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A COMMUNICATION FROM THE DELEGATE OF THE
CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

Note by the President

In response to the request made by the delegate of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic in the second paragraph of a letter which he addressed to the President on 22 September, the texts of his letter and of the statement enclosed therein are reproduced below.

"I have the honour to transmit a statement by the Government of the German Democratic Republic relating to the agenda item 'General debate and report of the Board of Governors for 1970-71'.

"I would ask you to arrange for the distribution of this statement as an official document and to bring it to the notice of all delegations attending the fifteenth regular session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency."

(signed) "Jan Neumann
Delegate of the Czechoslovak
Socialist Republic"

STATEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC TO THE FIFTEENTH SESSION OF THE
GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

I

"Desirous of supporting co-operation within the framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Government of the German Democratic Republic addresses itself to the fifteenth session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency to set forth its opinion on some matters related to the activities of that organization.

"Since its foundation, the German Democratic Republic has pursued a policy aimed at the preservation and safeguarding of peace and at international co-operation. In pursuance of this policy, and in an endeavour to help prevent a devastating nuclear war, the Government of the German Democratic Republic has, from the very beginning, attached the utmost importance to the success of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, believing that it should find unrestricted international application. Not only was the German Democratic Republic one of the first States to sign and ratify the Treaty: it has also declared its willingness to enter into negotiations with the International Atomic Energy Agency with a view to concluding the safeguards agreement required by Article III thereof.

"The Government of the German Democratic Republic believes that, if the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is to be successfully implemented, all parties to the Treaty must be enabled to co-operate, under appropriate agreements and on equal terms, towards fulfilling the tasks that lie within the competence of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Universal participation of all interested States would also be in harmony with the growing importance of the International Atomic Energy Agency in the evolution of peaceful co-operation throughout the world.

"A steadily growing number of States regards the principle of universality, upon which the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency is founded, as a decisive prerequisite to making the Agency a more effective body, and accordingly advocates the application of this principle without delay.

II

"The German Democratic Republic has for more than 15 years been promoting nuclear research, nuclear technology and isotope research for peaceful purposes. Proceeding from international standards, it has set itself research targets which aim at solving tasks of importance for the national economy. In working towards these goals the GDR is relying particularly heavily on the research capacities of the German Academy of Sciences in Berlin, whose scientific programme continues the tradition of Gottfried Wilhelm von Leibniz, Alexander von Humboldt and Albert Einstein.

"Nuclear research work in the German Democratic Republic has yielded progressive results, both in pure research and in the utilization of research results for the benefit of the national economy, for example in solving problems of nutrition, water supply and health protection.

"The statements the Government of the German Democratic Republic has been transmitting to the International Atomic Energy Agency since the latter was founded, have repeatedly reported progress in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy; progress which among other things is relevant to the tasks confronting the International Atomic Energy Agency. For example, the use of isotopes in the German Democratic Republic's national economy has proved to be extremely fruitful. In the past, the larvae of the warble fly used to cause serious damage to cattle. This disease has now been almost completely wiped out in the GDR through the use of organo-phosphorous pesticides. The German Democratic Republic is one of the first countries where the consistent and integrated use of stable isotopes has become an indispensable means of biological research into the nitrogen metabolism of soils, plants, animals and humans. Research in the German Democratic Republic is at present being concentrated on the efficacy of nitrogenous fertilizers, fertilizer losses, transformation in the soil and the degree of utilization. The application of stable isotopes in the German Democratic Republic has found general recognition. Scientists from 27 countries attended scientific conferences and meetings held on this subject in the GDR.

"The system of radiation protection (medical aspects of radiation protection, protection of the environment against nuclear hazards, nuclear plant safety and training in radiation protection) which has been developed by the National Centre for Radiation Protection of the German Democratic Republic, is in conformity with

the recommendations issued by the United Nations. The results of the work carried out so far are a surveillance system covering all media of importance in assessing environmental contamination and the radiation exposure of the population, regulations governing the kind and scope of radiation protection measures to be taken and a series of laws specifying the requirements of radiation protection and nuclear safety.

"To develop the national economy of the German Democratic Republic, a programme for research up to the year 1975 has been drawn up, which should contribute in large measure to the peaceful uses of atomic energy. Thus provision has been made to install an increasing proportion of the new electric power capacity which will be in regular operation by 1975 in nuclear power plants. Other economic targets, for example in agriculture, the foodstuffs industry and the health services, are based on the application of isotope and radiation techniques.

"The Government of the German Democratic Republic supports international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, in which it participates within the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance and through permanent exchanges of scientific information with over 100 scientific institutions throughout the world. The International Atomic Energy Agency regularly receives scientific information about research and legislation in its field from the National Centre for Radiation Protection of the German Democratic Republic.

"The great importance which the German Democratic Republic attaches to co-operation with the International Atomic Energy Agency is also reflected in the establishment of a special working group under the auspices of the German Academy of Sciences in Berlin, which is to follow the activities of the Agency, and in the participation of GDR scientists in many IAEA events.

III

"The German Democratic Republic reiterates its willingness to take part in the activities of the International Atomic Energy Agency as a member. As a peaceful and sovereign State, the German Democratic Republic has a legitimate right to equal membership in international organizations, including the International Atomic Energy Agency. The admission of the German Democratic Republic and its equal participation in the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency would not only serve to maintain the principle of sovereign equality of States but would also enhance the effectiveness of the Agency and facilitate the fulfilment of current tasks. This is especially

significant in the light of the responsibilities which the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons has placed on the International Atomic Energy Agency. This Treaty enlarges both the duties and the responsibilities of the Agency, giving it greater opportunities for action in relation to the unrestricted development of international co-operation for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and in the verification of compliance with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, a treaty which is so significant for all mankind.

"This growing role of the Agency makes it more and more urgent to uphold the principle of universality. The Government of the German Democratic Republic expresses the expectation that the International Atomic Energy Agency and its Member States, mindful of their high responsibility in ensuring international security and peaceful co-operation, will do everything in their power to implement the principle of universality in the Agency.

"Berlin, 21 September 1971"

