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RECORD OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-SECOND PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Neue Hofburg, Vienna, on Wednesday, 19 September 1973, at 3.30 p.m.

President: Mr. R. W. BOSWELL (Australia)

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THE RECORD

GENERAL DEBATE AND REPORT FOR 1972-73 (GC(XVII)/500, 500/Corr. 1, 510) (continued)

1. Mr. de CARVALHO (Brazil) assured the Director General of the continued friendship and support of the Brazilian authorities during his fourth term of office.

2. It was evident from an examination of the draft budget for 1974 that the technical assistance programme was the programme which had suffered most from recent currency realignments and world-wide inflation. Of the main activities of the Agency, the technical assistance programme was the only one to have been subject to increasing erosion due to the monetary crisis and its consequences. Appropriations for activities in which developing countries were only marginally interested had steadily increased.

3. His delegation welcomed the initiative taken by the Board of Governors in requesting a study of the possibilities and implications of all modes of financing the provision of technical assistance by the Agency, including in particular financing from the Regular Budget. For a long time it had been a constant aspiration of developing countries to increase the resources available for technical assistance. To that end a large number of them paid their voluntary contributions on the same scale as or a higher scale than their assessments for contributions to the Regular Budget. In the long term the proper solution, in his view, would be the inclusion of technical assistance in the Regular Budget, and his delegation was looking forward to the results of the study initiated by the Board.

4. In the short term some other solution would have to be found. In that connection, the Director General had been indefatigable in his efforts to obtain larger voluntary contributions from the developed countries, not only in cash but also in the form of equipment and fellowships.

5. The International Nuclear Information System (INIS) was being fully utilized by the Nuclear Information Centre of the Brazilian National Nuclear Energy Commission. The Centre, which was automated to the greatest possible extent, was serving an increasing number of users. Information from it was even reaching scientists in neighbouring countries.

6. In the field of dosimetry, special mention should be made of secondary standards dosimetry laboratories; they had so far been of particular interest to the World Health Organization, because of the important medical applications involved but there were other important applications which were within the Agency's competence and which should be developed by other secondary standards laboratories duly recognized by the Agency. The Agency might wish to give attention to the matter.

7. Another field of interest for Brazil was the application of radioisotopes in agriculture. Thanks to the co-operation of the Agency and of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Brazil was entering the second year of a large-scale five-year agricultural project in Piracicaba - the most important project of its kind in Latin America.

8. Turning to the main activities in the nuclear energy field in Brazil, he said that, to determine the potential capacity of Brazilian industry to manufacture components for nuclear installations, a firm of architects and engineers (Bechtel Corporation) had been engaged to make a study in depth of the ability of Brazilian industry to apply its know-how to nuclear technology within a very short time.

9. The Commission had been studying the technology of all reactor types with present or future possibilities, starting with light-water and heavy-water reactors. With a view to the future, and above all to the better utilization of uranium as fuel, the Commission was endeavouring to assimilate the technology of sodium- and helium-cooled fast breeder reactors. To that end it had built a soium loop and was carrying out, in association with France and the United States of America, a development programme which was expected to produce results in the 1990s. In addition, a programme of co-operation between the Commission and the Federal Republic of Germany had been of particular significance.

10. Brazil was proceeding with its large-scale programme of prospection for nuclear minerals. In that connection two important factors had to be considered: the great size of the country and the need for an inventory of its resources in the short term. Thirty-seven projects were being implemented, in regions of easy access, with the object of localizing large uranium deposits. There was a budget of $11 million for prospection alone in 1974, and the figure proposed for 1975 would be over $20 million, which would place Brazil immediately after the United States of America in uranium prospecting.

11. The construction of the country's first nuclear power station - with a 626 MW(e) pressurized-water reactor - was continuing at Angra dos Reis according to schedule. The review of the preliminary safety analysis report, a task engaging a substantial number of technical staff, was near completion. The co-operation of the Agency and of the United States Atomic Energy Commission had been received, and Brazil had invited other countries to send technical observers to profit from the Commission's experience.

12. The Agency was facing a very serious financial situation, due mainly to currency realignments. The financial crisis was not an act of God, like an earthquake, but was being provoked exclusively by some developed countries. Its result, however, as far as the Agency's budget was concerned, was being felt to an unfair extent by the developing countries, which although the victims of the currency realignments, were being requested to cover the budgetary deficit. Some

developed countries had profited by the currency realignments, but were at the same time requesting the developing countries to foot part of the bill. His delegation would abstain on the contingency fund question as a protest against the proposed solution.

13. The future of nuclear energy in developing countries would depend largely on the types of reactor available. The introduction of light-water reactors depended entirely on whether developing countries could be assured of long-term contracts for enrichment on favourable terms. Nuclear power in many countries had made remarkable progress under the nuclear power promotional policy adopted by the United States Atomic Energy Commission. If, as appeared to be the case, the situation had now altered and the conditions of new long-term contracts for enrichment services had become more severe, adverse effects might be expected. It was almost impossible for a developing country to foresee exactly what its nuclear fuel needs would be over the next ten years. The best that could be done would be to give the upper and lower limits for the quantity of fuel required. Down-payments should be reduced to about 10% of the cost associated with the first core. The current non-discriminatory policy should be maintained. A firm market was required before any new enrichment plant was installed, and the best way to ensure its existence was by means of realistic contracts in keeping with the prevailing local conditions.

14. One important difficulty that threatened the development of nuclear energy in many countries was undoubtedly the expected scarcity of enriched uranium. In many cases the difficulty was aggravated by veiled or manifest political considerations.

15. Important steps had been taken to cope with the problem. They included the following: the offer by the United States of America to co-operate under certain conditions with technological know-how in the establishment of multinational ventures based on the diffusion process; the decision of France, Italy and other countries associated in Eurodif to establish a new enrichment facility, also based on diffusion; and the multinational project for the development of the ultracentrifuge method, which was expected to be an economic way of enriching uranium.

16. Despite such steps, it was likely that many developing countries would be left with inadequate assurance of access to supplies of enriched uranium.

17. Brazil looked primarily to the Agency to provide, through the combined efforts of all Members, a co-operative basis for the supply of enriched uranium and, with the co-operation of the great Powers, an assurance that supply difficulties would not constitute a barrier to their development.

18. As regards the relationship between development and the environment, it was important to remember that a developing country faced with problems of poverty, nutrition, education, clothing, housing, medical care and employment had to compromise between the need to raise man's productivity in order to secure his well-being and the pollution arising from industrial development.

19. To improve living conditions, Brazil was considering every possible way of increasing power generation, while making every effort to protect the environment. The present emotional approach to some aspects of pollution and energy production was dangerous for the developing countries.

20. In spite of the great difficulties encountered over the years, the Agency had rendered and was continuing to render invaluable service to Member States, particularly in the field of technical assistance.

21. Mr. FUJIYAMA (Japan) pointed out that, parallel with the rapid progress being made in other fields of science and technology, there had been a period of steady development in the various peaceful uses of atomic energy which had contributed greatly to the welfare of mankind. With the possibility of a shortage of conventional energy resources in the near future, the world's dependence on nuclear energy was becoming increasingly obvious. His delegation believed that the role and importance of the Agency, which was dealing with such important issues as technical assistance, safeguards and protection of the environment, were becoming greater than ever.

22. The days were past when atomic energy was the concern mainly of a small number of developed countries. The Agency's technical assistance to the developing nations in matters relating to nuclear energy was assuming increasing significance. In order to support the Agency's programmes for the provision of technical assistance to the developing countries, the Japanese Government had since 1959 been making annual voluntary contributions corresponding to Japan's base rate of assessment, the contributions made up to the current year amounting to $870 000.

23. In the awareness that recent international monetary realignments and world-wide inflationary trends had had adverse effects on the real level of the Agency's technical assistance programmes, his Government was ready to give favourable consideration to proposals for increasing to an appropriate extent the target for contributions to the Agency's General Fund for 1975. It would decide on the amount of its voluntary contribution for 1974 after a full evaluation of the aforementioned effects.

24. The Government of Japan had acted as host to a number of training courses and seminars sponsored by the Agency, and during the past 18 years Japan had - mainly in collaboration with either the Agency or UNDP - accepted 225 trainees in the atomic energy field. It had also carried out, in line with its own technical assistance policies, bilateral assistance programmes involving training and the provision of equipment for nuclear research, mainly for the benefit of Asian countries.

25. It went without saying that atomic energy had to be developed and utilized in harmony with the human environment. The solution of problems relating to the safety of atomic facilities and to the disposal of radioactive wastes was an essential prerequisite for the development and utilization of atomic energy. It was recognized that the Agency was playing, and would continue to play, an increasingly important role in that connection.

26. In 1972 a firm foundation had been laid for expanded international co-operation in environmental matters. The progress made had been reflected in the holding of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (the Stockholm Conference) [1] and in the adoption of the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (the London Convention). One outcome of the Stockholm Conference had been the establishment by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1972 of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), whose Governing Council had first met in June 1973. The London Convention in particular had very great relevance to the Agency's activities in connection with the disposal of high-level radioactive wastes resulting from the development and utilization of nuclear energy. The Japanese Government had signed it in June 1973 and was now preparing to ratify it. Under the London Convention, the Agency had been assigned the task of drawing up and recommending standards in connection with the marine dumping of radioactive wastes. Consequently, the Agency's role in the environmental field was expanding significantly. Experts from Japan had participated in the consultants' meeting and the panel held by the Agency during the previous spring to define "high-level" radioactive wastes and other "high-level" radioactive materials which might be considered unsuitable for marine dumping.

27. In the previous year, the Director General had announced the Agency's expanded programme relating to the environment. Japan was ready to co-operate with the Agency in that important task. The Government of Japan had made a special contribution of some $8000 to help in financing the Agency's expanded programme, recognizing that special contributions would be the only possible source of funds for the purpose as far as the current year was concerned. As a nation which was itself seriously tackling environmental problems, Japan sincerely supported the strengthening of the Agency's activities in that area.

28. At the Stockholm Conference, Japan had supported the establishment of UNEP in a desire to help promote extensive international co-operation in solving environmental problems. It had pledged a contribution amounting to 10% of the United Nations Environment Fund over a period of five years. He welcomed the holding of talks between the Agency and UNEP on the Agency's expanded programme relating to the environment and hoped that those discussions would lead to effective co-operation between the two organizations.

29. Work connected with safeguards constituted an important part of the Agency's activities. So far, transfer agreements had accounted for the greater part of the Agency's safeguards activities and had played an essential role in their development. In connection with five agreements on co-operation in the field of atomic energy, concluded with Australia, Canada, France, the United Kingdom and the United States, Japan had also concluded transfer agreements, placing the application of the safeguards required under those agreements in the Agency's hands. He believed that in so doing his country had made a very important contribution to the development of the Agency's safeguards system.

30. The most important event with regard to safeguards during the past year had been the signing of a safeguards agreement by the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM), the non-nuclear-weapon States of EURATOM and the Agency. In view of the importance of EURATOM's Member States in the world's nuclear industry, the incorporation of the safeguards on nuclear activities in the non-nuclear-weapon States of EURATOM in the Agency's safeguards system could be considered an epoch-making development.

31. Japan itself was at present engaged in exploratory talks with the Agency concerning safeguards under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). When the Government of Japan had signed NPT in February 1970, it had stressed that, before ratification, it intended to examine its terms carefully in order to ensure that Japan would not be subject to unfavourable treatment vis-à-vis other nations in the application of safeguards. It also wanted to consider the progress achieved in nuclear disarmament and in problems relating to Japan's security. It was the view of his Government that the spirit and substance of the safeguards agreement concluded with EURATOM and its non-nuclear-weapon Member States, which had been elaborated within the framework of the material reproduced in document INFCIRC/153, should be equally applicable to the safeguards agreement with Japan and that recognition of that point was vital to the successful conclusion of a safeguards agreement between the Agency and Japan.

32. As regards future expansion of the Agency's safeguards activities, given the limitations on budget and staff, he welcomed the emphasis in the Annual Report on research and development designed to improve safeguards techniques, such as the improvement of unattended surveillance devices and the preparation of a safeguards technical manual. In view of the increasing number of atomic energy establishments and the increasing amounts of nuclear material being transported, he believed that further efforts should be made to simplify and rationalize safeguards procedures.

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[1] See Report on the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment published in United Nations document A/CONF.48/14.

33. For the Agency safeguards system to become truly universal and comprehensive, it was necessary that the nuclear-weapon States should also understand the real purpose of the Agency's safeguards. In that context, it was to be welcomed that two of those States, the United Kingdom and the United States, had announced that they would accept the application of Agency safeguards to all their nuclear activities, excluding only those with direct national security significance, and that they had begun talks with the Agency on the terms of a voluntary submission agreement. He firmly believed that all other nuclear-weapon States should do the same.

34. Agency safeguards in connection with NPT had been discussed at length by many experts in the Board's Safeguards Committee (1970). In subsequent negotiations with many Member States the Agency had accumulated abundant data on the subject and, as a result of its negotiations with EURATOM, a new approach had developed. The Agency's decision to convene a panel meeting in the autumn of 1973 to review the changing situation and to consider various problems which had arisen since the meetings of the Safeguards Committee (1970) was, therefore, highly opportune. Welcoming that initiative, the Japanese Government had proposed holding the meeting in Tokyo. He hoped the discussions of that panel would contribute to the further development and rationalization of the international safeguards system.

35. Since its establishment, the Agency had done much valuable work in connection with the use of atomic energy to promote the well-being of mankind. The importance of nuclear energy for man would certainly increase in the future, and the Agency's activities would accordingly expand and become more diversified. To carry on those activities, the Agency would naturally require a solid financial and organizational basis. The recent currency realignments and the current inflationary trends should not be allowed to hinder the Agency in performing its important tasks by creating a shortage of funds. Japan was of the opinion that any budgetary insufficiency should first be compensated for by way of economies. However, it considered that at present minimum additional contributions were unavoidable in order to make up for shortfalls caused by factors beyond the Agency's control.

36. On the organizational side, the amendment to Article VI of the Agency's Statute meant that an enlarged Board of Governors would be constituted during the current session of the Conference. He welcomed that development since it would ensure that the interests of all Members were adequately represented and that the global nature of the Agency's activities would be reflected more satisfactorily.

37. Mr. SCHMILL ORDOÑEZ (Mexico) said that, like all countries of the world, Mexico was at present facing a number of problems requiring urgent and effective solution. The country was aware that it was in the midst of various processes of change and that it had to draw on its own resources and those which the international community could make available to it in order to complete the programmes which it had devised for strengthening its political democracy, improving its educational system, balancing the distribution of its national income among various sectors of the population, making use of its natural resources in a rational and effective manner, encouraging scientific research and its application to social and economic life, extending the benefits of culture to the most remote districts as well as to the large urban centres, promoting industry and, in short, improving and raising the level of the life and culture of the Mexican people to a maximum degree.

38. With those purposes in mind, the Government of Mexico was carrying out a long-term programme designed to ensure the increased use of nuclear science and technology, which were indispensable factors in accelerating economic and social development.

39. Since Mexico was a country characterized by rapid economic development and a very high population growth rate (one of the highest in the world), there was a need for large quantities of energy. It had so far solved its energy problems mainly by means of oil, which it was producing domestically in a highly efficient manner; 90% of the country's energy consumption was based on the use of oil, the other 10% being derived from sources such as coal and hydro power. However, the growth rate of the population was at present 3.5% a year and, as a result of improvements in the living standard of the population and the increase in the gross national product, the demand for energy was growing even more rapidly.

40. In view of that situation, the Government of Mexico had decided to turn to uranium as a basic source of energy for the production of electricity.

41. It had been estimated that during the period 1981-1990 Mexico would have to build power plants with a total capacity of 30 000 MW, 25 000 MW of which would have to be based on oil or nuclear fuel.

42. For those reasons, the Government had in 1972 ordered a 660-MW reactor for installation in the Laguna Verde region of Veracruz State. It would supply electric power to the central grid. Work on its installation was already under way. Also in 1972, and under the same programme, the Government had decided to acquire a second unit, with the same power and other characteristics; it would be installed near the first reactor and used for the same purpose.

43. The Mexican long-term programme for the establishment of nuclear power plants applied to the entire country and was aimed at supplanting oil in the production of electricity and making it available in other important technological and economic fields - for example, in the petrochemical industry.

44. Mexico was fully aware of the impending world energy crisis and was taking measures to

avoid it as far as possible; in doing so it had received from the Agency very effective technical assistance and the assurance of still further assistance. For that reason Mexico had carried out all its obligations towards the Agency faithfully and punctually.

45. In the same context, plans were being developed for exploiting the country's uranium deposits and for producing as efficiently as possible the nuclear fuel required for the operation of its reactors. Mexico had received effective and timely technological assistance from the Agency for that purpose and expected to become largely self-sufficient in that area.

46. For all those reasons, and in recognition of the great importance of Agency technical assistance to the developing countries, Mexico supported the policy of substantially increasing technical assistance, with distribution throughout the world of nuclear know-how and technology, and in that way reducing the imbalance - which had been observed by the Agency - between the expenditure on inspection and surveillance and that on technical assistance. The Mexican delegation considered that technological assistance was very important, perhaps even more so than safeguards, for the establishment of the conditions necessary for world peace.

47. Mr. KHAN (Pakistan), after warmly congratulating the Director General on his unanimous re-election for a further term of office, said that the Conference was meeting in the shadow of three major issues. The world was confronted by problems associated with the threat to peace and security, by a deepening energy crisis, and by the prospect of serious shortages of food and other agricultural commodities. His delegation believed that the success of the Agency in the coming decade would be measured largely by the manner in which it responded to the challenges represented by those issues. In the disarmament field, some progress had been made through the placing of a limit on the number of offensive and defensive weapons; however, the freezing of numbers had been more than compensated for by greater sophistication in weapons and their delivery systems, with the result that the threat had not diminished, and might even have increased. Pakistan hoped that the super Powers concerned would intensify the search for a settlement, not only in their own enlighened self-interest but for the very survival of mankind. As long as the nuclear arms race continued, in terms of quantity and quality, openly or in disguise, the prospects for NPT remained dim, irrespective of how well the Agency applied its safeguards. While the key to global security lay in the hands of the super Powers, the non-nuclear-weapon States - and particularly the so-called near-nuclear developing countries - could set a good example in building world peace. The countries of Latin America, through the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (the Tlatelolco Treaty)[2], had set a precedent which could well be followed in other regions in order to keep them free from nuclear weapons. It was in that spirit that the President of Pakistan, speaking at the inauguration of the Karachi nuclear power plant in November 1972, had proposed the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in the South-Asian subcontinent.

48. The whole world was conscious of the energy crisis, which had not developed overnight nor been caused by arbitrary steps taken by certain oil-producing countries. The factors responsible for the crisis included the limited supply of good-quality fossil fuels, the sharp escalation in the price of capital goods required by oil-producing countries for their development, and serious concern about pollution. At all events, the present acute stage of the energy crisis had made nuclear power not only a realistic alternative, but an absolute necessity. The Agency's role in resolving the energy crisis was thus a vital one. The advanced countries with their financial and technological resources would find appropriate solutions to their energy problems; the countries which would suffer most were the fuel-deficient developing countries, which would be unable to pay for highly priced fuel oil or capital-intensive nuclear power plants. That was why the Agency's activities in the sphere of nuclear power for developing countries now assumed a new and added significance. He wished to commend the Agency for undertaking a nuclear power market survey in 14 developing countries; the survey had highlighted the fact that in the 1980s the proportion of nuclear power in those countries would exceed 70% of the total thermal capacity required. His delegation agreed with the Director General that that should become an on-going Agency activity. Indeed, Pakistan wanted the Agency to go further and take bold initiatives in helping the developing countries to evolve strategies for solving their energy problems through the optimum use of nuclear power. Pakistan was convinced that nuclear power would play a key role in accelerating the economic and industrial development of the country, and it was estimated that the atom would contribute nearly one half of the power produced by the end of the century. The Karachi nuclear power plant had already demonstrated an over 80% availability factor during the first year of its operation and had encouraged the responsible authorities to plan a second nuclear plant, with an output of 500-600 MW, to be completed around 1980. Work had already started on a fuel fabrication plant to meet the requirements of the Karachi nuclear power plant, and the construction of a heavy-water production facility in the country was being actively planned. Pakistan was carrying out intensive prospecting for uranium, partly within the framework of a UNDP-assisted project which was being executed by the Agency and partly by its own resources. There were firm indications of significant reserves of uranium, which it was hoped to develop and exploit with the co-operation of friendly countries. He felt that the Agency might step up its activities relating to uranium prospecting, particularly in the developing countries, so that the projected requirement

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

of an additional 1.5 million tons of uranium reserves by 1990 could be met.

49. It was painfully apparent that, in spite of world-wide industrial and technological advances, the basic need to increase agricultural production remained. At the previous session of the Conference, Pakistan had proposed that the Agency, in co-operation with FAO, launch a well planned and co-ordinated programme to help the developing countries in speeding up their food and agricultural production. The events of the past year had only served to emphasize the importance of such an endeavour. He believed that the Agency could play a most useful role in promoting the application of nuclear techniques and radiation in the field of agriculture, and thus make a significant contribution to the economies of the developing countries. Following the suggestions put forward by an Agency mission to Pakistan in 1972, the Government had launched a long-range programme involving mutation breeding for developing new varieties of essential crops, work aimed at the optimum utilization of water and fertilizers, the preservation of food and food grains through radiation, and other projects. It was planning to establish, in the northern part of the country, a third centre for the application of atomic energy in agriculture.

50. He welcomed the increase in the membership of the Board from 25 to 34; it would provide more opportunities for the developing and other non-nuclear countries to participate in the work of the Board. He was especially pleased at the addition to the Board of new Members, such as the Federal Republic of Germany and Italy, under Article VI.A.1 of the Statute.

51. He had no doubt that all the new Members of the Board - particularly those from developing regions - would make an effective contribution to the formulation of the programmes and policies of the Agency, and thus enable the organization to perform its promotional and regulatory functions more effectively. He believed that, in view of the enlargement of the Board and in the light of the experience gained over the past 16 years, it should be possible to simplify the Rules of Procedure in the interests of economy and efficiency.

52. His delegation was satisfied with the Agency's technical assistance activities, which, in spite of serious limitations on resources, had made an effective contribution to the programmes of the developing countries. In view of the rapidly expanding need of those countries for technical advice and assistance in planning and implementing their nuclear energy programmes, Pakistan hoped that ways and means could be found of increasing the funds allocated to technical assistance. He was pleased that the Director General was considering making greater use of Secretariat staff for advisory missions. His delegation wished to suggest that more liberal use be made of the expertise which was becoming available in the developing countries.

53. The International Centre for Theoretical Physics at Trieste had proved to be one of the Agency's most successful projects, towards which the Italian Government had made very generous contributions. He felt that the time had come to consider extending its activities to the developing regions of Latin America, Africa and Asia through the establishment of affiliated sub-centres.

54. As a result of inflationary pressures and the uncertain world currency situation, the Agency had been forced to ask for supplementary budget appropriations. He believed that all Member States, and particularly the economically most powerful countries, should make the necessary resources available to the Agency and so enable it to discharge its obligations in the promotional and regulatory fields. The Director General had already taken several measures to effect economies. The Pakistan delegation felt that there was room for consolidating the programme of the Agency so that certain activities of special interest to groups of advanced countries could either be transferred to regional organizations or be carried out with their financial and organizational support. It believed that the Agency should be more selective in its projects and concentrate on fewer programmes with a view to making a real impact rather than spread its resources thinly over an excessively wide range of activities.

55. Finally, he wished to assure the Director General and the Agency of Pakistan's wholehearted support in the years to come.

56. Mr. PETRI (Sweden) extended his warm congratulations to the Director General on his re-election.

57. The seventeenth regular session of the General Conference was taking place a time when many countries were considering the benefits and problems of the large-scale application of nuclear power. It was gratifying to note that the Agency was actively engaged in the current deliberations and was assuming its proper normative role in the nuclear field. Sweden had one of the world's most ambitious nuclear power programmes and was anxious to co-operate with the Agency to the fullest extent.

58. The Conference was meeting for the first time since the amendment of Article VI of the Statute had come into force. The amendment would enable a greater number of Member States, especially developing countries, to take part in the Board's deliberations. The Board itself designated the nine Members of the Agency most advanced in atomic energy technology, including the production of source materials, but the Statute did not indicate what criteria were to be applied in assessing the degree of advancement. Some criteria, however, were obvious: the number and capacity of nuclear power reactors in operation or under construction, the extent to which those reactors had been or were being built by the country's own industries rather than by foreign concerns, the extent to which the technology used was national rather than imported, and the country's position as an exporter of nuclear power stations and components or of nuclear fuel and services. The general efforts of a country to promote Agency activities, as by the provision

of technical assistance, was clearly also of relevance.

59. Although the criteria for designation were not mentioned in the Statute, it was quite clear that the Statute gave no support to the presumption that some seats on the Board were permanently reserved for certain countries. It was explicitly specified that, every year, the outgoing Board of Governors had to designate the Members which at that particular time were the most advanced in the technology of atomic energy, including the production of source materials. He did not wish to press the issue at the current session, since his country hoped to gain, through normal consultative procedures, access to the Board as a Member from the Western Europe area, but according to most of the objective criteria which he had just mentioned there was every reason to count Sweden among the nations most advanced in the technology of atomic energy. He assumed that the Board would take that into due account in future elections.

60. Budgetary problems had been greater than usual during the current year as a result of world monetary instability, and the Board had had to recommend two consecutive increases in the 1973 and 1974 budgets. His country was ready to share in the increased financial burden on an interim basis, but more stable solutions would have to be found, possibly by keeping Agency resources in more than one key currency. It was wrong that some countries, like his own, having paid their annual contributions early in 1973 when dollar values were higher, were being called upon to share in deficits which resulted from the decreased value of their contributions. If the Agency diversified its monetary assets such consequences could be mitigated.

61. Budgetary squeezes were particularly regrettable in the field of technical assistance. The Agency had performed excellent services as the executing agency for UNDP projects and in its training and fellowship programmes. The recent Agency market survey of the potential demand for nuclear power in 14 developing countries showed that nuclear power was becoming an important factor in the developing world, and the Agency would have an important role to play in that field. The Director General's report on Agency technical assistance activities showed that the Agency was well aware of the planning- and problem-oriented policy which central United Nations bodies had instituted in the technical assistance field. No real problems seemed to exist in relation to UNDP, and it was most desirable that the value of technical assistance should increase steadily. It was to be hoped that the trend in the opposite direction would be stopped.

62. In order to preserve the purchasing power of its 1974 contribution to the General Fund, Sweden had decided to contribute 185 000 Swedish crowns as in 1973. That was equivalent to $44 000 at the current exchange rate, an increase of about $8000, or 22%, over the amount of $36 000 corresponding to its base rate of assessment. In the same context he wished to mention the special agreement between the Agency and the Swedish International Development Authority, under which Sweden helped to finance the International Centre for Theoretical Physics at Trieste and provided fellowships and training. For 1973 the value of such assistance was approximately $200 000, and the 1974 figure would probably be even higher. Sweden was also the second-largest contributor to UNDP, providing some 10% of its budget. The overall value of Sweden's support of Agency activities was thus of the order of $500 000 in one year.

63. The view had been expressed that the Agency was concentrating too much on safeguards to the detriment of technical assistance. He did not think that the two activities were in fact interrelated; they should be allowed to develop independently. The Agency was on the verge of concluding and implementing safeguards agreements with a number of important industrial countries within the framework of NPT. It was important that the Agency's safeguards system should make maximum use of existing nuclear material control systems, in order to keep expenditures within economically acceptable limits and to facilitate operations for the individual nuclear installations subject to safeguards. It was evident that some of the problems involved in the safeguards system were so complicated that continued studies and development work would be necessary.

64. His delegation noted with satisfaction that the Agency was devoting attention to the problem of waste management and radiological protection. The Agency had an important normative role to play with regard to the safe handling and disposal of radioactive wastes and the conclusion of general agreements in that field. Swedish Government experts were at present studying the report of a special panel on the dumping of wastes into the ocean, held during the summer, to help the Agency in connection with its responsibilities under the Convention on Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter.

65. It was clear that in the near future the Agency would not only have to pay continued attention to the promotional aspects of nuclear technology, but also have to devote considerable effort to its regulatory and control functions. Much remained to be done in both fields. His country would give every assistance.

66. Mr. YVON (France) said that the past year had been marked by an energy crisis and a growing awareness of environmental problems. In connection with both phenomena, however, the Agency was facing up to its new tasks, as could be seen from the market survey of the potential demand for nuclear power in developing countries and its expanded programme relating to the environment; hence the meetings organized by the Agency on the effects of radiation and the management of waste from nuclear facilities were highly relevant. At the same time, however, the tendency to hold many meetings on the same topic was not to be encouraged, since it could easily give rise to undue apprehension.

67. In 1973 there had been an increase in the rate at which orders for nuclear power stations were being placed in the more developed countries, although it was known that natural and enriched uranium were likely to be in short supply by the 1980s. There was accordingly a need to intensify prospecting activities and to construct enrichment plants on an international basis. Although that trend concerned mainly the industrialized countries, the time was not far off when the developing countries would also have medium and small power reactors; in the meantime, those countries were already enjoying the benefits of nuclear energy through the application of isotopes in biology, agriculture and industry, and the specialists trained in those fields would play a significant part in the development of the nuclear industry.

68. It was regrettable that the year 1973 had also been marked by a monetary crisis, for which a solution would still have to be found if the Agency's activities, especially those relating to technical assistance and the organization of scientific meetings, were not to be curtailed.

69. With regard to the problem of safeguards, it was essential to establish clearly what the responsibilities of the Agency should be. In effect, the Agency should act as a kind of international centre for Member States making available nuclear technology and materials, with the task of ensuring that such assistance was used solely for peaceful purposes. It was up to the countries concerned to decide for themselves which facilities should be placed under safeguards. Within that context the Agency had a particular role to play in connection with the implementation of NPT. It should be stressed, however, that any discrimination within the Agency between signatory and non-signatory States should be avoided, and his delegation believed that it would be most undesirable if any such discrimination were to come about through the effect of majority votes.

70. In 1972, the Agency had been the first organization to be informed by the French Government of the discovery of evidence of a chain reaction that had occurred in Gabon some two thousand million years before. Work in collaboration with the Gabon authorities had confirmed the presence of two separate fossil deposits, representing more than 200 tons of uranium depleted in uranium-235 to a varying degree.

71. As far as France's nuclear programme was concerned, it had been decided to speed up nuclear power production by increasing the capacity planned for the years 1978-82 to 13 000 MW(e). Furthermore, the French prototype breeder reactor Phénix had gone critical in August 1973 and was due for integration into the grid before the end of the year. Construction of the first large commercial power station with a breeder reactor, of 1200 MW(e) capacity, was scheduled to begin shortly within the framework of a joint German-Italian-French project.

72. France had taken steps to deal with the predicted shortage of uranium by embarking on prospection on a world-wide scale and by stepping up activity relating to fuel enrichment, especially within Europe. A study of the technical and economic factors involved in the construction of a multinational gaseous diffusion plant had been completed and it should be possible to reach a final decision in the near future.

73. Since technical assistance was one of the Agency's major activities, his country aimed at contributing to the different forms of aid provided for the developing countries. In response to the Director General's appeal, it had been decided to take over one of the technical assistance projects which could not be included in the 1973 programme. That project, the cost of which was estimated at $30 000, would thus represent a further addition to the French voluntary contribution for 1973.

74. Furthermore, the offer to provide equipment worth 150 000 francs for one or more Agency laboratories in 1974 had been renewed, and France's voluntary contribution would be increased again in 1974 - to $120 000; in addition, fellowships would continue to be made available in France for further training.

75. In conclusion, he wished to state that almost a third of a century had passed since the beginning of the atomic age and that 1973 had, as far as nuclear energy was concerned, been a year of great achievement. In the present eventful times, continuity was something to be valued highly; it was therefore gratifying to note that the Director General had been reappointed for a new term of office. The unanimous decision was an indication of the high confidence placed in him.

76. Mr. FREIR (Israel), after congratulating Mr. Eklund on his reappointment as Director General, said in connection with the Agency's market survey for nuclear power in developing countries that the methods used and the conclusions arrived at, together with those which could be obtained by extrapolation, were invaluable. The considerable demand for reactors in the 600 MW range was noteworthy, and would certainly give an indication to the suppliers. However, the clients for those reactors might, he feared, come up against two difficulties. The reactors ordered by the American and European utilities were designed mostly for an output of 1000 MW and above. Moreover, the programmes of those utilities were being accelerated in view of the attitude which the oil-producing countries had begun to adopt. The result was a dual pressure on the supplying industries to use their present and foreseeable capacity for an accelerated supply of bigger reactors, and such pressure might work to the disadvantage of consumers whose grids could not accommodate such reactors. He suggested that the Agency examine whether such apprehensions were valid and, if so, consider what it could do to satisfy the needs of the small-grid consumer. In that connection, serious attention should also be paid to the development of air-cooled reactors in order to avoid sea and river pollution and the discharge of heat into water-bodies.

77. As regards the proposal to amend the Rules of Procedure, his delegation was in favour of expediting the proceedings by fusing the functions of the two existing committees within a single "Committee of the Whole". He suggested a further amendment to the effect that one week-day during each regular session should be free of formal meetings, since the General Conference was an occasion when the heads of all atomic energy commissions congregated at one place at the same time and could informally discuss matters of bilateral, multilateral and general interest.

78. While endorsing the Agency's budget in the form in which it had been submitted, he noted with concern the grouping of the more powerful countries on one side and the less powerful ones on the other, the former laying stress on safeguards and the latter on technical assistance. Since both functions of the Agency were necessary, its promotional and regulatory functions should be placed on an equal footing. While Israel would like to see a statutory and quantitative change in the allocation of funds for the two main functions, it had decided under the prevailing circumstances to increase its voluntary contribution to an amount 10% above that corresponding to its base rate of assessment as a token of its earnest in the matter. In addition, it would put 45 man-months of fellowships at the disposal of the Agency in 1974.

79. Lastly, his country had increased the scope of co-operation with other countries, largely during the past year, and was most willing to establish further links, in keeping with the spirit of the Agency.

80. Mr. LE-VAN-THOI (Viet-Nam), after congratulating the Director General on his re-election, remarked that the current relaxation of world tension was particularly favourable to the strengthening of international co-operation, which had always flourished in the Agency.

81. Despite the international monetary crisis, the Agency had been able to continue its activities almost normally, thanks to economies effected by the Secretariat. Objectives for the remaining part of the year were endangered, however, and it was for that reason that Viet-Nam supported the proposal of a supplementary assessment for 1973.

82. The budget forecasts for 1974 were, inevitably, higher than those for previous years, but his country recommended their acceptance as they faithfully reflected the programme of activities for the coming six months approved by the previous session of the General Conference.

83. The programme as a whole was well conceived. Despite its safeguards and environmental responsibilities, the Agency had continued to devote particular attention to technical assistance. Every effort should be made to satisfy to a maximum extent requests for assistance by countries really needing it and to increase the effectiveness of aid by continuous development of the technical assistance programme.

84. In that connection Viet-Nam welcomed the Agency's efforts to encourage regional co-operation by initiating joint research projects for implementation under its aegis.

85. In Asia, and South East Asia in particular, the Agency's efforts had resulted in the conclusion of an agreement on co-operation in research, development and training in the field of nuclear science and technology. His country had been pleased to learn that the radiation preservation of fish and fish products would be the first area of co-operation.

86. His delegation looked forward to the launching of other applied research projects capable of yielding concrete results within a reasonable period of time. Such projects would encourage Governments to collaborate with a view to integrating national research projects into a regional effort.

87. One of the main difficulties in developing countries continued to be a shortage of trained technical staff. His delegation had noted with interest that the Agency was continuing to organize periods of training, study tours and seminars. It held the view, however, that such training should preferably be provided on a regional basis by making use of existing nuclear plants and research establishments. In that way the costs of training could be reduced, conditions would be comparable to those in the trainees' countries of origin and links for subsequent collaboration would be forged.

88. Mr. MEDINA (Philippines), after welcoming the German Democratic Republic and the People's Republic of Mongolia as new Members of the Agency and congratulating Mr. Eklund on his reappointment as Director General, said that the Agency had in the past few years expanded its role in international affairs by assuming additional responsibilities for the preservation of world peace and for the promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, including certain obligations related to the protection of the environment, especially the safe management of nuclear waste. In response to the growing demand for nuclear power, the Agency had intensified its efforts in that field through various activities, including the search for new reserves of low-cost uranium and a detailed survey of the market for nuclear power in developing countries.

89. The Philippine delegation encouraged the increasing involvement of the Agency in matters within its competence and hoped it would continue to intensify its efforts in activities directly affecting the developing Member States.

90. His delegation shared the Director General's views concerning the importance of the Agency's role in providing technical assistance.

91. Examination of the budget proposals for 1974, however, showed that, while they would result in a 25% increase over the adjusted Regular Budget for 1973, the target for the General Fund was to remain at $3 million. The Director General had repeatedly stressed the need for an increase in the General Fund, since the annual cost of providing experts' services had risen by 55% between 1962

and 1973 and a further increase was foreseen in 1974, the cost of equipment was rising at a rate of about 12% a year, and the average annual cost of training had increased by 80% in the eleven years since 1962.

92. The Conference had been informed that the number of fellowship nominations not resulting in awards owing to lack of funds had been far greater in 1972 than in 1971. Such a decline in the number of fellowship awards was extremely harmful to the developing countries - particularly to the least developed ones, which had a greater need for training opportunities. The lack of sufficient resources for fellowships would also eventually have an adverse effect on the Philippines and other developing countries in the early stages of introducing nuclear power as an alternative source of energy.

93. The General Fund had suffered not only from the eroding effects of inflation and currency fluctuations but also from a reduction in the value of gifts in kind and changes in UNDP's policies with regard to the financing of projects and training courses.

94. The Conference should consider means of ensuring that Agency functions of similar importance were subject to similar financing systems and benefited equally from budgetary increases.

95. The Philippine delegation considered that serious efforts should have been made to raise the target for the General Fund for 1974 before proposing a supplementary assessment of $1.25 million for 1973 and a contingency fund of $4.6 million for the 1974 Regular Budget.

96. He supported the proposal to study the possibilities and implications of financing the provision of technical assistance from the Regular Budget and to request the Director General to report on that matter to the Conference at its next session.

97. As evidence of its interest in the Agency's technical assistance programme his Government would contribute to the General Fund an amount corresponding to its base rate of assessment for 1974. It would also continue to make available two Type II fellowships.

98. The Philippines wished once more to urge Member States with large balance-of-payments surpluses, and also those which had contributed nothing or only small amounts to the General Fund, to make appropriate contributions.

99. The great importance which his Government attached to nuclear power as a means of meeting the increasing need for energy in connection with the country's development was illustrated by the fact that it had decided to build the country's first nuclear power plant - in Luzon. For that purpose it had received assistance from the Agency and UNDP, which had carried out a pre-investment feasibility study in Luzon in 1964-1965. In 1972, the Agency had played an important role in updating that study, and its final report formed the basis for the decision to construct the nuclear power plant in Luzon.

100. The decision to construct a nuclear power plant did not signify the end of Agency technical assistance but the beginning of a period of intensified assistance and advice, particularly with respect to tenders, the evaluation of bids, and construction and commissioning work. More people would also have to be trained in the regulation and surveillance of nuclear plants. The project would demonstrate how technical assistance could make an impact on the economic and social development of the recipient State.

101. Regional co-operation was recognized by the developing countries in South East Asia as an effective means of overcoming many of their common problems, and the regional co-operation agreement on research, development and training in nuclear science and technology had been acceded to by India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and South Viet-Nam. His delegation hoped that, during the current session of the General Conference, the countries concerned would be able to implement some of the recommendations made at the Delhi meeting of March 1973 and agree to embark on projects relating to the radiation preservation of fish and to nuclear power plant engineering, especially nuclear instrumentation. The experience of regional co-operative efforts had shown that a strong link was required between those who needed and those who could provide assistance, and the Agency could serve as such a link.

102. Although the introduction of high-yield varieties of crops in some Asian countries had led to increased food production, the gross inadequacy of the available storage and preservation facilities had greatly reduced the gains made. Moreover, in many developing countries sea fish, which could provide high-grade proteins for protein-starved populations, was not reaching inland areas for lack of efficient preservation methods.

103. In connection with the report that a Member State was to start pilot-plant experiments using cobalt-60 and linear accelerators to study the technological and economic feasibility of the radiation preservation of fish and fishery products, he suggested that the Agency make arrangements with that country and with other countries which might have such projects in mind so that interested developing States could benefit from them. The Philippines would be interested in sending samples for analysis and having scientists trained at the pilot plant.

104. Reiterating his country's strong objection to atmospheric tests of nuclear devices and generally to man-induced environmental and ecological changes, he expressed the hope that within the framework of the Agency some kind of collective agreement or understanding could be reached with regard to nuclear tests.

105. The Philippines, which had concluded a safeguards agreement in connection with NPT with

the Agency in February 1973 and completed negotiations concerning the subsidiary arrangements, wished to urge all Member States party to NPT to help in ensuring that the objectives of NPT were achieved as soon as possible.

106. Lastly, as an expression of the Philippines' continuing interest in the Agency's activities and of the importance it attached to the work of the Board, his Government was going to establish a permanent mission to the Agency in Vienna by the end of the current year.

107. Mr. MALU wa KALENGA (Zaire) said he would first like to congratulate the Director General on his re-election.

108. In approaching the work of the current session, his delegation was by no means free from concern, and on a number of counts. The Agency's policy, as it emerged from the documentation submitted to the Conference, appeared to be less and less in accord with the organization's main objective - the promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in all Member States. Indeed, the present programmes and the policy underlying the Agency's activities were, in his delegation's view, departing more and more from the basic democratic principle that the well-being of the majority should not be subordinated to the narrow interests of a minority, however powerful its members might be.

109. An impartial observer would certainly be surprised to find that, according to the proposed budget increases to finance expanded activities, the main attention was being focused on such topics as protection of the environment, safeguards against the use of nuclear energy for military purposes and personnel administration, leaving the provision of technical assistance to Member States in furtherance of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy at the bottom of the ladder. That order of priority in itself might not at first glance seem irrational, at least as far as the first two topics were concerned; before starting to build, it was essential to stop indiscriminate killing and to provide a safe environment in which to live. But decent living was also a must; and undoubtedly, despite the Agency's belief and the widespread claim that nuclear energy made a not insignificant contribution to decent living, the under-equipped countries were far from deriving the benefit which they had expected from the Agency's activities.

110. Protection of the environment and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons might be commendable objectives in themselves, but the primary responsibility for their achievement lay with other organizations within the United Nations system. That, of course, was no reason why the Agency should not play its part in the building of a better world; in undertaking to concern itself with problems of pollution and disarmament, however, the Agency ought to adopt a serious approach, bearing in mind at all times the claims of its primary objective. But that, alas, was not being done.

111. Getting down to the figures and to an analysis of what the three supposedly top-priority programmes really amounted to, he pointed out that the objective of the safeguards programme was fully defensible: to prevent the use of nuclear energy for military purposes - under NPT, which, incidentally, his country had signed and ratified. For a programme of that kind to have any sense, however, it was essential that all the Members possessing nuclear weapons or the capacity to manufacture them should sign and ratify NPT and should conclude safeguards agreements with the Agency. In actual fact, some of the more important countries in the nuclear field were not parties to NPT, a situation which was no fault of the Agency but which substantially reduced the effectiveness of NPT. And what was even more serious, none of the major nuclear Powers that had signed NPT had placed nuclear installations with a weapons-producing capacity under Agency safeguards. At present, the Agency was in an absurd situation: it was administering some 41 safeguards agreements concluded with countries of which two-thirds belonged to the third world and 17 had no nuclear programme worthy of the name.

112. Those figures sufficed to show that the programme in question merely represented an attempt to pull the wool over everyone's eyes. That in itself would not be so disconcerting were it not for the fact that the programme was costing the tidy sum of $2 918 000 in the current budgetary year, an amount which it was proposed should be increased to $3 260 000 in 1974 - an increase of 17.9%. At present, the safeguards programme absorbed 12.9% of the Agency's total budget, whereas five years ago it had not even been heard of. And the main use to which those funds were being put was to pay the salaries of officials whose total number would go up in 1974 to an extent unequalled by any other Agency programme. Apparently, their function, at a total cost of $2 260 500, would be to define safeguards policy, improve the safeguards system and implement safeguards agreements at 395 nuclear installations consisting mainly of research reactors. No uranium-enrichment plant was included in that total, but 17 countries with no nuclear programme whatsoever were parties to safeguards agreements.

113. Protection of the environment was the second bandwagon on which the Agency had recently climbed. Zaire was keen to protect the environment within its own territory, and would therefore have welcomed an Agency environmental programme had it not been for the fact that, once again, the Agency's activities were being tailored to suit the ideas of certain Powers. The management and control of radioactive wastes originating in military installations were expressly excluded. It seemed that pollution was "peaceful" by definition. Again, it was the gesture that mattered most. The bothersome thing was that the gesture cost money and would grow more expensive year by year, for the Agency had to live and certain countries had to salve their consciences about the armaments race.

114. Lastly, there was the technical assistance programme to meet what was the primary objective

and responsibility of the Agency. The amount provided for that programme in the Regular Budget was $984 000, out of a total of $20 million. As a piece of face-saving and conscience-salving, Operating Fund II had been established, to provide additional funds through voluntary contributions. If all of the budget depended on voluntary contributions, there would be room for speculation as to the Agency's possible situation today. How would it secure staff if all knew that the monthly salary cheque depended on some good soul's charity or on the success of the collection organized by the Secretariat each year during the General Conference? The degree of trust placed by the Secretariat in the voluntary system was well illustrated by the fact that care had been taken to ensure that the salaries of the staff concerned with technical assistance were paid from the Regular Budget and not from a voluntary fund - which accounted for the inclusion of the aforementioned amount of $984 000 in the draft Regular Budget for 1974.

115. The Agency's technical assistance programme was thus in a state of perpetual crisis. The Director General found himself forced once again to make an urgent appeal for charity from individual Members in order to save the programme, which was menaced by monetary erosion, inflation and the indifference of the richer Members. As his delegation had repeatedly stressed, the only sensible remedy for that state of affairs was to include technical assistance under the Regular Budget, on the same footing as the other Agency programmes.

116. The above brief analysis of its policy showed that the Agency had been, was, and would probably continue to be a minority concern. The under-equipped countries were mere pawns, found to be of use during the cold war period but passed over now that the share-out had been accomplished. Earlier, his country had sought to persuade fellow countries in Africa to join the Agency. Today, its illusions had gone, in the face of the policy now being pursued. It would be well for those African countries not to waste their time with the Agency. They would merely lose money, for even programmes that might be of some interest for them, such as research in radio-agronomy, were still being directed chiefly to the solution of problems which had no relevance for Africa.

117. For all those reasons, his delegation, regrettably, found the proposed budget for 1974 wholly unacceptable.

118. Mr. RATNAVALE (Sri Lanka) expressed his country's appreciation of the assistance it had received from the Agency in a wide range of activities. Sri Lanka was a small developing country with modest resources and was only at a preliminary stage in the application of nuclear technology, but promising beginnings had been made in medicine, agriculture and prospecting for nuclear raw materials. Further studies were being planned in hydrology and industry and in connection with research and power reactors. The latter activities were particularly necessary due to shortages of electric power caused by drought. Sri Lanka therefore looked forward to receiving Agency assistance in those fields.

119. As a mainly agricultural country, Sri Lanka felt optimistic about the future, due in no small measure to its success in applying nuclear technology to plant breeding and the use of fertilizers, in particular coconut-tree fertilizers. The advantages of such research had been extended to other countries in South and South East Asia. The programme of the Joint FAO/IAEA Division was most encouraging and should be expanded, possibly with a larger financial contribution by FAO.

120. Population growth demanded a concentration of effort on all technologies aimed at improving food production, conservation and storage. The solution of those fundamental problems called for the widest possible application of modern technology, including the nuclear sciences.

121. Technical assistance to the developing world would ultimately become the Agency's most enduring achievement and should be accorded the highest priority. Sri Lanka looked forward to regular visits by Agency experts and to a much closer dialogue between its Atomic Energy Authority and the Agency's scientific advisers.

122. He invited the Conference to consider holding a future session in Sri Lanka, which had recently completed construction of the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall at Colombo and could provide all the necessary facilities. It was fitting that Asia, the most highly populated continent, should again be the venue of an important gathering like the Agency's General Conference.

123. In conclusion, he congratulated the Director General on his reappointment and wished him and his staff continued success in carrying out their difficult and delicate, yet rewarding, tasks.

● The meeting rose at 6.5 p.m.