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RECORD OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-SIXTH PLENARY MEETING

Held in the conference centre of the Secretariat of External Relations,
Mexico City, on Friday, 29 September 1972, at 10.45 a.m.

President: Mr. FLORES DE LA PEÑA (Mexico)
later: Mr. QUARTEY (Ghana)

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** GC(XVI)/490.

THE RECORD

CLOSING DATE OF THE SESSION

1. The PRESIDENT recalled that, under Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure, the Conference had to fix the closing date of the session, on the recommendation of the General Committee.
2. The General Committee had considered the matter and had authorized him to recommend on its behalf that 3 October 1972 be fixed as the closing date.
- 3. The Committee's recommendation was accepted.

GENERAL DEBATE AND REPORT FOR 1971-72
(GC(XVI)/480, 480/Corr.1 and 3, 488)
(continued)[1]

4. Mr. BARABAS (Czechoslovak Socialist Republic) after thanking the Mexican Government for its generous invitation to hold the session at Tlatelolco and congratulating the President on his election, expressed disappointment at the relatively small number of States that had concluded safeguards agreements with the Agency in connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) [2]. However, among those States which had done so were several countries with substantial programmes devoted to the peaceful use of atomic energy. Czechoslovakia had concluded its safeguards agreement with the Agency [3] on 3 March 1972, and numerous measures for implementation of the agreement had been taken since then. His Government indeed gave its full support to the Agency's efforts at perfecting the practical arrangements for concluding safeguards agreements and at developing the theoretical bases for safeguards procedures. That support would also take the form, for example, of analysis by Czechoslovak laboratories of samples of nuclear materials subject to Agency safeguards.
5. Among the safeguards agreements concluded recently had been one between the Agency and the German Democratic Republic, and à propos of that event he wished to remind the Conference that the Agency, being an organization based on the principle of universality, should admit the German Democratic Republic to membership, not only because that State had signed NPT and concluded a safeguards agreement but also because it stood at a very high level of development as far as the peaceful uses of atomic energy were concerned.
6. Since the Conference was meeting in a Latin American country, it might be of interest

to delegates to learn that Cuba had recently been admitted to membership of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (COMECON).

7. The Czechoslovak delegation on the whole approved the Agency's long-term programme, [4] and particularly welcomed the detailed activities planned for safeguards, radioisotope applications, nuclear power, health and safety, and radioecology. His delegation also took a positive attitude towards the International Nuclear Information System (INIS).

8. Technical assistance, of course, continued to be a vital activity, and as his delegation had said in the Board of Governors in February 1972, greater care should be devoted to ensuring an equitable distribution of technical assistance as between expert services and equipment, and care should be taken to avoid any discrimination as regards the geographical distribution of aid.

9. On the subject of the budget, on which his delegation had already made its views known at the June meetings of the Board, it was unfortunate that the attempts at achieving economies had led to curtailment of a number of projects. However, his delegation would not vote against the relevant budget resolution before the Conference.

10. He had pleasure in announcing that in 1973 the Czechoslovak Government would host one scientific symposium and one study tour for participants from developing countries, and would make available five long-term and four one-year fellowships for training at scientific institutes in the country. The Czechoslovak contribution to the General Fund would also be increased by 50 000 crowns, making a total of 200 000 crowns in 1973.

11. Mr. MEDINA (Philippines) remarked that his Government, in view of the close ties which had existed between the Philippines and Mexico for over four hundred years, was particularly gratified that Mexico City should be the venue for the current session of the Conference, and felt it was most appropriate that an experienced development economist who had had the opportunity to represent Mexico in various United Nations organizations, particularly the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, should be elected President of the session. The Philippine Government had all down the years endeavoured to participate actively in the Agency's General Conferences. Such participation and the accompanying opportunity of exchanging views with colleagues all over the world represented an excellent means for taking stock of events and trends in the atomic energy field. However, continuous attendance inevitably represented a growing financial burden on Governments, and there was also the consideration that, as time went on, the subject-matter of the Conference

[1] GC(XVI)/OR.155.

[2] Reproduced in document INFCIRC/140.

[3] Reproduced in document INFCIRC/173.

[4] See document GC(XVI)/485 (The Agency's Programme for 1973-78 and Budget for 1973).

tended to follow an ever more stereotyped pattern. An injection of new ideas would therefore provide a stimulus to maintaining the present high level of participation, particularly by the developing countries.

12. The past few years had seen a rapprochement between countries having different social and economic systems and the completion of the first steps towards world-wide disarmament as referred to in Article VI of NPT. It was gratifying that a growing number of countries were concluding safeguards agreements with the Agency under the terms of the Treaty, which the Philippines itself had already ratified.

13. Those events were conspicuous evidence of man's capacity to resolve even the most difficult and controversial issues when there was a common will to do so. He wished therefore to appeal to all Member States and to all parties to the Treaty, particularly the nuclear-weapon States, to take steps to ensure the attainment of the aims and objectives of the Agency, particularly those referred to in Article III.A.2 of the Statute and in Article IV of NPT, concerning the provision of assistance in the field of nuclear energy.

14. The Agency's programme for 1973-78 and budget for 1973, as contained in document GC(XVI)/485, gave cause for grave concern on the part of all Member States interested in the work of the Agency.

15. The proposed Regular Budget for 1973 represented an assessment increase of 8.8% attributed to a 9.9% over-all increase in prices, including approximately 4.5% due to the revaluation of currencies, less a 1.1% reduction in programme activities. [5] The greater part of the price increases were due to higher salaries and allowances for the staff of the Agency. If that trend continued, the Agency would soon find itself to be an organization with a very large number of highly-paid staff and a very limited, if not marginal, programme.

16. The proposed budget for 1973 would thus result in substantially higher salaries and a decreased output per man. That kind of situation would undoubtedly lead to the bankruptcy of any organization, particularly one which was in any case faced with serious financial difficulties. It should be recalled that at the end of December 1971 the Agency had had a cash deficit for the first time in its history.

17. In order to ease the Agency's financial situation, the Philippines was in favour of raising the Working Capital Fund to a level higher than \$2 million, but would find it difficult to accept any budgetary procedures which were of doubtful legality.

18. In his delegation's view, the programme of the Agency should show a real growth rate

corresponding to the average real growth rate of the gross national product of all Member States. The achievement of that goal might well involve great sacrifices by Member States, but it was only thus that the Agency could play a significant role in promoting the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

19. His Government attached great importance to technical assistance and appreciated the assistance granted by the Agency to the Philippines. The Philippine Atomic Energy Commission had indeed been able to pursue its activities in the peaceful uses of atomic energy mainly thanks to the varied types of assistance granted by the Agency. It was precisely because of its experience as a receiving country that the Philippines was in a position to inform the advanced countries of the inadequacy of the resources available for technical assistance and of the urgent need substantially to increase the target of \$3 million, a figure which was unrealistically low.

20. The Philippines was a country in which a certain amount of initial assistance gave rise to subsequent requirements which the country was itself incapable of meeting. Specifically, the need was for nuclear facilities of appropriate size and on acceptable financial terms. He hoped that the Agency would be able to continue its earlier effective assistance by helping the Philippines to find suppliers of the equipment and obtain easy terms of payment. The recent Agency survey was a valuable step in that direction.

21. The Philippines had recently suffered a natural disaster which had caused damage greater than that suffered during the Second World War. Thanks to contributions by members of the international community and various international organizations, relief and rehabilitation work was now in progress, and he wished to express the appreciation of his Government to the States Members of the Agency and to the Agency's Staff Council for their generous contributions during the Philippines' hour of greatest need. He congratulated the Director General and the Secretariat on the formulation of the Agency's technical assistance programme and hoped that it could be adequately funded so as to render it meaningful. In spite of the natural disaster of the last summer, his Government would contribute to the General Fund an amount equal to the preceding year's contribution. Moreover, the Philippine Government would continue to provide two Type II fellowships.

22. The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm (the Stockholm Conference) showed that a reorientation of policies at national and international levels was required. The insufficiency of knowledge on numerous environmental problems and the inadequacy of organizational structures for safeguarding the environment had clearly emerged from the deliberations of the Stockholm Conference.

[5] Ibid., para. I.23.

23. His delegation believed in the positive role which the Agency could play in combating environmental pollution because of the availability of proven nuclear research techniques and know-how in that area. It was to the Agency's credit that health and safety standards, covering every type of activity in which nuclear energy was employed, had been continuously and conscientiously developed.

24. During the years since its establishment, the Agency had gained considerable experience in the evolution of an international machinery able to cope with the complex problems of an interdependent technological civilization. Member States, in spite of their constitutional need to preserve their independence and sovereignty, had found it possible to delegate to the Agency the exercise of certain prerogatives of their sovereignty.

25. He desired to inform the General Conference of the Philippines' particular sensitivity to man-made environmental and ecological changes and his Government's strong objections to atmospheric tests of nuclear explosives. Such tests had a direct bearing on changes in the environment and ecology, changes which could lead to natural calamities all over the world. He therefore appealed to countries which were planning to undertake nuclear tests to desist from such activities.

26. Finally he wished to draw the attention of the Conference to the fact that the Far East region, to which the Philippines belonged, had not been fully represented on the Board of Governors, and to take the opportunity of joining previous delegates in welcoming the People's Republic of Bangladesh to membership of the Agency. [6]

27. Mr. PEDINI (Italy), after remarking how the excellent organization of the session by the Secretariat matched the generosity and imagination of the Mexican Government in inviting the Conference to hold it in Latin America, observed that the annual report (GC(XVI)/480, 480/Corr.1 and 3, 488) had clearly underlined the numerous problems attending the peaceful uses of atomic energy in the modern world. Italy, both as an independent State and as a member of the European community, was particularly concerned with those problems.

28. For several years past the Agency had been devoting particular attention to studying the effects of nuclear energy on the environment. In the light of the emphasis placed on environmental problems at the recent Stockholm Conference, those activities on the part of the Secretariat clearly deserved every encouragement.

29. The Italian Government was convinced that nuclear energy constituted the only valid

alternative to conventional power sources from the point of view of protection of the environment. One of the main purposes of the use of nuclear power had indeed always been the solution of the environmental problems which were threatening to place restrictions on economic and social development. A further effort should therefore be made by the Agency finally to dispose of the public apprehensions which were still aroused at the mention of the word "nuclear".

30. The various market surveys on the feasibility of nuclear power in the developing countries undertaken by the Agency were of great value. Work of that nature fitted in perfectly with the aims and objectives of the Agency, and the nuclear power stations which, it was to be hoped, would result therefrom would help to meet power requirements and would play a decisive part in general economic development.

31. In the field of nuclear documentation, Italy had always supported INIS, the value of which had been recognized from the outset by the participating countries. Consequently Italy had been unreservedly in favour of the recent decision by the Board of Governors to expand the activities of the system.

32. There was now scarcely any need for him to enlarge upon the merits of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics at Trieste (the Trieste Centre): those merits were known to everyone, and he was pleased to note that his Government was in favour of the joint IAEA/UNESCO proposal for increased financial support for the Centre.

33. The conclusion of the agreement between the Agency and the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM) in implementation of Article III of NPT constituted a milestone in European, and even in world history. The negotiations leading up to the agreement had demonstrated the unity of the European community, a unity which would be further confirmed during the practical application phase. The whole operation was a living proof of the consolidation of Europe as an autonomous political entity.

34. The EURATOM agreement should likewise contribute to achieving a universal adherence to NPT, which was indeed one of the conditions required to ensure the vitality of the Treaty. In that respect it would seem legitimate to ask whether the obligations laid down in NPT were compensated for by an appropriate reciprocity in undertaking commitments on the part of a certain number of countries. Consequently it was to be hoped that other States, which had not so far done so, would sign the Treaty in order to stimulate the States that had already done so to adhere to it more fully.

35. The entry into force of NPT and the development of the complex system of controls which the Agency was called upon to apply would likewise lead to a sharper definition of the vital problem of reform of the Board of Governors. In that

[6] Bangladesh became a Member on 27 September 1972.

connection he wished to announce that Italy, which was one of the countries most interested in the entry into force of the amendment to Article VI of the Statute, was about to pass the relevant legislation permitting ratification of the amendment.

36. Thus far 46 States had given their formal assent to the new text, and it was to be hoped that the remaining ratifications needed for implementation of the amendment would soon be forthcoming.

37. In conclusion, he was gratified to state officially that the Italian Government had decided to increase its voluntary contribution to the General Fund from \$80 500 to \$96 600.

38. Mr. ALBA ANDRADE (Mexico) reiterated his great satisfaction that the General Conference of the Agency should be meeting in Latin America. The contacts now being established between delegations from abroad and their Mexican counterparts could not but lead to a better understanding of the economic and social problems affecting most countries in the international community.

39. The peoples of the Third World were striving to overcome their difficulties not only through their own efforts but also on the basis of effective collaboration - through the international organizations - with countries more fortunately situated. Mexico itself, applying strict processes of analysis and self-criticism, was co-ordinating the utilization of existing resources and seeking new ones in an effort to achieve a balanced development of the national economy.

40. Such action involved of course the stimulation of progress in the scientific and technical field, including the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

41. Since the preceding session of the Conference the Mexican Congress had approved the legislation necessary for establishment of the National Institute of Nuclear Energy as successor to the earlier National Nuclear Energy Commission. In explaining the purpose of the new legislation, the President of the Republic had declared his intention steadily to expand the peaceful uses of atomic energy in the interests of the economic and social development of Mexico.

42. The new basic law entrusted the Institute with full responsibility for developing the national nuclear fuel industry, and for promoting nuclear science and technology in co-operation with appropriate public and private bodies and academic institutions.

43. Thus, the National Institute of Nuclear Energy would be the organ through which the State would meet future national nuclear fuel requirements, beginning with prospection work and extending right up to reprocessing of irradiated fuel. The tasks of the new Institute would also include selection of the latest fuel

fabrication techniques and their adaptation to Mexican conditions.

44. The President of the Republic also considered that the provision of adequate power was vital to the economic development of the country. Up to the present, oil and natural gas accounted for 90% of Mexico's total power capacity, with hydro and coal-fired stations supplying the remainder. It had to be accepted that oil and gas would continue to constitute the main source of power for some decades to come, but there was a pressing need to release hydrocarbon fuel resources for application in other directions, and that could be brought about by the gradual expansion of nuclear power.

45. The annual report of the Board before the Conference contained a clear indication of the rising trend of development expected in respect of installed nuclear power capacity and proved in effect that the further exploitation of uranium as a source of power was the only way to conserve supplies of conventional fuels and ensure their longer availability for the purposes for which they remained essential.

46. The Agency had learned by experience that the introduction of nuclear power in a developing country required careful planning, and in Mexico the preliminary studies for the building of a nuclear power plant had started five years previously. However, the stage had now been reached at which the Federal Electricity Commission, after examining tenders submitted by companies in various countries, had placed an order for the reactor for the first unit of the power station at Laguna Verde, Veracruz.

47. Nothing had been left to chance, and in selecting the site for the nuclear station the Mexican authorities had received valuable assistance from the Agency, which had sent two missions to advise on the most important aspect of the project.

48. The excellent co-operation between the Federal Electricity Commission and the National Institute of Nuclear Energy meant that the rigorous safety requirements associated with operating the nuclear power plant would be fully met. The Institute had, with the Agency's assistance, prepared draft regulations governing construction and safe operation of nuclear power stations, and those regulations were in process of final revision.

49. His delegation wished formally to announce that the Mexican Government would shortly submit to the Agency, under Article XI of the Statute, a request for assistance in obtaining the fuel for the Laguna Verde power station.

50. It was very probable that in the decade 1980-1990 Mexico would need an additional 30 000 MW of electrical capacity. Of that amount, about 500 MW would be hydro or coal-fired, the remaining 25 000 MW being furnished by oil or by nuclear power.

51. In view of the probable need for nuclear power plants in the future, the National Institute of Nuclear Energy was according high priority to uranium prospecting, and there were good hopes that Mexico might prove to be self-sufficient in reserves of fissionable materials. At present, intensive prospecting was in progress in the States of Nuevo León, Tamaulipas and Chihuahua, and would soon be extended to other areas in the north of the country.

52. The National Institute of Nuclear Energy had recently undertaken a reorganization of its entire structure, with a view to ensuring more rational utilization of the facilities of the Nuclear Centre and attracting back to the home country Mexican scientists who were working abroad. Senior scientific and technical staff of the Institute had also been making extensive tours of installations in countries advanced in nuclear matters. The purpose of such visits was to obtain data which would be of value for the over-all organization and the programme of the Institute.

53. That programme extended, in the first instance, to the year 1976. Emphasis was being placed, naturally enough, on nuclear fuel, and three pilot plants were to be constructed for experiments on uranium ore concentration and on fuel element fabrication and quality control. Similarly, work had started on the design of three industrial scale facilities which would embody the experience gained with the pilot plants to which he had just referred.

54. At the opening of the Conference the President of Mexico had expressed his gratitude for the valuable assistance rendered to Mexico by the Agency and his hope that that assistance would be continued in connection with the ambitious projects which Mexico now had in the nuclear field. [7]

55. Technical assistance should be applied over the whole spectrum of science and technology, so as to obviate the risk of one-sided or incomplete development. It would undoubtedly be possible, given the requisite degree of good will, to find ways and means of securing international technical co-operation appropriate to the comprehensive programmes now under way in the developing countries. To proceed otherwise would be to commit the sin of technological colonization to which President Echeverría had referred in his inaugural speech. [8]

56. Mexico's adherence to the purposes and principles of the Agency had been once again demonstrated - as recently as two days previously - by the conclusion of the new safeguards agreement between the Agency and the Government in connection with both the Treaty for

the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (the Tlatelolco Treaty)[9] and NPT.

57. Finally, he had pleasure in informing the Conference that the Senate of the Republic had on 11 September 1972 ratified the amendment to Article VI of the Statute, and that the instrument of acceptance would shortly be delivered to the depositary Government. All would agree that an increase in the membership of the Board was of great importance for the representation of the developing countries.

58. Mr. PASECHNIK (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic), associating himself with the other delegations in congratulating the President on his election, said that the delegates were grateful to the Government of Mexico for inviting the Conference to meet in its capital and for providing an opportunity for making acquaintance with the culture of the Mexican people.

59. The activities in the past year represented for the Agency an important step towards achieving a faster and wider use of atomic energy for peace, health and prosperity in the world as a whole. The annual report showed that the Secretariat had focused its attention on the most important aspects of its activities. He was pleased to note that one such activity was associated with NPT.

60. His delegation considered that success in the Agency's work had been due, to a great extent, to the easing of international tension in the past year. The most important events in that respect were the talks held between the Soviet Union and the United States and the agreements on the limitation of strategic arms concluded between them in Moscow. The political climate in Europe had improved considerably with the entry into force of the agreements between the Soviet Union and the Polish People's Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany. The international collaboration in the peaceful uses of atomic energy would have been still greater if the areas of tension in South East Asia and in the Middle East had been removed and the problems of disarmament solved.

61. Nuclear research was carried out in the Soviet Union on a wide front uniting the efforts of the Union Republics. In the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the leading role was played by its Academy of Sciences, which comprised 50 institutes, including 10 associated with physics and industrial physics. Working in collaboration with those engaged in work on material science, chemistry, geology and biology, they made an impressive contribution to nuclear science and technology.

62. On 10 October 1972 the Soviet physicists would celebrate the 40th anniversary of the

[7] GC(XVI)/OR.151, para. 25.

[8] Ibid., para. 23.

[9] Reproduced in the United Nations Treaty Series, Vol. 634, No. 9068.

discovery in the Ukrainian Institute of Technical Physics of the nuclear reaction on lithium, which had played such an important part in the subsequent developments in nuclear physics.

63. In the Ukraine, medium- and low-energy physics had undergone rapid development in the past few years. It now had nuclear facilities, in which nucleon structure and the dynamic structure of matter could be studied. Ukrainian scientists had contributed to the development of fast reactors by their research on the interactions of neutrons with nuclei and matter. The study of the behaviour of materials under extreme conditions had made it possible to solve the most difficult problem of modern atomic physics, viz, that associated with structural materials and burn-up. The study of the action of radiation on micro-organisms, plants and animals had led to the development of high-yield mutants of microbes and plants, of new methods of diagnostics and therapy of malignant diseases and treatment of radiation burns. New methods had been found in the treatment of materials, which improved the reliability of structures, machines and components, a factor of great importance in technology. Automation was finding increasing use in the metallurgical and heavy and light engineering industries.

64. The Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic had begun the construction of a two-million-kilowatt nuclear power station in the past year.

65. While attaching great importance to the practical applications of nuclear energy, his country continued to encourage basic research. The work of Ukrainian scientists on the statistical theory of nuclei, the theory of super-conductivity of nuclear matter, quasi-molecular models of nuclei and the theory of hadrons was well known. Considerable progress had been made in developing the microscopic theory of nuclei, which had predicted the existence of the relatively long-lived nuclei in the far transuranic region.

66. The Ukrainian scientists shared their results with other scientists in the world through their participation in INIS and in international scientific meetings. Kiev had been the venue for a conference on plasma physics in 1971 and the International Gerontology Congress in 1972. In 1973, the second scientific conference on neutron physics and nuclear data for fission and thermonuclear reactors would be held in Kiev and was expected to be attended by the Agency's experts and scientists from many countries. The Institute of Theoretical Physics maintained close links with the International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste. His country would continue to participate in the dissemination of knowledge in atomic science and technology through the nuclear data centre and INIS.

67. He fully supported the Agency's programme for 1973-78 since, as a whole, it correctly outlined the future development of the organization.

68. He commended the Agency's role in promoting exchange of information on the peaceful uses of atomic energy between Member States and the international organizations concerned. Since further expansion and greater efficiency were planned for INIS during the following six years, it was desirable that the Agency should devote greater attention to that important activity.

69. His delegation's reservations about certain aspects of the programme had been expressed at the meetings of the appropriate committee.

70. It was a matter of regret that the Agency had not yet achieved universality in its membership. As in the past years, there was no delegation from the German Democratic Republic, a sovereign State, which was actively implementing a national programme in the peaceful uses of atomic energy and collaborating fruitfully in that field at the international level. Fully endorsing the statement of the Czechoslovak delegate, he pointed out that the German Democratic Republic was already actively collaborating with the Agency. By concluding a safeguards agreement with the Agency in connection with NPT, it had placed its entire nuclear activity under the safeguards of the international community. Strict observance of the principle of universality would certainly raise the Agency's international status as a co-ordinator in the uses of atomic energy.

71. Welcoming Bangladesh as a new Member of the Agency, his delegation wished it success in the use of the atom to improve the well-being of its people.

72. In conclusion, he expressed his confidence that the Agency would continue actively to promote the harnessing of the inexhaustible intranuclear forces for the benefit of mankind.

73. Mr. VOŠNJAK (Yugoslavia) associated himself with previous speakers in congratulating the President on his election and in thanking the host country for its hospitality and for providing well organized and pleasant facilities.

74. He was happy that the Conference was meeting in Tlatelolco, which had witnessed the first step in the world's history towards nuclear disarmament.

75. The current session was important not only because the work of the past year would be analysed, but also because the programme for 1973-78 would be decided upon. During the past year the Agency had made every effort to conclude safeguards agreements with States in connection with NPT. Yugoslavia was gratified to have been one of the first signatories of such an agreement. The decision to sign had been the result not only of the policy of his Government, but also of fruitful co-operation between Yugoslavia and the Agency. States accepting safeguards did so, however, in the expectation that they would also receive general assistance from the Agency in

implementing their national programmes for the peaceful uses of atomic energy. Developing countries attached particular importance to the matter as in some cases the problem of development could become so serious as to threaten peace and security in the world. It was his duty therefore to examine all the components of the Agency's programme with great care in order to ensure that the pressing needs of developing countries were being met to the extent possible.

76. While the Agency had done much in providing scientific and technical assistance to developing countries, budgetary limitations impaired progress. New possibilities for co-operation must be sought and the volume of assistance increased.

77. In view of the growing possibilities for the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, the need for international assistance was particularly important, primarily in the field of financing, where the highly industrialized countries had a prime role to play. The Agency's main task was to ensure the rapid development of the peaceful uses of atomic energy in developing non-nuclear-weapon States without discrimination.

78. Obligations under NPT applied equally to nuclear Powers and non-nuclear-weapon States. In practice, however, nuclear Powers, while insisting that non-nuclear-weapon States fulfilled their obligations, were slow in meeting their own, particularly in the sphere of disarmament.

79. His delegation had noted with satisfaction that most non-nuclear-weapon States had concluded or were negotiating safeguards agreements in connection with NPT with the Agency. States having both a nuclear industry and the nuclear capability to destroy civilization should in their turn do everything in their power to contribute to "the further development of the applications of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, especially in the territories of non-nuclear-weapon States Party to the Treaty, with due consideration for the needs of the developing areas of the world", as laid down in Article IV of NPT. They should also strive to cease the nuclear arms race and take measures leading to nuclear disarmament and to the conclusion of a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, in accordance with Article VI of the Treaty. His delegation was far from satisfied with the progress achieved so far.

80. The Agency's efforts to ensure that verification was carried out and its conclusion of a safeguards agreement with EURATOM were matters for great satisfaction. It was to be hoped that safeguards agreements could be concluded rapidly with further countries, particularly those with extensive nuclear activities.

81. The Agency must find a proper balance between its promotional and its regulatory

activities. The provision of varied technical assistance to countries developing their nuclear activities under Agency safeguards must on no account be impaired by the increase in the Agency's control functions. He was grateful that efforts were being made to keep the volume of safeguards operations within reasonable bounds.

82. The Agency's activities during the past year had been substantial, varied and successful. They would be still more fruitful, however, if the principle of universality of the Agency's membership were achieved. There were prospective Member States whose participation in the work of the Agency could help to solve a number of problems. A solution to the question of the admission of the German Democratic Republic would be a step in the right direction.

83. His delegation wished to express satisfaction at the admission of Bangladesh and to congratulate that country.

84. Yugoslavia was firmly convinced that the Agency would continue to carry out with success the two tasks conferred on it by its Statute, namely to promote the development of the peaceful uses of atomic energy and to prevent its use for the purpose of destruction. It could do so thanks primarily to the support and assistance of all its Member States.

85. Mr. OSZTROVSZKI (Hungary), in conveying his congratulations to Mr. Flores de la Peña on his election as President of the Conference, said that his qualities of leadership and diplomacy were bound to ensure a successful series of deliberations between Member States.

86. Since the previous session progress towards world peace had been maintained. Europe had been free of conflict for 27 years and disputes were being successively dealt with by processes of negotiation. The Soviet Union and the other progressive countries had played no mean role in those developments. It was regrettable that the situation was clouded by the long drawn out struggle in Viet-Nam for, as long as hostilities persisted anywhere in the world, humanity would be overshadowed by the threat of total nuclear war. This necessarily put all the more emphasis on the Agency's peaceful protagonism of the atom.

87. The Agency continued to progress towards universality and the accession of Bangladesh opened the way for further millions of people to profit from the Agency's know-how. Unfortunately, that still did not apply to the German Democratic Republic, which was already well advanced in nuclear technology, took an active part in COMECON's peaceful nuclear activities and lent its full support to the Agency's safeguards programme. The fact that talks had taken place between the Director General and the Foreign Minister of the German Democratic Republic was a positive indication.

88. The interests of universality were also likely to be served by the imminent European security conference.

89. The past year had witnessed sound progress by the Agency. The Fourth International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy held in Geneva (the Fourth Geneva Conference) had stimulated the exchange, comparison and analysis of peaceful nuclear experience on a world-wide basis and had lent positive direction to the work of the Agency and the nuclear energy commissions of the Member States. The rapid publication of the proceedings and their brilliant symbolic rainbow cover design deserved commendation.

90. Since the last session Hungary had ratified and deposited its safeguards agreement in connection with NPT [10] and that agreement had come into force on 31 March 1972.

91. The programme of technical assistance based on both Agency and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) funds was succeeding in broadcasting nuclear technology far and wide and the new system of UNDP fund allocation was resulting in more effective utilization of resources. In recognition of the importance of technical assistance, Hungary would meet its quota towards the voluntary contribution target of \$3 million. It was unfortunate that the Agency had seen fit to restrict the number of Type I fellowships, thereby placing more reliance on the Type II awards offered by Member States. However, it was pleasing to note that the Type II awards offered by Hungary were being put to increasing use by the Agency.

92. The report of the Secretariat of COMECON which lay before the Conference bore witness to the progress which had resulted from the collaboration between the socialist countries in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The Hungarian Nuclear Energy Commission set great store by COMECON, under the auspices of which an international collective had been set up to study characteristics of the WWRP reactor in the power engineering division of the Central Physical Research Institute in Budapest, promising further development of that already proven reactor type.

93. The setting up of "Interatominstrument" in Warsaw, to co-ordinate the production of nucleonic equipment within COMECON, was also a welcome development.

94. A research programme in Hungary with Agency sponsorship on medical instrument sterilization by irradiation was also being continued.

95. The annual report reflected the great work done by the Agency and it could be confidently

expected that the programme for 1973-78 would be successfully implemented. His Government would like most emphasis to be placed on the exchange of nuclear experience, the full development of INIS, environmental protection and the application of nuclear techniques in food preservation, agriculture and medicine.

96. The Agency's programme could only be completed successfully on the basis of sound budgeting. Increases in expenditure were only justifiable for the purpose of implementing that programme and Hungary deplored the constant cost spiral associated solely with administrative expenses and currency fluctuations.

97. He concluded with the hope that the Agency would continue to make the optimum use of its intellectual and financial resources in order to assure the success of NPT and stimulate the widest possible application of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

98. Mr. BIGGAR (Ireland) offered Mr. Flores de la Peña his warm congratulations and good wishes on his election as President of the Conference. He also wished to join with many previous speakers in expressing their gratitude to the President and Government of Mexico for inviting the Conference to meet in that beautiful city. It was particularly appropriate, in view of the part played by Mexico in disarmament and related questions, that the Conference should have been convened in Tlatelolco, where, in 1967, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America had been signed.

99. Expressing satisfaction with the annual report for 1971-72, he remarked that the new procedure, [11] whereby the same report was presented to the General Conference and to the General Assembly of the United Nations, was clearly a success.

100. Recalling that NPT had had its origin in a draft resolution tabled by Ireland over a decade ago at the General Assembly of the United Nations [12] and that Ireland had been the first country to ratify the Treaty, he extended his congratulations to the Agency on concluding so many safeguards agreements and also to the States parties to those agreements. Such progress indicated the importance which the Member States attached to the Agency's work, and he hoped that the number of agreements would continue to increase, thereby furthering the efforts to check the nuclear arms race and achieve eventual nuclear disarmament. In that connection it was pleasing to note that the Agency's programme envisaged wide application of its safeguards system in 1973-1974. The Agency's successful endeavours would ensure that, in the future, greater reliance would be placed on the efforts of international organizations to effect arms control.

[10] Reproduced in document INFCIRC/174.

[11] Under Resolution GC(XV)/RES/274.

[12] General Assembly Resolution 1665 (XVI).

101. He reported that his Government had concluded negotiations with the Agency for a safeguards agreement which had come into force on 29 February 1972.

102. Ireland welcomed the conclusion of the agreement between the Agency, the States Members of EURATOM and EURATOM itself which, once ratified, would lend fresh impetus to NPT. Ireland's safeguards agreement contained a protocol providing for its replacement by the EURATOM-IAEA safeguards agreement when Ireland became a Member of the European Economic Community on 1 January 1973. The suggestion that the time had now come to formalize relations between the Agency and EURATOM in a general agreement seemed very logical and his Government would await developments with the keenest interest.

103. His delegation welcomed the decision to broaden the membership of the Board of Governors by amending Article VI of the Statute, and he urged Member States which had not already done so to accept the amendment without delay.

104. Provision had been made in Ireland for the setting up of a Nuclear Energy Board under the Nuclear Energy Act, 1971, but that Board had not yet been established. The Electricity Supply Board had been studying the feasibility of a nuclear power station and had taken a keen interest in the Agency's activities relating to nuclear power generation.

105. If current searches for oil and gas on the Irish continental shelf were successful, it was possible that the construction of a nuclear power station would be deferred indefinitely.

106. In regard to the Agency's annual report and its programme for 1973-78 he was particularly impressed by the Agency's activities in the areas of soil fertility, plant breeding, plant protein improvement, animal production and health, food preservation, insect eradication and pest control which all helped to mitigate hunger and disease. It was also very pleasing to note the expansion in the Agency's technical assistance programme.

107. His Government had been very pleased to participate in the Fourth Geneva Conference in 1971 and the Agency was to be congratulated for making the conference an outstanding technical contribution to progress in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

108. In previous years his delegation had expressed concern over the disposal of radioactive waste into the sea and, consequently, it welcomed the recommendation made by the Stockholm Conference that Governments should explore with the Agency and WHO the feasibility of developing a system for the registration of the release of significant quantities of radioactive materials into the biosphere. [13] The Board's draft programme

in that regard was also a source of profound satisfaction to his Government, as were also the additional suggestions outlined by the Director General in his statement. [14]

109. In conclusion, he was happy to inform the Conference that his Government had pledged a contribution to the General Fund in accordance with the recommended target.

110. Mr. MANZ (Austria) congratulated Mr. Flores de la Peña on his election to the presidency of the session. He also wanted to express his delegation's thanks to the Government of Mexico for providing such excellent facilities for the Conference.

111. He considered Mexico City a particularly suitable place for discussing the peaceful uses of atomic energy. Mexico had made outstanding contributions to the cause of peace and security, for instance by its work in connection with the prohibition of nuclear weapons in Latin America.

112. It was appropriate that the Board had given great prominence in its report to problems connected with the implementation of NPT. At the previous session the material for safeguards agreements in connection with NPT drafted by the Board's safeguards committee had been highly commended, and his Government wanted to add its praise to that expressed by other delegations. However, it should be realized that using that material satisfactorily to meet the different conditions existing in Member States would require great efforts by the Agency and all the countries concerned. In that connection he was pleased to note that 30 of the 74 States which had ratified NPT by July 1972 had already fulfilled their obligations under Article III, and negotiations with other States were in progress. In the same context his country welcomed the agreement between the Agency and EURATOM including the five States Members of EURATOM which were signatories to NPT. The gratifying progress made towards the implementation of NPT would encourage countries that had not ratified the Treaty, or had not entered into negotiations with the Agency, to reconsider their position.

113. He recalled that Austria had assumed the status of permanent neutrality and was therefore particularly interested in initiatives for peace and disarmament. His country regarded NPT as an important instrument for the promotion of those objectives. Austria had been one of the first States to ratify NPT and to conclude a safeguards agreement with the Agency [15] and it was taking steps to incorporate those arrangements in the system of Austrian law. Referring to Article III.2 of NPT, he said his delegation hoped that most countries would agree on the rules that should govern the exports in question.

[13] See United Nations document A/CONF.48/14, Part one, II. B, Recommendation 75(a).

[14] GC(XVI)/OR.152, paras 3-40.

[15] Reproduced in document INFCIRC/156.

114. Referring to Article IV, 2 of NPT he wondered whether the principle of free exchange of technical information, with due consideration for the needs of the developing areas, had been reflected in the Agency's work during the preceding year. While those Member States that were most advanced in the field of nuclear science and technology had endeavoured to supply valuable information to smaller countries, the Board's report again pin-pointed the Agency's increasing difficulties in meeting requests for technical assistance. It was alarming to note that the percentage of requests that could be met had dropped to 40,3%. It was his belief that a substantial increase in funds would be necessary in order to fulfil the expectations raised by Article IV of the Treaty. Austria would continue to support the Agency's technical assistance programme and would contribute to the General Fund in proportion to its base rate of assessment, subject to parliamentary approval.

115. Taking account of the difficulties that had to be faced his delegation considered the Board's recommendations relating to the Regular and Operational Budgets for 1973 highly satisfactory. Seen against a background of inflationary trends and fluctuating exchange rates the proposed budget increase was comparatively small. He was quite sure that in the existing circumstances only very few countries would be able to keep the increase in their own national budgets at such a low level. His Government approved the three draft resolutions submitted by the Board. [16]

116. In recent years measures for the reduction of pollution and the protection of the human environment had been receiving the attention not only of Governments and experts, but also of the general public. With growing concern his country had recognized the increasing dangers of waste and pollution. Two thirds of Austria's national territory were covered by mountains, and tourism was an important sector of the Austrian economy, so that it was a vital necessity to safeguard the landscape and the environment. In Austria, energy production had given rise to no serious environmental protection difficulties, mainly because there was an abundant supply of hydroelectric power. However, almost 50% of Austria's total hydroelectric resources were being put to use, and with energy demands doubling every ten years other sources of energy would have to be exploited. In 1971 Austria had decided to construct a nuclear power plant with a 700-MW(e) boiling-water reactor at Zwentendorf on the Danube, some 40 kilometres west of Vienna, and good progress had already been made. It was expected that the reactor would be operational by the summer of 1976. Austria's decision to build the reactor was influenced by the conviction that nuclear power could be almost as clean as hydroelectric power. Of course, nuclear power raised its own pollution problems and their solution would require a great deal of information

exchange. Taking all those arguments into account he completely shared the Board's view that, in the light of its statutory responsibilities and its experience the Agency would, in years to come, have to concern itself increasingly with the problems posed by radioactivity released from the many peaceful applications of nuclear energy; the Agency should assume the leading role in that area, in close collaboration with the other competent organizations.

117. The preceding years had been characterized by rapid advances in nuclear power technology and remarkable developments in the nuclear equipment industries. It could reasonably be expected that manufacturers would consider the production of smaller generating units which would be of special interest for the introduction of nuclear energy in developing areas throughout the world. However, he wanted to point out that an analysis of the few known incidents in nuclear power generation had shown that the cause was often human failure rather than technical inadequacy. Governments would therefore not only have to assume the responsibility for issuing appropriate guidelines and regulations for reactor safety but would also have to ensure that they were properly observed. He realized that the imposition of strict safety standards that were subject to constant change and improvement would not facilitate the task of electric power companies and reactor users, but it was the only way to ensure that nuclear power production remained clean.

118. Referring to Article VI of the Statute he said his country was starting the necessary parliamentary procedure to ratify the amendment in the near future.

119. On another plane, he recalled that in October 1971 the Agency and the "International Organizations Headquarters and Conference Centre Vienna Inc." had reached an agreement as to the Agency's space requirements in the Headquarters building, the joint services area and common institutions and the conference area. In December 1971, and again in February 1972, preliminary plans for the Headquarters building had been presented to the Agency. Soon afterwards several meetings with Agency officials had taken place, and in May 1972 a plan had been completed for submission to the competent authorities as required by Austrian building legislation. A satisfactory solution to one of the traffic problems had also been found; the Headquarters area would be connected with the proposed "Donauufer-Autobahn", a motor highway leading to the airport. A decision had also been reached by the end of May regarding the technical installations which were to be provided in the Headquarters building. As far as the construction of the joint service premises, common institutions and conference rooms was concerned, discussions on the working and planning levels had started at the beginning of June 1972, and the necessary draft plans had been completed by 3 August 1972. All the further planning would also be done in close co-operation with the Agency. The actual

[16] GC(XVI)/485, Annex V.

construction work on the Donaupark site was scheduled to start at the beginning of 1973. Negotiations between the Austrian authorities and the Agency were proceeding favourably regarding the construction of the safeguards laboratory and the transfer to Seibersdorf of the three laboratories at present located at Agency Headquarters.

120. Finally he said he was glad to note that the documentation for the sixteenth regular session of the General Conference had been made as clear and concise as possible.

121. Mr. TÜREMEN (Turkey) associated himself with the other speakers in congratulating Mr. Flores de la Peña on having been elected unanimously to the high post of President of the session. The Mexican Government's offer to the Conference to convene in an area so rich in beauty and heritage had provided all the participants with a rare opportunity to combine business with pleasure.

122. Recalling that the Mexican representatives at the past two sessions of the Conference had advocated holding General Conferences outside Austria, [17] to permit more direct contact with people in other areas, he said he was sure that the meeting in Mexico would serve to strengthen the universal character of the Agency.

123. In view of the tremendous expansion of nuclear power generation, which was expected to exceed three million megawatts by the year 2000, he considered that it was incumbent upon the Agency and the advanced countries to promote universal co-operation in that area, so that the developing countries might also move into the nuclear age.

124. The technical assistance budget of the Agency, when considered in the light of that observation, was extremely limited and failed to meet the needs of the developing countries.

125. However, in spite of its limited resources, the Agency had been taking some encouraging steps towards fulfilling its obligation in that field.

126. His delegation appreciated the Agency's initiative in undertaking a market survey on the nuclear power requirements of developing countries. [18] Turkey had gladly participated in that exercise and he believed that the results of the survey would be extremely useful.

127. The uranium resources in the advanced countries were being exploited so rapidly that their reserves of low-cost uranium were expected to be exhausted by the early 1980s and, consequently, reserves were being sought

elsewhere. Turkey was a developing country which had indications of possible large uranium reserves on its territory. It was intended to exploit those reserves and in the near future UNDP assistance would be sought for a uranium prospecting project in Turkey. He expressed the hope that the Agency with its known competence in conducting mineral surveys would, in conjunction with UNDP, assist Turkey with that project.

128. The role of the Agency was increasing in significance not only in connection with the expansion of nuclear power but also in connection with the question of environmental protection, which had become one of the most significant issues of the age. He felt that of all the United Nations organizations the Agency would bear one of the greatest responsibilities for dealing with environmental problems and for that reason he welcomed the comprehensive study which the Director General proposed to undertake.

129. It was pleasing to note that the amendment to Article VI.A-D of the Statute had now been accepted by 46 Member States. As one of the co-sponsors of that amendment his delegation hoped that other Member States which had not already done so would accelerate the ratification formalities to enable the amendment to come into force.

130. Finally he congratulated the Mexican Government and the Agency's Secretariat on the excellent arrangements that had been made for the Conference.

131. Mr. EYEGUET (Gabon), congratulating the President on his election, said that the efficiency with which the meetings were being conducted and the harmony that prevailed bore testimony to his ability.

132. The Gabon delegation commended the reports and programmes submitted to the Conference and approved the outlines of the programme for 1973-78. Despite the budgeting difficulties facing the Agency's technical assistance programme, he hoped that timely solutions would be found enabling that programme to be maintained at its current level of effectiveness in the following years. In implementing the system of safeguards in connection with NPT, the Agency could count on his country's full support.

133. As regards the representation of the various regions on the Board, his delegation hoped that the countries which had not yet accepted the amendment to Article VI.A-D to the Statute would do so as soon as possible.

134. His country had been participating in the supply of uranium ore on a world-wide basis. Its contribution had hitherto been limited to ore prospecting and mining. It was going to enter more theoretical fields, if only because of certain characteristics of great scientific interest of the ores found. As would be recalled, the French

[17] GC(XIV)/OR.137, paras 18-22 and GC(XV)/OR.147, para. 103.

[18] See document GC(XVI)/485, paras V.9.65-V.9.68.

delegation had announced the discovery of the traces of an old chain reaction in the opencast mining site at Oklo. [19] He had appreciated it that the French delegation had associated his delegation with that important communication.

135. At a time when the young Republic of Gabon had just established institutions of higher learning and a national university, it was pleasant news that a natural nuclear reactor had

existed 1700 million years earlier under its soil and that it was in Gabon that such a phenomenon had been discovered for the first time.

136. In conclusion, he wished to thank the Mexican Government and people for their hospitality and for the excellent arrangements they had made for the Conference.

● The meeting rose at 1.25 p.m.

[19] See document GC(XVI)/OR.151, paras 54-62.

