and inspection to be one of the most important of the Agency's activities. The immediate development and application of Agency safeguards were a fundamental prerequisite for extensive co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy. His delegation therefore supported the proposal regarding the preparation by the Agency, in the near future, of a model agreement for application of the control measures envisaged under the NPT<sup>5)</sup>. He considered that a method and a uniform system to be followed in carrying out the technical and administrative activities relating to the conduct of inspection should be worked out. In connection with the NPT and the application of safeguards he reiterated the need to ensure the universality of the Agency, membership of which should be open to all States which were willing to comply with its Statute and take part in its work.

11. The Czechoslovak delegation was in favour of the proposed International Nuclear Information System (INIS) and of co-ordination of important world programmes on the peaceful use of atomic energy, particularly in the sphere of nuclear power. Czechoslovakia was particularly interested in the part of the programme devoted to heavy-water reactors.

4) GC(XII)/385 and Corr.1.

5) See document GC(XII)/OR.119, para.31.

12. He also believed it necessary to study ways and means of transferring work from international laboratories to specialized national laboratories. The work of those laboratories could be co-ordinated from a functional point of view by the Agency.

13. Regarding the Agency's budget for 1969 the Czechoslovak delegation had no major comments to make; it wished, however, to draw attention to the need for a gradual stabilization of the budget.

14. Under the Agency's technical assistance programme, the Czechoslovak Government was making available to the developing countries equipment to the value of 150 000 crowns for 1969, and it wished to repeat its offer of five long-term fellowships for study at Czechoslovak higher educational establishments and four one-year fellowships for study and practical work at the scientific and technical institutes of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. It also wished, once again, to offer its services in organizing an Agency scientific conference, panel or practical course in Czechoslovakia.

15. In accordance with its policy of peaceful international co-operation, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic was prepared to continue active co-operation with the Agency and, to the best of its ability, to go on contributing to the achievement of the Agency's objectives.

16. Mr. LE-VAN-THOI (Viet-Nam) said that his delegation had complete confidence in the Agency's future, not only because it had given proof of growing efficiency, but also because the recent signature of the NPT gave grounds for expecting closer international co-operation in the peaceful applications of nuclear energy, which could but enhance the Agency's prestige and contribute to the welfare of mankind.

17. During the previous year the Agency, under the enlightened guidance of its Director General, had taken a major step towards the achievement of its worthy objective of promoting and disseminating knowledge of nuclear energy activities, so that the benefits of nuclear fission could be enjoyed to an ever-increasing extent throughout the world. Praiseworthy efforts had been made by the Agency to turn to advantage the applications of nuclear energy which were conducive to economic and social progress in the developing countries.

18. He noted with satisfaction that the Agency would, during the subsequent six years, pursue its policy of supporting the weaker countries, a policy perfectly justified by the fact that the developing countries generally did not devote the slender resources at their disposal to scientific projects, but to other projects of a more urgent nature and of

more immediate national importance. Viet-Nam appreciated to the full that support because, in addition to dealing with problems common to all the developing countries, it had to cope with the many difficulties created by the tragic situation which had existed in its territory for many years. It was greatly indebted to the Agency and to the friendly countries which had given it generous assistance in 1967, assistance which had enabled it to make considerable progress in medicine, agriculture and nuclear legislation. Viet-Nam hoped that the Agency would continue to support its atomic energy programme, which would have to remain modest, albeit practical, until peace was restored within its frontiers.

19. Referring to technical assistance and its vital role for Viet-Nam and for all developing countries, he urged that the Agency should not confine itself to recommending nuclear techniques, but should ensure that the receiving States were able to exploit the advantages they offered. The training of technical and scientific staff was of great importance if the dissemination of nuclear knowledge was to be of real benefit to the developing countries. The Agency had indeed given considerable attention to training and refresher courses for research workers and senior technicians, but a systematic solution was urgently needed for the equally important problem of training junior staff, because the existing shortage of such personnel was a serious handicap to the satisfactory implementation of nuclear research programmes. The best solution would be to organize regular courses in each developing region for young people wishing to work in the nuclear field. Such training courses should be given by Agency experts, with the assistance of specialists from the countries concerned, as part of a programme of regional co-operation under Agency sponsorship.

20. The growing need for specialized staff would probably lead to more substantial requests for technical assistance, with a consequent likelihood of an increase in Agency expenditure. In that case it might be possible to reconsider technical assistance procedures in such a way that expert missions would no longer always be linked with the supply of equipment. Under such an arrangement, experts would be sent only if expressly requested by the countries concerned, or when the Agency considered that the presence of experts was essential for satisfactory use of the equipment supplied. The Agency experts, whose number was of course limited, could then take a direct and effective part in the work of the Agency's laboratories, whilst remaining available to assist Member States in solving their technical difficulties through a permanent consultation service within the Agency.

21. The Viet-Nameese delegation reiterated the hope it had expressed at the eleventh regular session

of the General Conference that the Agency would set up a permanent service able to provide requesting countries promptly with the everyday equipment used in nuclear research.<sup>6)</sup> Such equipment was practically unobtainable on the local market in the developing countries and lack of a spare part could be sufficient to hold up a research project.

22. In connection with nuclear research, his country unreservedly endorsed the policy of promoting work by the award of research contracts, but thought that each developing country should be guided towards a specialization suitable for application in a field of activity of direct concern to it, while also being of benefit to all countries in the region concerned. The Agency might consider the establishment of a regional centre for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, which would be responsible not only for training the scientific staff already mentioned, but also, and in particular, for managing and carrying out research projects of common interest to all the countries in the region. The Agency's regional representative would then have a major role to play, and in the case of South East Asia Mr. F. Medina appeared eminently suitable for the task.

23. The Government of Viet-Nam was resolved to maintain its efforts to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. It had unshakeable faith in the international co-operation taking place within the Agency and was aware of its duty in the matter of international solidarity. As in the past, it would for 1969 make a voluntary contribution to the Agency's General Fund based on its assessment ratio under the Regular Budget.

24. Mr. BASSUDE (Uganda) considered it an honour to attend the Conference as representative of Uganda on the first occasion on which it was participating as a full Member State of the Agency. His country welcomed the admission of three new Members to the Agency, which would enhance the possibility of increasing regional co-operation in the East and Central African region in the application of radioisotopes in agriculture, medicine, etc. His delegation noted with pleasure the appointment by the Agency of a regional adviser in hydrology for Africa, and hoped that similar arrangements might be made in other fields. His country was willing to act as host to small regional training courses or seminars under Agency auspices on topics of interest to Member States in the region. The facilities already established, with Agency assistance, in the University College and its Medical School in Uganda were available for such purposes.

25. Uganda warmly welcomed the draft co-operation agreement between the Agency and the

6) GC(XI)/OR.113, para.6.

Organization of African Unity,<sup>7)</sup> to be considered later in the Conference, because of the increasing number of African States which were becoming Members of the Agency and the further impetus it would give to increased regional co-operation.

26. His delegation asked, as other delegations from developing countries had done, for increased participation by the developing countries, particularly from Africa, in the main policy-making organs of the Agency, especially in those concerned with reviewing the Agency's activities.

27. In common with other nations in the African region, Uganda was closely interested in the maintenance of a nuclear-free zone in Africa, and strongly supported the Agency's safeguards system.

28. As a pledge of its willingness to assume its full responsibilities as a Member of the Agency, Uganda was actively considering the amount of its contribution to the General Fund.

29. His delegation expressed its appreciation for the assistance Uganda had received through the Agency's technical assistance programme. Of late there had, however, been delays in the recruitment of experts, and Uganda urged the more developed countries to encourage more of their scientific staff to serve on short-term appointments as experts overseas.

30. Mr. SARABHAI (India) considered it a great privilege to lead his delegation to the General Conference. He congratulated the Director General and staff of the Agency on the excellent work they had done, and welcomed the new Members of the Agency, Liechtenstein, the Niger and Zambia.

31. India had during the past 15 to 20 years laid the foundation for the use of atomic energy, and was now making a thorough study of its application in various fields of national development. He would not discuss in detail the use of nuclear power or the agricultural applications of atomic energy, since he would be dealing with those subjects in his lecture entitled "Nuclear Power in Developing Countries".<sup>8)</sup>

32. The irradiation of potatoes and onions, which were very important crops in tropical countries, offered promising prospects, and he was sure that extensive use would be made of the facility which had been set up in co-operation with Canada for that purpose; the results obtained would be made available to all interested countries.

7) GC(XII)/376, Annex.

8) Delivered at the Neue Hofburg, Vienna, on 26 September 1968.

33. Co-operation with a number of other Member States in joint projects, such as the India-Philippines-Agency project,<sup>9)</sup> had been very valuable. He also paid a tribute to the national atomic energy commissions of many countries, particularly Canada, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, which had co-operated with India.

34. He considered that international organizations, such as the United Nations Development Programme and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, should evaluate the potential use of nuclear power in conjunction with the Agency and that, in many cases, its use would not give rise to serious financial difficulties.

35. In the statement the Director General had made to the Conference two days earlier, he had said:

"When the NPT is in force there will have to be a shift of emphasis in the work of the IAEA. More weight will have to be given to the control functions. I hope that the Agency will still remain a technical organization, although it is inevitable that it will become much more exposed to the political situation in the world".<sup>10)</sup>

In another context, the Director General had mentioned that "... the Agency's safeguards system would need to be adapted to the provisions contained in Article III of the Treaty".<sup>11)</sup> However, the primary function of the Agency, as laid down in its Statute, was to promote the peaceful uses of atomic energy, and safeguards activities, although admittedly essential, were subsidiary to that function. The paramount consideration was to ensure that the large number of countries which had not yet benefited from the use of atomic energy could do so.

36. If the Agency was to survive, it would have to ensure that its work was not influenced by political pressure, in accordance with Article III.B.3. and C of its Statute.

37. He welcomed the efforts to revise the safeguards system, and hoped the provisions on re-processing plants would be brought into line with those relating to fuel fabrication. The work being done in the application of safeguards to isotope

enrichment, which played a very important part in the peaceful uses of atomic energy, should be speedily concluded, since delay might well lead to further complications.

38. The most important function of the Agency was to provide services and supply materials, equipment of facilities on request, as laid down in Article III.A.1 of the Statute, and in that connection the Agency was perfectly competent to provide any services requested by the parties to the NPT; indeed, Articles VIII, IX and X of the Statute would enable the Agency to provide any services requested.

39. He supported the argument that the composition of the Board was no longer sufficiently representative and believed it should be enlarged, bearing in mind the principles governing representation which had been established following lengthy negotiations.

40. Turning to the peaceful uses of nuclear explosives, he expressed the view that all countries were fully entitled to carry out work in any branch of technology, provided they were competent to do so. In that connection he quoted what he had said in an address to the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, held in Vienna in August 1968.<sup>12)</sup> He considered the Agency was the appropriate body to perform the regulatory functions required in connection with the use of nuclear explosives for peaceful purposes. He hoped it would be possible to form a clearer idea of the role which the Agency could play, bearing in mind the distinction which might have to be made between a regulatory body dealing with the use of such explosives under a partial or complete test ban treaty and another organization which might help countries, on request, to provide the services required.

41. He expressed concern at the lack of financial resources, particularly in view of the Agency's increasing responsibilities, and thought that the Board should consider the problem in detail in the light of probable developments over the next five years. Alternative safeguards procedures could be defined and their relative cost estimated, and savings might be made by allowing a degree of flexibility in certain circumstances in the matter of inspection. A separate fund for safeguards activities was desirable, and contributions should be based on the installed nuclear power in the countries concerned. One of the major difficulties that would arise was that developing countries would be obliged to pay a contribution in foreign exchange for services from which they derived no benefit. It would therefore be more equitable if the small contributions involved were

9) See document INFCIRC/56 and Add.1.

10) This verbatim quotation is taken from that part of the Director General's statement that is summarized in document GC(XII)/OR.119, para.53.

11) Ibid, para.49.

12) United Nations document A/CONF.34/L.3, last two paragraphs.

made by the States which benefited from the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

42. He hoped more national laboratories would provide the Agency with analytical services and thus reduce the demands made on its funds.

43. The provision of technical assistance was one of the Agency's most important activities, and unless some way was found to increase the technical assistance provided, there was little point in developing countries engaging in any nuclear energy activities. Trainees from a large number of countries had come to see the work started at the Tarapur Atomic Power Station, and India was prepared to offer similar opportunities to foreign nationals interested in food irradiation.

44. It was his pleasant duty to pledge a voluntary contribution of \$35 000 in non-convertible rupees, and he would also like to pledge to the Agency his country's wholehearted support and to wish it success in the years to come.

45. Mr. KOLOS (Hungary) said that the present session of the General Conference was taking place at a time which was decisive for the Agency owing to the conclusion of the NPT. His delegation, speaking at previous sessions of the General Conference, had warmly welcomed those developments which had contributed to the lessening of international tension, the partial nuclear weapons test ban treaty and the treaty on the peaceful uses of outer space. Those instruments had had a direct and favourable effect on the Agency's work.

46. The NPT, which had also been signed by Hungary, was of exceptional importance for the Agency. Its conclusion would contribute greatly to the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes in various countries and would be conducive to a considerable expansion of international co-operation in the atomic energy field, since the provision of an effective system of control afforded the necessary guarantee that the results of such co-operation would be used exclusively for peaceful purposes. There was no truth in the claim that the Treaty ran counter to the peaceful use of atomic energy.

47. In his delegation's view, the proper organization to provide effective controls was the Agency, which had acquired appropriate experience in that regard. On the basis of that experience, the existing safeguards system could, of course, be developed as necessary to meet the altered requirements. What was needed was to develop the system and not whittle it down, to perfect the system of controls and not weaken it. With a view to ensuring effective controls he considered it important that the inspectorate should be further developed on an equitable geographical basis.

48. Though his delegation attached great importance to the safeguards system, it also considered that the Agency's other activities should continue to expand concurrently. Special emphasis should be placed on the importance of technical assistance and also on the Agency's work on documentation, information and the holding of conferences. In the Hungarian delegation's view, the provision of technical assistance was an important part of the Agency's work and should therefore be expanded. The Hungarian Government had accordingly doubled its voluntary contribution for 1969 by comparison with 1968.

49. As far as documentation, scientific and technical information and the holding of conferences was concerned, the Agency was doing very important work. Particular importance attached to the recommendations it had published regarding procedures for the safe handling and transport of radioactive materials.

50. In the Hungarian delegation's view, the Agency's role in formulating recommendations concerning such codes and regulations would grow in future as the peaceful uses of atomic energy were extended. It was natural that such recommendations should be formulated by an international organization, though account should of course be taken of the views of other international organizations.

51. Turning to the Agency's research activities, he said his delegation was convinced that research carried out in the various national laboratories offered better prospects than research financed from the Agency's limited material resources, unless it was suitably concentrated on a few important topics, as was for example the research undertaken in connection with the formulation of international standards and recommendations in regard to nuclear measurements techniques and the purity control, storage and transport of radioactive substances.

52. He extended a welcome to the Niger, Zambia and Liechtenstein on the occasion of their admission to the Agency.

53. Notwithstanding the fact that the number of Member States now amounted to 101, the necessary steps had not yet been taken to make the Agency a truly universal organization. The Hungarian delegation could not regard it as normal that countries which had facilities where highly successful work was being done on the peaceful uses of atomic energy should not be Members of the Agency. The German Democratic Republic, for example, was not a Member of the Agency, although the Government of that country had been one of the first to sign the NPT. Moreover, the German Democratic Republic was undertaking highly successful work in research on

atomic physics and nuclear chemistry and was a major producer of radioisotopes and labelled compounds, which were used in many States that were Members of the Agency; it had also been operating a nuclear power station for a number of years.

54. The Hungarian Government was very interested in the Agency's work and was pleased with the positive results obtained. The Hungarian delegation hoped and believed that the Agency would be able to fulfil to an even greater extent in future the legitimate expectations placed in it by its Member States.

55. Mr. HALUSA (Austria) said that, as in previous years, the general debate provided an opportunity to sum up the progress made, weigh up the tasks of the future and draw up a balance of the year's work.

56. The past year had been marked by definite advances towards nuclear disarmament. The adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations of the NPT, after long and difficult negotiations, was testimony to the widespread desire to bring about effective disarmament. The Treaty had met with such a favourable response that more than 80 States had signed it, with Austria among the first. Despite the often valid criticism which had been levelled against some of the Treaty's provisions, on which the Austrian delegation had made its stand quite clear in the General Assembly, he felt that the advantages conferred by certain provisions of the Treaty far outweighed the concessions demanded from non-nuclear-weapon States.

57. The Austrian Government regarded the Treaty as a prerequisite for the adoption of effective disarmament measures by the nuclear-weapon Powers. It placed the parties to it under a real obligation to open negotiations aimed at ending the nuclear arms race and bringing about nuclear disarmament. It would promote the peaceful uses of atomic energy and could serve as a valuable tool in the preservation of world peace.

58. Austria therefore gave its unreserved support to the NPT, and was convinced that it fulfilled the country's need for security.

59. Clearly, every instrument concerned with disarmament called for a system of controls. The Agency had had an effective control system for some years, and its inspectors, and the Secretariat as a whole, had already gained a great deal of experience in the matter. Austria was convinced that there was an absolute need for the Agency's system of controls, which was constantly revised, improved and extended and which had already proved its usefulness and efficacy, and it was sure that the

Agency would fulfil its control function under the NPT with competence and objectivity, and that its services ought certainly to be used.

60. At the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States<sup>13)</sup> the Austrian delegation had stressed from the very beginning that the principal task of the Conference was to take an active part in establishing a balance between the mutual obligations of nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon States by means of constructive proposals, addressed to the competent international organizations. During that Conference opinions had been voiced which appeared to have been motivated by the lack of such a balance. His delegation felt that it would be wrong to ignore the view expressed at that Conference, though it would be just as erroneous not to recognize the Agency's work and wealth of experience in general and, in particular, as regards safeguards, the exchange of scientific and technical information and the assistance given to developing countries in their programmes for acquiring and improving know-how relating to the peaceful uses of atomic energy. It accordingly believed that the setting up of new international bodies of an analogous character would therefore be inappropriate. As far as the peaceful uses of nuclear explosions were concerned, it was for the Agency to assume the role of the "appropriate international body" referred to in Article V of the NPT.

61. Referring in that connection to a statement made at the beginning of the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States by the Austrian Minister of Foreign Affairs, in which he had said that, without wishing to cast doubt on the sincerity of those who advocated the establishment of new international organizations, he was convinced of the need to utilize the services of an organization already established, he (Mr. Halusa) pointed out that a proliferation of international organizations, though admittedly less hazardous than the proliferation of atomic weapons, should still be avoided on practical, technical and financial grounds.

62. The heavier burden of duties imposed upon the Agency under the NPT would undoubtedly require modification of its administrative organization and its structure. Great caution should be exercised in that regard so to safeguard and ensure continuation of the progress made through the work done by the Agency in research and development in the peaceful uses of atomic energy, both in nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon States.

63. With regard to the Board of Governors' report to the General Conference (GC(XII)/380 and 389), the Austrian delegation noted that the Agency had

13) Held at Geneva from 29 August to 28 September 1968.

continued to play a major role in supplying technical assistance to developing countries. Provision had been made for 160 experts to visit those countries in 1968, and to work in them for a total period of 671 months. Although that was a significant effort, it was with some concern that he observed a growing discrepancy between the number of requests for assistance that were received and the number actually met. It was stated in Table 2 in the report that in 1968 the total value of requests received for expert services and equipment amounted to \$3 600 000, whereas the total value of those approved was \$977 000. In 1967 the corresponding figures had been \$2 600 000 and \$975 000. It was sincerely hoped, therefore, that Member States would strive to reach the target set for voluntary contributions. In 1969 Austria would, subject to parliamentary approval, contribute to the General Fund in proportion to its (now slightly larger) assessed share of the Regular Budget.

64. Turning to the fellowship programme, he noted that the total number of fellowships awarded since the beginning, which was 3000, could be considered significant and that the figure of 300 fellowships per year had been set for the next few years. Austria would continue to contribute to that programme by making fellowships available to the Agency.

65. Regarding the Agency's budget for 1969, he was glad to see that the increase in the Regular Budget was lower than for the previous year. The rate mentioned, 7.4%, was proof of a willingness to exercise a certain financial restraint, and his delegation was consequently prepared to support that budget.

66. The 1969 programme showed a major expansion in the Department of Safeguards and Inspection because of the ever-growing use of nuclear energy in Member States. As a result of the encouraging progress in the industrial application of nuclear energy the Agency was called upon to play an even larger and more active role, and it was well qualified to do so.

67. With regard to the question of changing the composition of the Board of Governors to reflect the present situation, the Austrian delegation did not dispute the desirability of undertaking a thorough study of the problem. Lastly, as regards the fourth international conference on the peaceful uses of atomic energy, which was scheduled for 1970 or 1971<sup>14)</sup>, he said he hoped the Agency would play a fitting role in the preparations for that important gathering.

14) See General Assembly Resolution 2309 (XXII).

68. In conclusion, he stated that plans for an international architectural competition for the design of the Agency's new headquarters were making good progress. The results of the competition would be announced in the spring of 1969, and construction work should therefore be commenced soon after.

69. Mr. BUXO-DULCE (Spain)<sup>15)</sup> said that his delegation wished, first of all, to express the firm conviction that Spain was doing its part to accomplish the goals of the Agency. In 1967 and 1968 Spain had continued to extend its research and development activities. Aerial prospecting equipment for large sedimentary formations had been perfected and intensive work had been carried out on the exploitation of ores, to the point where Spain could now claim to be one of the principal producers of uranium. In ore processing, efforts were being concentrated on the chemistry of uranium extraction and re-extraction and on recovery by means of iron-exchange resins. The Andújar uranium plant was soon to be joined by another plant at Ciudad Rodrigo, the construction of which had already been authorized. Progress was also being made in the fabrication of nuclear fuels. A plant for the reprocessing of irradiated fuel with a capacity of 550 grams of uranium per day had gone into operation. A pilot plant for the decontamination and disposal of radioactive wastes had also been put into operation. Experimental work was being continued on the JEN-1 and JEN-2 reactors, and in March 1968 the CORAL-1 fast experimental reactor had reached criticality. Research on the production and utilization of radioisotopes was likewise continuing, special attention being given to medical applications and to radiological protection.

70. Spain was also devoting a good deal of effort to the construction of nuclear power stations in order to meet the increased requirements for electricity which an expanding population, together with industrial growth, made inevitable. At present three stations were under construction: the one at Zorita, known as the "José Cabrera" plant, was near completion; the second was at Santa María de Garoña and the third at Vandellós, where construction was proceeding rapidly.

71. In November 1968, at Madrid, Spain was to act as host to an Agency symposium on nuclear desalination, a topic of immense importance which was commanding enormous interest in many countries, including the United States of America.

72. Turning to the Agency's programme, he said that the new method of presentation — covering a period of six years — was satisfactory, provided

15) In the absence of Mr. Buxo-Dulce, this statement was delivered on his behalf by Mr. Sanchez del Rio.



the programme remained sufficiently flexible and could be adapted to the many and various new requirements which might arise over such a long period of time.

73. The Agency's programmes were on the whole well-balanced, and the tendency to relinquish projects at an appropriate stage, allowing them to be continued by Member States and other organizations, was to be welcomed. The Agency should concentrate its efforts on activities which, by reason of their novelty or specialized character, could not so well be undertaken by other international organizations or by Member States; once a particular application of nuclear energy moved into the commercial phase, or became no more than a routine application of well-established techniques, the Agency should relinquish it and devote its resources to some new project.

74. INIS was to his mind a good example of the type of activity the Agency should undertake, and it deserved unstinting praise.

75. The most burning question of the moment was without doubt the new and crucial phase which the Agency would be entering as a consequence of the NPT.

76. Spain wished to make its attitude to that Treaty absolutely clear. No country could reasonably claim that it was less dangerous to continue with an unrestricted nuclear armaments race than to regulate that armaments race in some manner. However, as some countries were far more advanced in nuclear technology than others, it would be virtually impossible to find a solution completely satisfactory to all. Such a solution would eventually require a new and more general approach, so designed as to ensure that all concerned would be on a comparable footing and enjoy equal opportunities.

77. Now, to assert that it was merely a matter of confidence for non-nuclear countries to accept the new situation willingly was to misinterpret the heart of the matter. No doubt confidence could govern many acts among men, facilitating co-existence, and one could not insist at every stage on formal contracts or stipulations as a means of guaranteeing stability and fulfilment of obligations; however, in a matter so vital as that which now faced the world the good faith of all could be taken for granted; the true problem was to find reasonable solutions which would make it possible to attain the objective, and those solutions must be based on mutual comprehension among all the nations concerned, on respect for each other's rights and interest.

78. A fundamental problem was to guarantee the security of States that had no nuclear arms. The system of guarantees approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations, supplemented by the declarations of the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the Soviet Union, was broad, and founded on the best of intentions. What would be more complete, however, would be a legal instrument in which the nuclear Powers undertook not to attack or menace other countries with nuclear arms. Similarly, if all the non-nuclear countries were to have the same rights and obligations, they must have unrestricted access to information on the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

79. Those were questions of no little interest to the Agency, since its future work was to have a fundamental bearing on the practical application of the Treaty. In the opinion of the Spanish Government it would be quite unreasonable to enter that new stage of work without first adapting the Agency — the organization which was to administer safeguards, the very foundation of the system — to the changed circumstances.

80. The Treaty imposed upon the Agency obligations which went beyond the normal scope of its activities. A proof of that lay in the limitations placed by the Treaty on the use of nuclear explosives for peaceful purposes, an area of nuclear endeavour that needed further research.

81. In his statement to the Conference, the Director General had pointed out that many of the most advanced nuclear Powers were still hesitating to sign the Treaty <sup>16)</sup>. If their hesitations were not overcome, the effectiveness of the Treaty as the cornerstone of a true nuclear disarmament system would be seriously undermined. On the other hand, the 80 countries that had already signed the Treaty would be joined by many others if some compromise solution could be found.

82. In any event, the Agency had expressed its readiness to accept the responsibilities placed upon it by the Treaty (and by Article III in particular) and its decision had been received with great satisfaction by the United Nations, as was evident from the statement made by the representative of the Secretary-General <sup>17)</sup>. Spain also believed quite sincerely that the Agency represented the only real possibility of making the safeguards provisions of the Treaty effective.

83. There appeared to be some concern about the harm which the Agency might suffer as a result of having politics brought into its affairs. Some

16) GC(XII)/OR.119, para.30.

17) Ibid, para.58.

felt that any political taint whatsoever was undesirable to the extent that it obliged the Agency to depart from its fundamentally technical mission. Spain did not share that belief. The representative of the Secretary-General had recalled quite rightly that the Agency's Statute provided for a particularly close relationship with the political organs of the United Nations <sup>18</sup>; that fact would take on special significance when the Treaty entered into force. Thus the political connection already existed in fact; the problem now was to ensure that the undeniable political implications of the Agency's new duties did not prejudice its fundamentally technical and specialized character.

84. How, then, should the Agency be adapted to its new and important duties? One possibility was to revise the Statute; that would be the most straightforward and thorough method, and a number of aspects of the Statute which needed reform could be examined at the same time; that possibility should at least be borne in mind, as it might prove difficult to find a simpler or quicker method. Unfortunately, however, revision of the Statute would be a long and complicated task, and no initiative in that direction could be expected to bear fruit in less than a year, at the least, in view of the statutory regulations that would have to be observed. There was, however, an indirect procedure which ought to be considered and which would not require amendment of the Statute, namely the establishment within the Board of Governors of a special committee; such a procedure was in fact authorized by Article VI.I of the Statute itself.

85. The type of committee he had in mind would make no real sense unless it were widely enough based to correct certain representational defects due either to a faulty original approach or to an imbalance brought on by changed circumstances. The imbalance of which he spoke might be tolerable at the present stage of the Agency's work, but it would definitely have to be corrected for the future. That, at least, was the view of the Spanish delegation, and he would be glad to see it shared by others. If in the course of the General Conference some more definite plan were to emerge, similar in substance to the ideas he had expressed, Spain would study it with care and goodwill, in a sincere desire to see the Agency successfully discharging the new responsibilities with which it was now faced.

86. Mr. YEN (China) said that his country had been watching with interest the activities of the Agency and that part of the planned programme for the current year which had been completed.

It was gratifying to note that in addition to the various projects carried out in many Member States and regions during 1968, the Agency had been sending experts in nuclear sciences and reactor technology all over the world.

87. During the past year the Republic of China had been continuing its various projects in research and development to promote the peaceful uses of atomic energy. It had found a vast area for the application of nuclear energy in the improvement of agriculture. The radiotracer technique had been widely applied in the study of plant nutrition and in soil science, entomology and plant physiology. Particular attention was also being paid to the industrial application of radioisotopes. Several local manufacturers were already using radioisotopes for quality control. A 3000-Ci cobalt-60 unit, which had been installed under the Agency's technical assistance programme, had been used extensively in the study of radiation effects on plastics and in food preservation. Twenty different isotopes were now being produced in the Tsing-Hua swimming-pool reactor, 95% of them for medical purposes. Many scientists and college students were engaged in basic research work on nuclear physics, radiochemistry, inelastic scattering of neutrons, the neutron energy spectrum and activation analysis. In all those activities, the Republic of China very much appreciated the Agency's technical assistance. In view of the contribution it made to the Agency's budget, he expected that Agency assistance to his country would not only continue but would expand.

88. The Chinese delegation to the eleventh session of the General Conference had reported on China's plan for its first power reactor, of 500 MW(e) <sup>19</sup>. Extensive studies on the feasibility of nuclear power in Taiwan and the investigation of several possible sites had been carried out in the current year. Nuclear power was essential to his country and the first nuclear project was very close to realization.

89. The Republic of China had placed its reactors under the Agency's safeguards system and was already a signatory to the NPT. It was ready to co-operate with the Agency in any plan for the peaceful use of atomic energy.

90. A successful "Atoms in Action Exhibition" jointly sponsored by the United States Atomic Energy Commission and the Chinese Atomic Energy Council had been held in his country early in 1968.

91. The Republic of China supported the Agency's budget for 1969, and would again make a voluntary contribution of \$10 000.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid, para.60.

<sup>19</sup> GC(XI)/OR.115, paras 106 and 107.

## CLOSING DATE OF THE SESSION

92. The PRESIDENT recalled that under Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure the General Conference had to fix a closing date for the session, on the recommendation of the General Committee.

93. The General Committee had considered the question and had authorized him to recommend on its behalf that Monday, 30 September, be fixed as the closing date, subject to all business having been disposed of by then.

94. *The General Committee's recommendation was accepted.*

*The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.*

