GC

International Atomic Energy Agency

General Conference

GC(XIII)/OR.131
23 January 1970

GENERAL Distr.

ENGLISH

RECORDS OF THE THIRTEENTH REGULAR SESSION (23-29 SEPTEMBER 1969)

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Neue Hofburg, Vienna,
on Friday, 26 September 1969, at 10.45 a.m.

President: Mr. TORKI (Tunisia)

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* GC(XIII)/418.

The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document GC(XIII)/INF/114/Rev.2.

CLOSING DATE OF THE SESSION

1. 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.

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

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

GENERAL DEBATE AND REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR 1968-69 (GC(XIII)/404, 416) (continued)

4. Sir Philip BAXTER (Australia) said his delegation had appreciated the support and helpful co-operation Australia had received from the Director General and his staff throughout the past year and looked forward to the confirmation of the former's reappointment, as recommended by the Board. It also gratefully acknowledged its cordial and helpful relationships in the peaceful uses of atomic energy with the United States of America, Canada, the United Kingdom and France, countries with which it had formal collaboration agreements, which provided for exchanges of information, materials and personnel and which were an essential part of its nuclear programme. There was also a number of other countries with which it had fruitfully collaborated. All that collaboration had been, and continued to be, of great benefit to Australia.

5. Australia's co-operation with New Zealand continued to follow its established and useful pattern and would no doubt be extended as the two countries' nuclear programmes progressed. Immediately before he had left for Vienna, the annual conference of the two countries had been held in Australia, when such matters as regulatory procedures for nuclear power, radiation chemistry and radioisotopes had been discussed.

6. Australia's association with Japan in the nuclear field had been developing in a very satisfactory way. Discussions with the Japanese Atomic Energy Commission had been valuable and promising. Visits had been made by Commissioners and senior officers from his country for discussions with the Japanese Atomic Energy Commission in Tokyo, at Tokai Mura and Takasaki, and with Japaness universities, on such subjects as radiation chemistry, metallurgy and isotopes. Those activities had all been worthwhile, and there were opportunities for that co-operation to grow. The Australian Atomic Energy Commission had warmly welcomed representatives of the Japanese Atomic Energy Commission to Australia.

7. The Australian Atomic Energy Commission had signed an agreement the previous June with the Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique (CEA) (French Atomic Energy Commission) for co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy. This formalized the long-standing scientific and technical co-operation between the two bodies in many fields of nuclear energy. Some of Australia's Commissioners and senior officers had made fruitful visits to CEA and to nuclear installations in France, and training facilities had been made available at CEA's Research Centre at Cadarache. Those developments were very encouraging and it was hoped to extend them as opportunity offered.

8. There had long been fruitful collaboration with India in various areas of atomic energy research, with exchanges of personnel and information between Trombay and Lucas Heights, and in the carrying out of joint projects. Areas of common interest had been in reactor operations, fission physics, radioisotope production and disposal of radioactive waste. His delegation greatly valued those exchanges, which were of mutual benefit.

9. The Australian Atomic Energy Commission's Executive Member had returned recently from a journey which had taken him to France, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany. His purpose had been to draw on the experience of those countries in specific matters connected with Australia's nuclear power plans, and the Commission greatly appreciated the way in which the sought-for information and wise counsel had been provided.

10. A useful exchange of publications and scientific literature took place with Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland, and, to a somewhat lesser extent, with Bulgaria, Romania and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. His delegation believed that exchanges of that type were of mutual benefit. It did not overlook the catalytic role of the Agency, nor the role that the contacts which were made at its meetings played in futhering international co-operation of that kind.

11. The Australian School of Nuclear Technology, located at the Research Establishment near Sydney had, amongst its many other activities, conducted a course the previous July on the siting and safety assessment of nuclear facilities. It had been very well attended not only by the Commission's staff and the staff of Australian electricity generating authorities, but by students from overseas, mostly from South East Asian countries, who were always welcome. The Australian authorities were grateful to the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom for their generosity in making available such distinguished guest lecturers as Dr. Richard L. Doan, Mr. Guest Hake and Mr. F. R. Farmer, who were the leading world experts in that field.

12. It would be recalled that in March that year, the Director General had asked Member States to give him their views on the procedures the Agency might employ in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear explosions and had also set out a very well-reasoned analysis of the role the Agency might play in that field. The Director General's concept was in close accord with his delegation's views. The Agency should not be entitled to intervene, adjudicate or arbitrate in matters of peaceful nuclear explosions unless it was asked to do so by both the countries concerned. The system proposed by the Director General should lead to efficiency and economy. His view that the Agency should let its role in that new field evolve rather than try to determine it in advance, was sound and was one with which his delegation fully agreed. It was worth noting, perhaps, that because of the early state of development of that particular technology, the Agency had time to make a full and practical appraisal of its potentialities.

13. The Australian delegation believed the International Nuclear Information System (INIS) to be of much significance in the future development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. There had been dispute over the formulation of the system, but a position seemed to have been reached where INIS could go forward in a form which was acceptable to most Member States. There were bound to be some initial difficulties in an undertaking of that magnitude, and it might well be found that major changes would be required as operational experience was built up. Nevertheless his delegation was delighted to note a general recognition of the essential merit of the system, which would bring to developing countries the distilled substance of the combined research of more developed countries.

14. The sum of knowledge in atomic energy went on increasing at a formidable rate, and the potential benefits for mankind inherent in all that knowledge would seem limitless. The difficult problem was becoming not only that of increasing technical knowledge, but of finding a way to use that knowledge to the best effect. It would be vital to have a comprehensive information storage and retrieval system that would enable that large and invaluable fund of knowledge to be readily available to all Member States. His delegation looked forward, therefore, to the development of the INIS programme as an essential function of the Agency.

15. With regard to the question of revising Article VI of the Statute, his delegation, recognizing the pressures for change that had become so evident at the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States (CNNWS) held in Geneva the previous year, and subsequently, considered that it would be undesirable to attempt a major reorganization of the Board's structure. The present structure had been finally determined only after protracted and tortuous discussions; it had worked quite well and smoothly and it would be very difficult to arrive at a consensus for a drastic change. Some change, however, might well prove to be inevitable and desirable. Perhaps that might best be brought about by increasing representation on the Board through adding some elective seats. To depart from the existing basic principles of designated nations and geographical representation might be inequitable and unwise. Because of the special nature of nuclear science and technology, his delegation considered that the geographical areas wisely determined by the framers of the Statute should stand as they were. The Agency was neither one of the specialized agencies of the United Nations, nor was it called upon to conform with the political groupings used in that organization. His delegation approved the Board's decision to continue the study of Article VI as an urgent matter and to request the Chairman of the Board to reconvene the Ad Hoc Committee for that purpose as early as convenient.

16. Turning then to a point of some importance he had raised at the Board's June series of meetings, namely the question of the relationship of the Agency to the United Nations, he said that the Agency was constituted as a responsible authority in its own right under the terms of its Statute. It was not accountable to the United Nations in the same was as were the specialized agencies; there was a tendency to misunderstand that position, and several times during the current session the Agency had been referred to as if it was a specialized agency. The trend seemed to have become more marked since the increase in activity on nuclear matters in the General Assembly of the United Nations which had given rise to CNNWS.

17. Under Article XVI.A of the Statute, the Board was authorized, with the approval of the General Conference, to enter into an agreement or agreements establishing an appropriate relationship between the Agency and the United Nations and any other organizations the work of which was related to that of the Agency. However, neither the Board nor the staff of the Agency should seek or receive instructions from any source external to the Agency.

18. Article III.B of the Statute provided that the Agency should conduct its activities in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations and that it should send an annual report to that body. That was right and proper as a matter of communication.

19. The Agency had wide membership and support and had all the equipment, staff and experience to carry out its objectives as laid down in the Statute. His delegation would like to feel assured that the considerations which gave rise to the development of the Agency, and its responsibilities and functions, were clearly recognized.

20. Since he had outlined Australia's progress in the technical fields of nuclear power, nuclear fuels and radioactive isotopes at some length the previous year[1], all that need be said was that all those activities had continued at an increasing tempo and were making very satisfactory progress.

21. The Australian delegation approved the annual report to the General Conference by the Board of Governors.

22. Mr. ISTINYELI (Turkey) said that his delegation was happy to see Ireland become a Member of the Agency.

23. In the view of his Government, 1969 heralded a new era in the Agency's history. The reorganization required to enable the Agency to discharge the new functions arising from recent developments — which his country had followed with great interest — had been started.

24. During the past year his Government had endeavoured to make an effective and positive contribution to the work of the Agency, while at the same time paying heed to the interests and needs of the developing countries.

25. It had signed the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in token of its sincere desire to see nuclear energy used exclusively for peaceful purposes and as a contribution to bringing about a general lessening of tension.

26. However, at the time of signing, his Government had issued a statement expressing concern about the points the Treaty had failed to cover.

27. The implications of NPT would be so far-reaching that they should be closely studied by Member States and by the Agency. There could be no doubt that the Treaty was creating a delicate balance which the Agency would have to bear carefully in mind in its future work.

28. He considered that as well as taking the necessary action to help Member States fulfil their obligations under NPT, the Agency should also endeavour to assist them in the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

29. As his delegation had repeatedly stated during previous sessions and in the Board, it was imperative that the balance between the Agency's different activities should be maintained since its resources were limited and the new responsibilities and functions being entrusted to it tended to change the balance to the detriment of those activities which were of most direct interest to the developing countries.

1) GC(XII)/OR.120, paras 92 to 98.

30. For instance, the 1970 budget would allocate considerably more funds to Agency safeguards. Modest preliminary estimates showed that expenditure by the Agency on safeguards under NPT would be $15-20 million in 1975 and would probably rise to $30 million in 1980 and between $40 million and $69 million in 1990. The question therefore was, what means the Agency should employ to find a new criterion for financing expenditure arising from the application of safeguards?

31. Furthermore, the Secretariat should draw up the model agreement referred to in Article III, paragraph 4 of NPT, as the legislative bodies of some Member States, including his own, would like, before ratifying the Treaty, to consider the scope of the provisions of the agreement provided for in that Article.

32. As the Director General had said in his statement, 1969 was the year of the non-nuclear-weapon States. The resolutions adopted by CNNWS and approved by an overwhelming majority of representatives in the General Assembly of the United Nations referred to several articles of NPT and indicated guidelines for their implementation. The subjects of some of those resolutions had been studied by the Board and were on the agenda of the present session.

33. His delegation supported the conclusions contained in the reports on the Agency's responsibility to provide services in connection with nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes[2], the review of Article VI of the Statute[3] and the fund of special fissionable materials[4].

34. The financing of nuclear projects had been debated in the Board and had been studied in depth by the group of experts appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to prepare a full report on all possible contributions of nuclear technology to the economic and scientific advancement of the developing countries[5]. In its report, the group of experts had said that the complex problem of the financing of nuclear projects should be carefully considered by the General Assembly of the United Nations and by other competent organizations with a view to finding appropriate solutions[6].

35. His delegation therefore considered that the General Conference should adopt a resolution on that topic.

2) GC(XIII)/410.
3) GC(XIII)/408 and 415.
4) GC(XIII)/409.
5) Pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 2456 A (XXIII).
6) See United Nations document A/7568, para. 262.

36. In several countries the inadequacy of nuclear legislation was seriously hampering the development of nuclear activities. That was an important domain in which the Agency could make a substantial contribution. In that connection, he commended the efforts it had already made to codify nuclear legislation.

37. As the Fourth International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy would be attended by administrators and economists as well as scientists, he would like to suggest to the Director General that he should propose a special meeting at which the Conference would deal with the question of nuclear legislation.

38. Mr. HIRAIZUMI (Japan) said that his delegation sincerely hoped that the General Conference would approve the appointment of Dr. Eklund as Director General so that the Agency could have the benefit of his continued service in starting a new and important phase of its development.

39. A particularly significant development in Japan was the changing image of atomic energy in the minds of the Japanese people in general. As a natural consequence of the events which had taken place in the closing months of the Second World War, the Japanese people had long entertained a strong resentment towards atomic weapons and, more generally, had developed a keen sensitivity to possible dangerous effects of atomic energy.

40. Strong opposition by the residents around the sites proposed for the installation of new nuclear facilities had not been a rare occurrence. Being aware that atomic energy, if not properly controlled, could be a danger to human lives, the Government had made, and was continuously making, every effort to ensure safe operation of nuclear installations, paying particular attention to environmental problems. At the same time, it had always considered it important to gain the general understanding and collaboration of the public in that matter by providing it with as much information as possible concerning the technical measures taken to ensure the safety of nuclear facilities. He was pleased to say that safety measures and the degree of public understanding had now reached a fairly advanced stage. To give one recent example: the residents in the vicinity of a nuclear power plant and the company operating the plant had entered into an agreement that monitoring stations would be installed around the site and that the radioactivity in the environment would be jointly ascertained so that the residents would have no cause for suspicion and doubts as to the safety of the plant.

41. There was evidence that the Japanese people were, to an increasing extent, building up a more balanced picture of atomic energy. During a recent survey of public opinion on nuclear energy, one of the question asked had related to the individual's reaction on hearing the words "nuclear energy". According to the results, 35% of the people, twice the figure obtained in a similar survey carried out a year earlier, appeared to take a favourable view of peaceful uses such as nuclear power generation, the nuclear-powered propulsion of ships and the irradiation of food or plants. On the other hand, the percentage of those who had rather a gloomy picture of atomic energy, associating it with atomic bombs or nuclear weapons, had been definitely lower than a year previously. Furthermore, when the Science and Technology Agency of the Japanese Government had sponsored an essay contest for high-school students in 1968 on the topic, "What do you expect from the peaceful use of atomic energy?", a great number of students had participated; they had been quite eager to express their keen interest in and high hopes for the future of the constructive uses of atomic energy.

42. In Japan all were convinced that a keen interest in the problems of safety was and would remain one of the indispensable prerequisites for a succesful development of the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

43. Turning to some of the highlights in the peaceful uses of atomic energy in Japan during the past 12 months, he recalled that in April 1968 the Power Reactor and Nuclear Fuel Development Corporation had formulated its first basic programme for the development of new types of power reactors. The preliminary designing of a prototype fast breeder reactor had already started, while the development of an advanced thermal reactor had progressed to the stage of second design, and construction sites for both reactors had been tentatively selected.

44. Projects for building nuclear power stations had moved steadily forward. A total of five power reactors with an aggregate electrical output of 2.4 million kW was under construction. If other construction plans were taken into consideration, Japan's nuclear power generation capacity world reach around 8 million kW(e) by the end of the fiscal year 1975 and 30 million to 40 million kW(e) in the fiscal year 1985. It could thus be said that the foundation was being laid for nuclear power to emerge as a primary source of energy in Japan in the near future.

45. The demand for nuclear fuels was expected to rise sharply with further development in nuclear power generation. It had therefore been decided in August 1968 to authorize private bodies to possess special nuclear materials, such as enriched uranium and plutonium. Meanwhile, the Power Reactor and Nuclear Fuel Development Corporation and the private enterprises concerned were exploring overseas

uranium markets in an effort to secure a more stable supply of nuclear fuel.

46. Work on the hull of Japan's first nuclear-propelled ship had begun in November 1968, and the vessel had been launched in June 1969. After it had been fitted out with an atomic power reactor, the ship was expected to make its maiden voyage in January 1972.

47. There was no doubt that atomic energy had a noble role to play in the promotion of the welfare and happiness of all mankind, today and in the future. It could be expected to continue and intensify that role on a world-wide basis with harmonious co-operation between all the countries concerned and under effective guidance from the Agency.

48. It was for that reason that the Japanese delegation wished to emphasize that no handicaps should be imposed upon any State in respect of research into and development of the peaceful uses of atomic energy. It was against any idea or proposal which would allow distinctions or discrimination between nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon States to creep into the realm of the peaceful uses of atomic energy. It was obviously equally important that there should be no discrimination between developed and developing countries in respect of the inherent right to enjoy the benefits of the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

49. Japan had been the first country to accept the Agency's safeguards, and all of its 22 reactors were now subject to them. His delegation fully supported the Agency's safeguards system and hoped that all States would agree to make their nuclear facilities subject to it.

50. In that context, Japan welcomed the official commitment undertaken by the Governments of the United States and the United Kingdom, both nuclear-weapon States, to place voluntarily their nuclear facilities for peaceful purposes under the Agency's safeguards once NPT entered into force and hoped that other nuclear-weapon States would follow their example as soon as possible.

51. According to the estimate given in the Board's annual report, the world's nuclear power capacity would reach 110 000 MW(e) by 1975 and 300-350 000 MW(e) by 1980 (GC(XIII)/404, para. 64). An increase in power generation would naturally mean an increased number of nuclear power facilities in many parts of the world which would require the application of safeguards by the Agency. If the Agency was to perform its safeguards functions effectively under such circumstances, it would be imperative to work out rational and efficient safeguards and apply them with maximum cost-effectiveness, since the whole system of the Agency's safeguards would otherwise in all probability be seriously encumbered, if not totally crippled, by the rapidly mounting technical burdens in the not very distant future.

52. In that connection, he wished to pay a high tribute to the pioneering efforts of the Agency. Specifically, his delegation attached great significance to the attempt to design a system that was to serve as a universally applicable criterion for the objective international application of safeguards to the flow of nuclear materials for peaceful purposes. It felt that the type of system which would enable the maximum efficiency to be achieved with minimum cost might include the concept of verification or audit of national or multi-national systems by the Agency. Another important requirement of the safeguards system, besides it effectiveness, was equality between nuclear- and non-nuclear-weapon States. Such equality should also prevail among non-nuclear-weapon States themselves.

53. Another matter which the Japanese delegation considered particularly important in the face of the new and more advanced stage of development of the peaceful uses of atomic energy was the transfer of nuclear information. It was firmly convinced that the smooth international transfer of scientific and technical nuclear information, including information of commercial value, was one of the prerequisites for further progress in the peaceful use of atomic energy. In that connection, his delegation wished to draw attention to the resolution of CNNWS which invited the nuclear-weapon States to advise the Agency as to the possibility of their declassifying scientific and technical information as soon as there was no longer any reason for its classification[7].

54. Special consideration should be given to the role to be played by the Agency in connection with the international transfer of nuclear information. In that respect, the Japanese delegation subscribed to the views expressed in the Agency's report to the Secretary-General of the United Nations relating to recommendations made by CNNWS[8]. Obviously, it was important to promote the exchange of scientific and technical information derived from the peaceful application of nuclear explosions, the potential benefits of which were expected to be made available, by appropriate international arrangements, to non-nuclear-weapon States. He would not, however, dwell on that important subject as the detailed views of the Japanese Government had already been presented to the Agency and were set out in various documents.

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7) United Nations document A/7277, Resolution H.I.3.
8) GC(XIII)/INF/110, paras 42 to 65.

55. His delegation attached great importance to to the problem of altering the composition of the Board of Governors. It considered that the expansion in the size of the Board should be as modest as practicable in order to maintain the efficiency with which the Board had been successfully discharging its responsibilities. At the same time it wished to emphasize the need for a fair distribution of the Board's membership among geographical areas, including Asia.

56. In concluding, he wished to express once again the sincere hope of the Japanese Government that the Agency, in conformity with Article VIII of the Statute, would take truly positive steps to encourage the exchange of information relating to the peaceful uses of atomic energy and would serve as a good and effective intermediary among its Members for that purpose. In that way the Agency would discharge its noble duty to contribute to world peace and the happiness of all mankind.

57. Mr. DOSTROVSKY (Israel), after expressing his delegation's approval of the Board's decision to appoint Dr. Eklund as Director General for a further term, said that a disquieting aspect of the report of the Board of Governors for 1968-69 was the clear indication that the gap between the resources available for technical assistance and the need for such assistance was steadily increasing. More than that, it appeared that in terms of real value even the absolute amount of those resources was decreasing. It was clear that if that trend was allowed to continue, the Agency would, in effect, be phasing out its technical assistance programmes. Undoubtedly a day would come when those programmes could be terminated but surely that day was far in the future.

58. Moreover, the decreasing ability of the Agency to tackle technical assistance effectively came at a time when the Agency's resources were strained by the ever increasing number of fields in which it was active. The increased burden of the safeguards programme was but one such example. His Government hoped that the various efforts which were being made to redress the situation would bear fruit and that the Agency would be able to continue as an important factor in advancing the science and technology of nuclear energy, and would not be relegated merely to the role of a world policeman. His Government, for its part, continued to pledge its support of the General Fund and again offered fellowships to the value of 45 man-months.

59. One of the new activities was INIS. Israel welcomed the progress made in that regard and intended to participate very actively in the work of INIS.

60. The Israeli delegation welcomed the attention given by the Board and its Ad Hoc Committee to the review of Article VI of the Statute. It was essential for any dynamic organization to examine its own machinery from time to time to determine its suitability to changing circumstances. There had been a growing feeling among most delegations in the past few years that the original Statute was failing to meet the pressures of time. That feeling had found its expression in General Conference Resolution GC(XII)/RES/241. That did not mean that the basic tenets of the founding fathers had been found wanting. On the contrary, they were just as valid today as 13 years ago, but the way they were implemented was certainly inadequate.

61. His delegation understood that the Board and its Ad Hoc Committee required further time to study the question of the composition of the Board, and it certainly did not wish them to carry out anything but the most thorough examination. After all, revision of a statute was a complicated process which was not undertaken at frequent intervals or lightheartedly. For that very reason it was essential for the Board to approach the problem with open minds and not be satisfied with minor palliatives which would have only short-term effects.

62. The suggestion that there should be a modest increase in the number of Members was in itself not necessarily an adequate solution, and could easily become just such a temporary palliative. After all, on the assumption that what one was trying to achieve was an equitable system where all Members of the Agency had an equal chance of participating in its work, each according to his ability, a mere increase in membership was not the only, or even the most effective, way of achieving that. Certainly nobody claimed that efficiency was increased by increasing the size of an organization. So the aim should be to find the system which would achieve the basic purpose with a minimum increase in membership, and he hoped that in the studies to be carried out in the coming year all possibilities would be examined.

63. Before concluding, he wished to welcome Ireland as a new Member of the Agency.

64. Mr. YEN (China) said that his country had been following with keen interest the swift and steady increase in the applications of atomic energy. An important development had been the conclusion of NPT, and his delegation noted with satisfaction the Agency's willingness to assume the responsibilities which would desolve upon it under that treaty. When China's first research reactor had gone into operation eight years earlier, the President of the country had emphasized that its purpose was to advance research and development in the peaceful uses of atomic energy, to promote public welfare

and to raise the standard of living. Those aims had also been clearly specified in China's bilateral agreement with the United States. Later, the responsibility for safeguarding operations with the reactor had been transferred to the Agency.

65. As he had reported at the preceding session, owing to a shortage of natural energy resources in the area, his Government was already planning the erection of the first of a series of nuclear power plants[9]. Further progress had been made on that project and commercial negotiations relating to the selection of the supplier of a 500-MW(e) nuclear plant of the light water type were under way. A decision would be made in the very near future. It was hoped to have the plant in commercial operation by 1975. A project for constructing a materials testing reactor of the heavy water type had been started during the present month. In accordance with the policy to which he had referred and in compliance with the Statute, the Agency would be requested to apply its safeguards to those reactors and facilities as well.

66. He wished to express his Government's deep appreciation of and wholehearted support for, the Agency's activity in promoting regional and interregional co-operation in research and development in the field of nuclear science. The Republic of China had been privileged to participate in a number of regional programmes, including projects concerned with the gamma irradiation of wood-plastics, food preservation by means of radiation, applications of hot-atom chemistry to isotope production, in-pile dosimetry and solid-state physics.

67. The Chinese delegation also wished to express its appreciation of such Agency activities as the establishment of INIS, the sponsorship and organization of important and timely symposia and meetings on various subjects, and the provision to Member States of the services of technical experts, equipment, fellowships and research contracts. The Republic of China was happy to be associated with those activities, which contributed to peace and to the development of a better world and a better life for all mankind.

68. On the subject of voluntary contributions, his Government, in response to the Agency's requests, was prepared to make a contribution of $10 000 in cash and also to place $10 000 worth of domestically manufactured nuclear electronic training equipment at the Agency's disposal for 1970. That contribution was double the one for the previous year, which in its turn had been twice the contribution for 1966. Those increases were a concrete, even though slight, token of his country's interest in the work of the Agency and of its appreciation of the services which the Agency had rendered not only to China but to all mankind.

69. Mr. NEUMANN (Czechoslovakia) said that progress in the Agency's work and the results achieved would depend on the general political atmosphere in the world, on the level of mutual confidence between States and on their readiness to respect present-day political realities. From that point of view it would be useful for the Agency's work if a part could be played in its activities by States like the German Democratic Republic, which wished to become full-fledged Members and which, through their activities, gave continuous evidence that they were ready and able to make their due contribution to the world community - and in the present case, to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

70. A very important factor in the future work of the Agency would be NPT and for that reason he wished to make a few comments on the activities of the Agency in connection with the tasks which it would have to assume when that Treaty came into force. The Treaty had already been signed by some 90 States but thus far it had been ratified by only 20 out of the necessary 43. The President of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic with the approval of the Federal Assembly, had ratified the Treaty in June 1969. The Czechoslovak delegation therefore recommended that an appeal should be made to other Governments to accede to the Treaty and to accelerate their ratification procédures, so that the Treaty could come into force as soon as possible and that its objectives could thus be implemented. In that connection the Czechoslovak Government could not fail to call attention to the fact that the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany had thus far not signed the Treaty. It was evident that its accession would contribute to an improvement in the present political situation, especially in Europe, and also to the preparation for negotiations on European security.

71. NPT would confront the Agency with important tasks, arising from the fact that it would be the organ for supervising implementation of the Treaty. The Czechoslovak delegation proceeded on the basic assumption that the application of the Agency's safeguards system was the main prerequisite for the development of broad co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. It was therefore essential that the Agency should submit for the consideration of its Member States at an early date a model agreement on the implementation of controls, as provided in NPT. In the same connection, it would be necessary to work out a methodology and a unified system of technical and administrative procedures for carrying out inspections.

72. An effort should also be made to ensure that different approaches to those problems by Member

9) GC(XII)/OR.122, para. 88.

States did not have the effect of interfering with the development of standard methods of control. The Secretariat should not attach excessive importance to research and development work relating to safeguards procedures for large automated processes or devote less attention to the elaboration of suitable procedures for small- and medium-scale processes, which were what a majority of the Member States were concerned with.

73. The thirteenth session of the General Conference should ask the Board and the Director General to give priority consideration in 1970 to the swift elaboration of a model agreement.

74. Since certain delegations had expressed their views concerning the need for reviewing the composition of the Board, he wished to state that the Czechoslovak delegation appreciated the work of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole to Review Article VI of the Statute. His country had not been one of the initiators of that review but it had recognized that a considerable number of Members, especially from the developing countries, were requesting certain changes. The task of the Ad Hoc Committee in the period ahead would be to reconcile the highly conflicting opinions concerning ways of broadening the present composition of the Board. In considering the review of Article VI, it should always be borne in mind that the purpose of the review was to ensure that the Agency would become an even stronger organization. It was essential that the Agency should be a viable organization, especially now when it would have to assume new duties in connection with safeguards. Any change in the composition of the Board should therefore take due account of those new functions. The Czechoslovak delegation fully agreed with the preceding speakers who, while favouring the idea of a review of Article VI, called for a responsible and reasonable approach to the problem.

75. On the subject of the draft budget, his delegation drew attention to the importance, as in the preceding year, of paying attention to balancing the budget. Although it supported an increase in expenditure in connection with implementation of the safeguards system and INIS, it believed that the rise in the budget for the current year was disproportionate.

76. The Czechoslovak delegation approved the start of work, as provided for in Resolution GC(XII)/RES/245, on studies relating to the Agency's functions in connection with nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes. An exchange of information and its circulation to Member States was the first stage in the preparations which the Agency would have to carry out in the implementation of those important functions under NPT. His delegation welcomed the general support for the principle that those activities should be undertaken by the Agency, the present organizational structure of which was fully capable of performing the tasks assigned to it.

77. He wished to stress that his delegation was in favour of expanding the INIS project. However, it recommended that the Secretariat should accelerate the preparatory work and that the Member States should receive, not later than at the end of the present year, the full authorization and guidance required for preparing input. Only in that way could INIS begin its work by 1 May 1970 with the processing of data published as from 1 January 1970. His country had already stated officially that it would participate and it was prepared, as in the past, to take part in joint work on the expansion of INIS.

78. Under the existing technical assistance programme his Government was making available in 1970 equipment worth 150 000 crowns for the developing countries, and it renewed its offer of five long-term fellowships for study at higher educational institutes in Czechoslovakia and for four one-year fellowships for study and work in research institutes and facilities of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. It was again offering to organize one of the Agency's scientific conferences, symposia or series of courses on practical work.

79. In principle, his delegation approved the overall activity of the Agency during the past year and also its programme for 1969-1974.

80. In conclusion, he wished to say that his country, in keeping with its policy of peaceful international co-operation, would continue its co-operation with the Agency in the future and contribute, to the best of its ability, to the fulfilment of its mission.

81. Mr. REITBAUER (Austria) referred to the fact that several speakers had said that NPT would serve as a stimulus to the Agency. That view was shared by the Austrian delegation because of the explicit or implicit role the Agency would be called upon to play in the implementation of the Treaty. The Agency, whose mandate as laid down in the Statute was "to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world" and to ensure that the assistance provided by and through the Agency was not diverted to military purposes, had been the principal international forum for discussion relating to the peaceful uses of the atom. It was his delegation's wish that the Agency should retain that function.

82. The Austrian Government continued to take great interest in the Agency's safeguards activities, and his delegation welcomed the creation of the Division of Development within the Department of Safeguards and Inspection. In the Austrian view,

that demonstrated the Agency's willingness to contribute, in collaboration with Member States, to the development of effective safeguards methods and technology. His Government had noted with satisfaction the formal training course for new safeguards inspectors that had been held in June 1969, which it considered an important step in the right direction. Like other delegations, the Austrian delegation recognized the need to establish a corps of safeguards inspectors, who should be offered long-term careers in order to be able to fulfil their tasks effectively.

83. On 20 August 1969 the United States, the Agency and Austria had signed a new safeguards transfer agreement. The new agreement implicitly expressed the full support of the Austrian Government for the Agency's safeguards system, the importance of which was certain to increase further with the expected entry into force of NPT.

84. While it was making progress with regard to safeguards, the Agency was facing increasing difficulties in meeting the requests for the provision of technical assistance to developing countries. The Board's report showed that the value of requests had risen from $1.5 million in 1962 to $3.7 million in 1969, while the percentage of requests approved had fallen from about 50% to little more than 25% (GC(XIII)/404), para. 17 and Table 2). The Austrian delegation deplored that development and shared the view expressed by other delegations that the chronic shortage of funds was one of the most serious problems facing the Agency. Austria believed that more countries should be prepared to contribute to the General Fund in order to narrow the continuing gap between the funds pledged and the actual needs. Only then would the Agency be able to fulfil one of its foremost tasks. Austria was therefore willing to contribute, as in past years, on the basis of the assessed budget ratio to the General Fund, subject to parliamentary approval. The Austrian Government did not exclude the possibility of a further increase in its voluntary contribution, if other countries were prepared to adopt the same attitude.

85. The Director General had mentioned that the Agency was carrying out an investigation into the technical and cost aspects of small and medium-sized power reactors[10]. The Austrian delegation attached great importance to that investigation, not only because the possible development of small and medium-sized power reactors would, in view of the reduced costs of construction, allow a more rapid narrowing of the gap between the developed and developing countries, but also because small industrial countries with limited financial resources would benefit.

10) GC(XIII)/OR.127, para. 37.

86. As regards the budget of the Agency, it was proposed to increase the Regular Budget by about $1 million or 8.8%; the Austrian delegation had taken note, with some concern, of that increase, which was due largely to adjustments of salaries and wages. It recognized, however, that the Agency's responsibilities were increasing rapidly, in particular with regard to safeguards and INIS, a project which it fully supported, and that the extra staff required would necessitate higher appropriations. The Austrian delegation welcomed the introduction in the Agency's budget for 1970 of a separate section grouping all expenditure relating to safeguards under a single heading; that would certainly permit a better understanding of the expenditure involved in applying safeguards, and would allow a fuller appreciation of the Agency's policy in that respect.

87. In the light of the increased membership of the Agency and of the remarkable progress in various countries in the technological, scientific and economic fields, but above all in the light of the future obligations of the Agency under NPT and of the extensive responsibility vested in the Board with regard to the problems of safeguards it was understandable that there should be considerable concern about the nature and composition of the Board and consequently about the representation in the Agency as a whole. The wishes of the developing countries for better representation of their respective areas on the Board were justified, but it was not possible either to ignore the remarkable progress and impressive achievements of some Member States in nuclear technology and their considerable contribution to the Agency's technical assistance programme.

88. Agreement had been reached on the need for a modest expansion of the Board. Austria felt that for the time being the Italian proposal best reflected the criteria formulated by the twelfth General Conference, and could well serve as a basis for further discussions, particularly as the Italian delegation had said that it was ready to consider improvements and amendments. Austria sincerely hoped that it would be possible to find a generally acceptable solution in the coming months.

89. Turning to the Agency's role in connection with nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes, he said that the relevant technology was still at an early stage. That use of nuclear energy did, however, constitute a major hope for development and prosperity. The Board's report on the subject was an excellent survey of what the Agency could undertake in the future in that connection.

90. Austria was firmly convinced that the activities of the Agency in that respect fell within its statutory objectives and that they were within its technical competence. At the present stage of technological

development in that field the Agency should devote its attention initially to the exchange and dissemination of information, for which the present organizational structure seemed to be appropriate and adequate.

91. He then turned to the atomic energy programme in Austria. He pointed out that research and development work had been carried on for many years. That the construction of a nuclear power plant was only now being considered was partly due to the fact that hydrolectric power stations had hitherto played a primary role in Austria's economy. Austria hoped to be able to have the first nuclear power station of about 350 or 600 MW(e) operating by 1975. Studies had been concentrated on the question of the site and on the ways and means of ensuring effective and extensive participation by Austrian industry in the construction of the plant.

92. In view of the federal structure of Austria some problems regarding the organization of the future power station had had to be solved, since it would be run jointly by several utility companies.

93. In conclusion, he wished to inform the Conference on the progress made in the Donaupark project. In the international competition for architects from all over the world, which had been jointly run by the Federal Government of Austria and the city of Vienna with the object of finding an urban-planning solution to the question of the Headquarters of the Agency and UNIDO and an Austrian conference centre in the Donaupark, a decision had been taken on 23 September 1969.

94. The international jury had had to make its choice, in several sessions, from more than 250 projects; the final decision had been made public at a press conference on 24 September 1969 in the presence of representatives of the Agency and UNIDO.

95. The first prize had been awarded to the project submitted by Cesar Pelli and Partners, Victor Gruen Associates, United States of America. The second prize had gone to the project presented by the Building Design Partnership, United Kingdom. The third prize had been awarded to the project of Messrs. Novotny and Mähner, Federal Republic of Germany. An Austrian architect, Mr. Staber, had qualified for the fourth prize.

96. Five supplementary awards of S150000 each had been granted to three architects from the United States, one from Switzerland and one from France.

97. The models and plans of the successful projects as well as the plans of all projects submitted would be displayed in a public exhibition from 1-20 October 1969 in the Donaupark.

98. Mr. ANDRZEJEWSKI (Poland) considered that the conclusion of NPT had been a very important recent development. His country attached importance to the implementation of that Treaty, which would be a powerful factor in the interest of world peace, international collaboration in the peaceful uses of atomic energy and, hence, the improvement of man's living conditions. On 12 June 1969 the Polish Council of State had ratified NPT, thus expressing its strong desire to see it come into force - which development was a prerequisite for the Agency's activities and for increased participation by the nuclear Powers in the service of peace and humanity. Unfortunately, there were countries which had not ratified the Treaty and which were even taking action against it. Those countries included Members of the Agency which were advanced in nuclear science.

99. It was to be hoped that the process of ratifying NPT would proceed more rapidly. No Member of the Agency or other country making extensive use of the results of nuclear science should fail to play its part in the implementation of that historic Treaty. It was paradoxical that the German Democratic Republic, with its highly developed technology, was not a Member of the Agency, which it was generally recognized should be universal and non-political in character. That state of affairs should be changed as quickly as possible and the German Democratic Republic, which had recently ratified NPT and whose achievements in the atomic field had been dealt with at length in the document presented to the General Conference by his delegation[11], should be admitted to the Agency.

100. There was an essential link between implementation of NPT and the Agency's activities in respect both of control of fissionable materials and the installations where they were stored and of the peaceful use of nuclear explosives. His Government supported the work the Agency had done so far in those areas. It should be noted that the sum of $1 272 000 was to be allocated separately for control functions under the budget for 1970 [12].

101. His delegation considered that the Agency was the only international body entitled to control nuclear explosions and that all signatories of NPT should submit to its control. The experience and outstanding scientific qualifications of the experts in the Secretariat fully justified their being entrusted with the functions provided for in Article V of the Treaty. He approved without reservation the con-

11) GC(XIII)/INF/116.
12) GC(XIII)/405, Section 12.

clusions of the Board set out in document GC(XIII)/410.

102. The entry into force of NPT in the near future would make it imperative for the Agency to step up preparations in connection with the control functions mentioned in NPT.

103. The Agency's safeguards system might well serve as a basis for the drafting of control agreements under NPT between the Agency and signatory States.

104. For all those reasons his delegation approved the appropriation for safeguards in the draft budget for 1970.

105. His country had continued to make an active contribution to the peaceful uses of atomic energy. From 5 to 20 June 1969 an inter-regional training course in the production of radioisotopes had been held at the Institute of Nuclear Research in Warsaw. The course had been attended by 13 participants, most of them from developing countries.

106. The project for co-operative research in reactor physics between the Agency, Norway, Poland and Yugoslavia (NPY project)[13] had been expanded, and a symposium on a technical subject relating to that project had been organized in Poland during March 1969. In the programme for the NPY project more attention should be paid to the practical problems of nuclear power in order to make the results of the research more useful for those countries about to embark on that new type of power production. Specialists from his country were members of the ENEA/IAEA Liaison Group on the generation of electricity and one Polish expert had taken an active part in the work of the international group of experts set up by the Secretary-General of the United Nation pursuant to Resolution 2456 A (XXIII) of the General Assembly[14]. Scientists from his country were also working under research contracts relating to a number of subjects.

107. Support should be given to those activities through which technical assistance was supplied to the developing countries. Poland had made experts available for various courses, including the Warsaw course and a course in Cairo on the industrial applications of isotopes. It approved the Agency's efforts in that field and was ready to make a larger number of experts available to the Agency.

108. The Regular Budget estimates had risen by 8.88% over the figure for 1969, the largest increase — 38.2% — being for safeguards. The latter increase was justified in view of the increasing control functions of the Agency. There had also been a considerable increase in expenditure on INIS, a project supported by several Members of the Agency, including Poland. However, the budget should not increase at a rate greater than that of the national income of the Member States.

109. Poland attached great importance to the Agency's activities in connection with the provision of technical assistance and the training of specialists. If, as was expected, the Laboratory at Seibersdorf and the International Centre for Theoretical Physics at Trieste became more and more independent economically, the amounts allocated for those facilities could be used for technical assistance.

110. Although it supported the efforts by Member States to increase funds for direct technical assistance, his delegation wished to warn against over-simplifications, which generally took the form of underestimating the importance of certain Agency activities which really constituted technical assistance to countries not having the means to develop independently all applications of science and nuclear technology. It was only by a balanced development of the Secretariat's work, in accordance with the current tasks in the most important sectors, that efficiency would be achieved in the provision of direct and indirect assistance to the developing countries.

111. The Polish delegation wished to express its satisfaction with the progress made in the INIS project, which was to come into operation in 1970. As regards the purchase of the IBM-360/30 computer, provision must be made for training programmers from Member States so as to facilitate an expansion of the Agency's services to Members.

112. As his delegation had pointed out the year before, the development of new activities would soon make it imperative for the Agency to curtail certain programmes, especially in fields like theoretical physics, nuclear medicine and radiobiology[15]. Some of those activities could be continued by other international organizations, from which Member States could also derive benefits.

113. Mr. HOCHSTRASSER (Switzerland) said that his country had made considerable progress in nuclear energy since the twelfth session of the Conference. Of three commercial power plants under construction, one had been finished and was already producing power; work on the other two was progressing according to plan and no serious difficulties were being encountered.

114. On a less cheerful note, Switzerland had to report an incident in its experimental nuclear power plant at Lucens. So far the investigation, which was

13) See document INFCIRC/55.

14) See para. 34 above.

15) GC(XII)/124, para. 53.

still under way, indicated that the reactor had suffered extensive damage, due probably to the melting of one fuel element. Fortunately the safety equipment had protected the personnel of the plant and the population at large from the radioactivity released during the incident. Copies of the full reports on the incident would be given to the Agency as soon as they were available. Although the operation of the Lucens plant had thus come to a somewhat disappointing end, it had yielded a great deal of valuable information.

115. In Switzerland, as in other countries, the future of nuclear power plants seemed likely to be affected to a considerable extent by growing public concern about the environment. An intensive and objective information campaign, showing the elaborate precautions taken to protect the public against any damage which might result from the construction or operation of a nuclear plant, would be essential; the information would have to be presented, moreover, in a form understandable to the layman. The Agency could play an important role by collecting and distributing all the relevant documentation.

116. Switzerland was happy that a Fourth Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy was to be convened at Geneva. It would, of course, give the organizers of the conference all necessary support in the hope that the conference would be as successful as its three predecessors.

117. The Government of Switzerland had noted with satisfaction the Agency's continued effort to develop services which could most effectively be organized in an international framework. He had in mind particularly INIS, which, in view of the flood of scientific publications, would answer a real need. Switzerland, he hoped, would be able to make a useful contribution to INIS.

118. In the same general category was the assistance which the Agency could give in connection with underground nuclear explosions. Although widespread use of that application was impossible at the present stage, Switzerland felt that the Agency was the proper organization to assume international responsibilities in connection with the peaceful uses of nuclear explosives. It should gird itself for its new task.

119. The application of safeguards constituted another important service to all Member States. Accordingly, the cost of safeguards activities should be borne by all Members. The idea of adding a supplement to the price of nuclear materials sold to non-nuclear Powers subject to safeguards, with a view to retrieving thereby the expenses incurred in applying safeguards to them, would only add to existing forms of discrimination between nuclear and non-nuclear Powers. To Switzerland it was a completely unacceptable proposal.

120. One could not but realize that the Agency's increasing expenditure on safeguards inspections might have a deleterious effect on programmes designed more specifically for the developing countries. However, if the Agency could show that it had made the best use of the means at its disposal, by eliminating all activities which could not claim first priority and by streamlining its administration, the additional funds needed to finance essential tasks such as the provision of technical assistance would somehow be found. For its part, Switzerland had again resolved to make a voluntary contribution on the recommended basis.

121. Switzerland agreed that the composition of the Board was no longer completely in keeping with the organization's requirements and believed that fairer systems of representation should be sought. Nevertheless, in the interests of efficiency any enlargement of the Board should be kept within bounds. Furthermore, permanent seats should not constitute a large proportion of the total. States not enjoying the privilege of continuous representation should, from time to time, be enabled to participate in the work of the Board and to share its responsibilities. Switzerland felt that the Italian proposal provided an acceptable basis for further discussion.

122. In conclusion, he noted with satisfaction that the Agency had played a valuable part in advancing the peaceful applications of nuclear energy for the benefit of mankind. One could only hope that it would continue to do so in the future. Switzerland pledged its full support to the Agency in all its activities.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.