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RECORD OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FIFTH PLENARY MEETING

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President: Mr. BOSWELL (Australia)

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\*\* GC(XVII)/512.

## THE RECORD

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

1. Mr. HILBERT (German Democratic Republic) thanked the General Conference on behalf of his country for approving its application for admission to membership of the Agency. It was a matter for satisfaction that the application of the Mongolian People's Republic had also been approved and that a representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was taking part as an observer. He welcomed Mr. Eklund's re-election as Director General of the Agency. In his opinion, recent developments towards peaceful coexistence had given a strong impetus to the Agency's activities in applying the results of nuclear research for the benefit of mankind as a whole. In that regard, the agreement on the prevention of nuclear war recently concluded between the Soviet Union and the United States and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)[1] were helping to create favourable conditions. The German Democratic Republic had been among the first of the States party to NPT to conclude a safeguards agreement with the Agency; it would welcome similar action by other non-nuclear-weapon States, in order further to accelerate the process of détente and of increasing security in Europe and the world in general.

2. The German Democratic Republic was ready, within the limits of its possibilities, to help in implementing the programme set out in the statement by the Director General. Thanks to the substantial measure of support given by the Soviet Union, it had been working in nuclear research and technology for the past 18 years. In particular, it had taken an active part in joint projects and activities undertaken by the member countries of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) and some of its scientists, working at the Joint Institute of Nuclear Research at Dubna, had contributed to such major international advances as the recent discovery of "antitritium".

3. His country was very well equipped for the production of isotopes and nuclear instruments, and a comprehensive programme for the application of isotope and radiation technology was accordingly being carried out, particularly in agriculture, health and environmental protection. As one of Europe's largest producers of isotopes, it might be able to undertake work within the framework of Agency technical assistance, applying nitrogen-15 in plant and animal nutrition studies. Its joining the international economic organization "Interatominstrument" would lead to an increase in the production of nuclear instruments, which would have a favourable effect on the entire range of applications of isotope and radiation technology.

4. The development of nuclear engineering, particularly for electrical power production, was

another area in which his country was working in close co-operation with the other socialist countries; it already represented an important component of his country's long-term economic programme. The first nuclear power station in the German Democratic Republic, a facility equipped with a 70 MW(e) pressurized-water reactor, had been commissioned in 1966 and had since served to train nuclear power station personnel and furnish valuable experience for further work in nuclear power generation. A large nuclear power station with 440 MW(e) pressurized-water reactors was under construction and would shortly be going into service. In addition, the country had in 1957 been supplied by the Soviet Union with a research reactor, which was being used both for isotope production and for research in reactor and nuclear physics; critical facilities had been added subsequently.

5. Basic research in nuclear physics was being conducted at research institutions of the country's Academy of Sciences and at universities and higher institutes. Such research had been expressly directed towards basic problems in nuclear physics and towards multiple applications in other special fields. Outstanding results had been achieved in close co-operation with the institutes of other socialist States, especially within the framework of the Joint Institute of Nuclear Research at Dubna, so that the German Democratic Republic now possessed a wealth of experience and a reserve of highly qualified staff in high-energy and low-energy nuclear physics.

6. His country had gained wide experience in radiation protection and nuclear safety, matters regarded by it as of overriding importance. At present, some 6000 institutions and around 30 000 individuals occupationally exposed to radiation were under constant observation. High safety standards with regard to nuclear facilities and the collection, treatment, disposal and transport of radioactive wastes had been ensured by having highly qualified staff available. The high quality was due to the great attention paid from the outset to training, and qualified specialists would be available also in the future to ensure broad-based development in nuclear research and technology and their application in the country's economy.

7. It was considered important that the German Democratic Republic should take part in the implementation of safeguards, and especially in expanding the Agency's inspection system and studying control methods. It was in a position to help draw up safety standards and to assist in international safety measures and such other tasks as the treatment and disposal of radioactive wastes.

8. The German Democratic Republic was desirous of complementing its highly advanced science and technology information system by taking an active part in the International Nuclear Information System (INIS). It was also ready to help in the training of specialists in such fields as isotope technology, nuclear physics, reactor technology, radiation protection and information by providing university places and field experts. It

[1] Reproduced in document INFCIRC/140.

was, moreover, in a position to supply nuclear instruments and isotope products under technical assistance programmes. In conclusion, he stated that his country would be making an adequate voluntary contribution in national currency in support of the Agency's activities.

9. Mr. FERNANDEZ BACA (Peru) congratulated the Director General on his re-election, which demonstrated the confidence which Member States had in him.

10. Peru's Atomic Energy Control Board had just launched an intensive programme of scientific and technical development in all areas connected with the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Peru's situation was different from that of countries whose hydroelectric potential was limited or fully utilized; his country still had hydraulic resources available which would enable it to meet requirements for a good many years to come. Moreover, intensive oil prospecting had produced results which indicated that the country could be self-sufficient within a few years. Nevertheless, Peru was not ruling out the possibility of starting to use nuclear reactors in about ten years.

11. As regards drinking water and irrigation, the supply problem seemed to be solved for the time being, but Peru was nevertheless considering the use of nuclear energy for desalting sea water. There were areas, however, in which there was an urgent need for the application of nuclear techniques - for example, entomology, fertilizer studies, biological and medical research, medicine, agriculture, hydrology and various branches of industry. Radiological protection in hospitals and for the users of ionizing sources was also an important problem.

12. Activities relating to nuclear energy were encouraged and regulated by the new law governing nuclear energy and its peaceful applications; in addition, there were plans for establishing a Peruvian "Nuclear Energy Institute" to replace the present Control Board and to assume new tasks.

13. Thanks to the Agency's co-operation, it had been possible to formulate protection regulations for the control of ionizing substances; the regulations would be applied by the Ministry of Public Health and the Nuclear Energy Institute.

14. A few months earlier, construction work had been completed on the first buildings for Peru's "Nuclear Centre", the plans for which had been prepared with the assistance of experts from nuclear energy institutes in friendly Agency Member States. Construction of the Nuclear Centre would continue with the installation of a research reactor, a particle accelerator and the equipment needed for staff training and research, a programme in which Peru's scientific and university institutes would participate. The cost of the Nuclear Centre would be about 1600 million soles.

15. As regards academic training, the Advanced Institute of Nuclear Energy, which came under the

Atomic Energy Control Board, had resumed activities in nuclear physics and its applications and would be participating in the university programme for training technicians and specialists to take part in the development of nuclear energy in Peru.

16. With regard to research, mention should be made of the work being performed by the La Molina Agricultural Institute, including the programme for the eradication of the Mediterranean fruit fly by the sterile-male technique being carried out in collaboration with the Agency.

17. Also worthy of mention was the research work being performed by the Institute for Neoplastic Diseases, one of the most important bodies using radiation in cancer diagnosis and therapy.

18. Peru, as a country rich in mineral resources, had considerable reserves of uraniumiferous ores.

19. In conclusion, he wished to state that his country supported the policy of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and was participating actively in the effort to attain the objectives of the international agreements to which it had acceded.

20. The Peruvian delegation congratulated the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM) and its non-nuclear-weapon Member States on having signed a safeguards agreement with the Agency and expressed its confidence that nuclear energy could be used to promote the well-being and progress of mankind.

21. Mr. SHADID (Lebanon) expressed his congratulations to Mr. Eklund on his re-election to the important post of Director General, which was a tribute to his personality and outstanding experience.

22. It was difficult for him, as a representative of one of the smallest Member States, to report any great national achievements in the peaceful uses of atomic energy, but he could assure the Conference that Lebanon was doing its utmost in that field - for the benefit of its own people and of the world. A national committee set up for the purpose had been given the task of implementing international regulations on radiological protection, particularly those of the Agency and the World Health Organization (WHO). With the help of the Agency, Lebanon had framed legislation on atomic energy and drawn up radiation safety regulations.

23. During the previous year, in the district of Finar, thanks to aid received under the Agency's technical assistance programme, radiation-attenuated vaccines had been used against lung-worm in sheep. A programme for the use of radiation-attenuated vaccines against other important animal parasites was now under consideration. Lebanon was also benefiting from the Agency's research into the use of radioisotopes in medicine, agriculture, nuclear physics, animal science and hospital physics.

24. Lebanon had already signed and ratified a safeguards agreement with the Agency in connection with the peaceful use of atomic energy and would associate its efforts with those of all peace-loving nations in seeking to make the world a better place to live in.

25. Mr. MANZ (Austria) expressed his pleasure at the re-election of Mr. Eklund to the post of Director General; his Government had always held Mr. Eklund in high esteem as he combined the qualities of a scientist, an administrator and a humanist.

26. As in previous years, the Agency was continuing its efforts to establish a world-wide safeguards system. The Board's report showed that 95 non-nuclear-weapon States had signed NPT and that 78 of them had already ratified it. Unfortunately, only 37 of those countries had so far concluded a safeguards agreement with the Agency in connection with NPT. Austria, as was known, had been one of the first States to sign and ratify a safeguards agreement with the Agency, and it had just passed a law introducing a system of national control to facilitate the application of safeguards by the Agency in Austrian installations in accordance with the provisions of NPT. He welcomed the Agency's intention of organizing a panel on systems of accountability for and control of nuclear material, to be held in Tokyo in the near future.

27. In order to apply safeguards with maximum efficiency the Agency needed adequate laboratory space. It was for that reason that on 3 July 1973 Austria had concluded an agreement with the Agency on the construction of a safeguards laboratory at Seibersdorf.

28. Article VIII, 3 of NPT provided for the holding of a conference of the parties thereto in Geneva in order to review its operation. It might be useful if information on the arrangements for the conference, which was to take place in 1975, were distributed to Member States before the next regular session of the General Conference in order to give delegations an opportunity to prepare for the discussions.

29. Although the importance which the Agency attached to protection of the human environment and to safety measures was due in part to the growing public interest in such problems, the Agency appreciated both how essential it was to secure the future energy resources needed by the world and that mistakes in the application of nuclear energy could have the gravest consequences. He noted with satisfaction that in implementing the resolutions of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment the Agency had almost doubled the number of symposia and panels dealing with environmental problems.

30. Mention should also be made of the excellent results achieved by INIS.

31. The first Austrian nuclear power plant, which would have a capacity of more than 700 MW, was

being constructed at Zwentendorf and was to go critical in 1976.

32. With regard to the Agency's budget, Austria fully understood the difficulties being faced, which were attributable in the main to price increases and to the effects of exchange-rate instability on most of the important currencies. Austria was prepared to make its full contribution to the Regular Budget for 1974 and to the supplementary assessment for 1973. The main thing was that the Agency should not be restricted in the execution of its tasks by the need to make savings or by the growing share of staff and administrative costs in the budget total as a result of wage and price rises.

33. As the representative of the Agency's host country, he wished to review briefly for the Conference the progress made in constructing the Agency's permanent headquarters. The planning, carried out in close contact with the international organizations located in Vienna, had been completed and work on the foundations had commenced in the spring. Thanks to the use of the most modern techniques, the buildings would be completed rapidly; as regards quality, they would meet accepted international standards. The Federal Government, with the assistance of the City of Vienna, would see to it that the office space and other facilities required by the Agency were put at its disposal at an early date.

34. If, once the buildings were completed, it was found that the Agency did not need all the office space and other facilities planned, Austria would be able to place them at the disposal of other organizations in the United Nations family.

35. Finally, he wished to express his warm thanks to the Director General and to all members of the Agency's staff for the excellent organization of the Conference and for their collaboration with Austrian institutions during the past year.

36. Mr. ANDRZEJEWSKI (Poland) congratulated Mr. Eklund on his reappointment as Director General and said he was happy that the German Democratic Republic and the Mongolian People's Republic had been admitted to the Agency. In taking that decision, the General Conference had demonstrated its common sense and political realism.

37. Referring to the outstanding events during the period under review, which had brought about a change in the political climate, he emphasized that the Agency should contribute to the relaxation in tension by consolidating the results it had achieved in its own sphere of activity. It should in particular devote itself to speeding up the effective implementation of the agreements concluded in connection with NPT.

38. He was pleased with the operation of INIS, which enabled appreciable savings to be effected by eliminating overlapping of research and was of special importance to small countries.

39. The Polish delegation fully endorsed the increase in the Agency's activities relating to protection of the environment against pollution - especially radioactive pollution.

40. It was fully aware of the financial difficulties faced by the Agency in connection with currency fluctuations. However, it had full confidence in the ability of the Director General and the Secretariat to find solutions to those difficulties without detriment to programme activities. The financial difficulties also affected technical assistance, which was an essential activity of the Agency, and Poland intended to raise its voluntary contribution substantially.

41. Equally important was the question of formulating international standards and regulations concerning radiation protection, radioactive waste management, the transport of nuclear fuel and other radioactive materials and the operational safety of nuclear power plants. In view of the importance of such standards and regulations, the Agency should step up its efforts to encourage greater co-operation, not only between countries but also between international and regional organizations, including CMEA.

42. Although the Polish delegation was very satisfied with the Agency's activities during the preceding year, it was concerned about the excessive increase in its budget and wished to emphasize once more that the rate of increase of the Agency's budget should not exceed that of the national income of its Member States.

43. Mr. AL-ARBI KHATTABI (Morocco) welcomed the admission to the Agency of the German Democratic Republic and the Mongolian People's Republic.

44. His delegation warmly approved the Agency's work during the period under review. The particular attention paid to the negotiation of safeguards agreements in connection with NPT, assistance to developing countries and the protection of the environment reflected the international community's wish for nuclear power to become a true source of progress used rationally for peaceful purposes and in the interests of all countries. Unfortunately, the scope for realizing that wish was severely limited because vast human, technical and financial resources which could be devoted to technical assistance programmes were still being used to develop nuclear power for military purposes. In those circumstances, it might well be asked whether NPT was not about to lose much of its importance and effectiveness.

45. At a time when there was talk of a possible world energy crisis, nuclear power offered great possibilities to the countries able to produce it, but the political and economic aspects of the problem should not be forgotten. Before consideration of the use of nuclear power as an alternative solution, the principle of the sovereignty of States over their natural resources would have to be courageously recognized and the whole energy problem examined in the context of sound, equitable

and untrammelled international co-operation. Otherwise, how could such an alternative solution be adopted by all countries, and in particular by the developing countries, within the foreseeable future?

46. The Director General had pointed out to the Conference that the future development of nuclear power depended on the extent to which rational use could be made of fissionable material.[2] That question was closely connected with the future of technical co-operation and the need to stop the production of fissionable material for military purposes.

47. Nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes also presented serious problems and called for the establishment by the Agency of a system of international surveillance, in accordance with the provisions of NPT; such action was dependent to a large extent on the result of the negotiations concerning the banning of nuclear weapons tests. Some delegates had spoken of the nuclear facilities in their respective countries, while others had little to say on the subject; that difference showed the importance of technical co-operation, which was one of the Agency's most urgent tasks. It was, however, obvious that the increase in voluntary contributions to the General Fund for 1973 would not be enough to solve that problem. The important question was to what extent the developed countries, in particular those possessing nuclear weapons, were ready to direct their efforts towards progress and technical co-operation between nations.

48. He shared the fears expressed by some delegations concerning the possible effects of the continuing monetary crisis on the Agency's activities, especially the technical assistance programmes. He also wished to express his delegation's reservations about the increase in the proposed budget for 1974 due to currency fluctuations.

49. In conclusion, he wished to reiterate his delegation's confidence in Mr. Eklund and to congratulate him on his re-election, which was just recognition of his competence and integrity.

50. Mr. ZANGGER (Switzerland), speaking on behalf of the delegations of Liechtenstein and Switzerland, congratulated the Director General on his reappointment. He also congratulated the German Democratic Republic and the Mongolian People's Republic on their admission to the Agency.

51. The Agency would be called upon to play an increasingly important part in man's efforts to increase his security. With man's concern about the protection of his environment growing constantly, nuclear power would make it possible not only to meet electricity demands but also to provide urban heating and to permit the widespread electrification of public transport - not to mention that of private vehicles, for which a solution would undoubtedly be found at some time in the future.

[2] GC(XVII)/OR.160, para. 23.

52. Since the economic development of Switzerland and the rest of the world would have to be stabilized from the beginning of the next century at a level which would preserve man's harmony with his environment, provision would have to be made for the constant recycling of raw materials and consequently for the extra power needed for such operations; co-operation between the Agency and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) at Nairobi should enable a world-wide energy strategy to be drawn up. His delegation hoped that the Agency would increase its activities as a clearing-house for all the data that Member States could supply on the possibilities of nuclear power.

53. In the field of research and development, Switzerland was to launch a high-temperature reactor programme, because facilities of that type seemed most likely to meet the requirements relating to protection of the environment. In the field of controlled thermonuclear fusion, too, Switzerland hoped to contribute towards reconciling power supply and environmental protection. The Swiss Nuclear Research Institute at Villigen had acquired a 600 MeV particle accelerator which would be used mainly to produce high-intensity pions. His country attached particular importance to the question of food preservation through irradiation, which was of interest to both industrialized and developing countries.

54. With regard to nuclear security, the Agency had an important role to play in applying safeguards designed to ensure the use of nuclear power exclusively for peaceful purposes, both under its own safeguards system and in connection with NPT. It needed to be emphasized that the preamble to the latter instrument made provision for the indispensable corollary - nuclear disarmament. The Swiss authorities were therefore closely following the negotiations relating to such questions as strategic arms limitation and the reduction of armed forces in Europe.

55. The authorities of his country, realizing that the practical and economic consequences of the safeguards provided for in Article III of NPT were acceptable to the Swiss economy and conscious of the progress made towards the world-wide implementation of NPT, were carefully following developments with regard to ratification procedures and would start such a procedure themselves at a suitable time.

56. Mr. ORTIZ-LOPEZ (Costa Rica) said that he was fully aware of the very useful work done by the Director General over the past twelve years and warmly congratulated him on his re-election.

57. He would restrict his statement to comments on certain aspects of the Agency's activities, especially those connected with technical assistance. In that context, his delegation welcomed the relations established between his country and the various technical assistance services. Costa Rica had benefited from the Agency's aid in many ways - especially the provision of experts' services and the granting of fellowships - and he was grateful to

it for its useful contribution to the development of his country; Costa Rica had also benefited from the studies carried out by the Agency in executing a regional project for Central America. In particular he drew the Conference's attention to the assistance provided by Argentina and Brazil in the form of Type II fellowships, from which Costa Rica had profited on many occasions; the importance of such disinterested action by two developing countries, for which his Government was deeply thankful, should not be overlooked.

58. Technical assistance to developing countries, which was an instrument of unity and mutual understanding conducive to the establishment of peace and social justice, should be maintained in the interests of peaceful coexistence. Budgetary resources would obviously have to be increased, either through voluntary contributions or by other means, and the deficit caused by currency fluctuations made up, in order not only to finance technical assistance, but also, for example, to permit the adjustment of staff salaries. However, it would be unfair to ask the developing countries to participate in such an operation in proportion to their regular contributions, because they were victims of *rather than those responsible for* the monetary situation created by the industrially developed countries. It was for the latter countries to solve the problem, and his delegation hoped that the goodwill they always showed at international conferences would be translated into action.

59. He welcomed the admission to the Agency of the German Democratic Republic and the Mongolian People's Republic because his country considered that, in the common interest, all nations, whatever their economic and military power, their political regime and ideology, should be on an equal footing, that their ideas and convictions should be respected, and that they should be allowed to pursue their activities without having to suffer the political and economic pressure which the developed countries too often tried to exercise. The Director General and the Secretariat had always managed to avoid such pressure and carry out their work objectively.

60. Mr. OGUNLANA (Nigeria) congratulated Mr. Eklund on his re-election to the post of Director General for another four years.

61. He had two hopes; that the active participation of poorer countries in developing nuclear science should take the form of a cultural activity rather than an aid programme and that the richer countries should realize that the spread of nuclear capability was beneficial to all mankind. He regretted that the poorer countries had to limit themselves to measurement activities because, while they were becoming acquainted with measurement techniques, the richer countries were forging ahead and their knowledge was reaching levels which were increasingly difficult to attain. Nuclear data were proliferating, a development which was due precisely to the scientific and technological difficulties encountered.

62. The complexity of the forces involved - gravitational, nuclear and electromagnetic - was

such that many questions were left unanswered by specialists who often deliberately ignored them, since they were unable to answer them. The poorer countries, therefore, remained in ignorance. If they made systematic efforts to ask pertinent questions, the Agency would be obliged to recognize the importance of developing programmes leading to their nuclear emancipation. Until such programmes were developed, it was highly unlikely that the developing countries would "take off" in the nuclear field and benefit from the applications of nuclear science.

63. The two cornerstones of the Agency's activities were to make the benefits of nuclear energy available throughout the world, bearing in mind the special needs of the developing countries, and to apply safeguards against possible military uses. Efforts to achieve the objectives associated with the first of them were hampered by far-reaching anomalies. For example, the Agency had limited its technical assistance programme to the application of isotopes and radiation, and many developing Member States had based their programmes on that. It was not surprising therefore that many atomic energy commissions in Member States were being reorganized, disbanded or given "non-nuclear" tasks. Furthermore, the amount contributed by some developing countries might be more than the assistance received, which gave rise to the question of who was truly giving the assistance.

64. As regards the objectives associated with the other cornerstone, there was the question of who was being "safeguarded". The proponents of NPT were themselves carrying out nuclear tests, which showed clearly how much attention they paid to it; moreover, the collaboration between the proponents of NPT and South Africa showed their lack of sincerity.

65. Since those two sets of objectives were the primary responsibilities of the Agency and it was desirable to seek constructive suggestions, the question of the atmosphere conducive to the establishment of nuclear competence in poor countries should be investigated and the Agency called on to use its staff to help them in that respect. The developing countries' problem was to create an atmosphere that would enable pace-setters in scientific thought to survive and triumph. Many developing countries suffered from a lack of professional staff, which had nothing to do with problem-solving capability. Agency staff should be relieved of the need to participate in too many meetings and conferences and used as assistants to innovating scientists in developing countries. Such collaboration would enhance the possibility of holding Agency meetings in those countries, with the advantage of bringing the fruits of scientific development to a larger group of people. The richer countries liked to discuss pollution. His delegation wished to point out that the adverse effect of physical pollution was infinitesimal compared with that of the lack of sincerity to which he had already referred.

66. Mr. DASH (Mongolia) expressed his deep satisfaction at Mr. Eklund's appointment as Director General of the Agency for the fourth time and wished him every success in the performance of his varied and responsible tasks. He took the opportunity of thanking the delegations which had congratulated his country on its admission to membership of the Agency.

67. First of all, the Mongolian delegation was glad to note that important changes were at present taking place in the world situation. The resulting decrease in international tension would certainly have a favourable effect on the relations between the different countries and on their collaboration within the Agency. That welcome trend in the direction of peace, democracy and social progress was essentially due to the policy of the Soviet Union, Mongolia and other socialist countries, and to the efforts of all the progressive forces in the world. It had also been made possible by the realistic attitude of the leaders of western countries vis-à-vis the world situation. The best illustration of the new state of affairs was the end of the war in Viet-Nam.

68. Among the most important recent events had been the summit meetings between the Soviet Union and the United States. The agreement between those two countries on the prevention of nuclear war was of exceptional importance for the cause of general security. The present session of the General Conference, too, could make a valuable contribution to the improvement of the political climate. Examination of the Agency's activities showed that its efforts to promote the peaceful uses of atomic energy were an important contribution to the consolidation of peace and security throughout the world.

69. The Mongolian delegation was glad to note that one of the main tasks with which the Agency was at present concerned was the conclusion of safeguards agreements in connection with NPT. His Government was carefully following the Agency's efforts and thought it should even speed up the negotiation and implementation of such agreements. He hoped that countries which had not yet concluded agreements would do so in the near future. Mongolia had ratified NPT in 1968 and had concluded a safeguards agreement with the Agency in 1972.

70. The more important functions of the Agency included international collaboration for the practical application of the latest achievements in nuclear physics, the improvement of environmental protection, the expansion of technical assistance, and the diffusion of information on the peaceful uses of atomic energy. The Agency had already done much work in those areas and would certainly do still more in the future. With qualified staff and wide experience, it was fully capable of co-operating with WHO and other international organizations in co-ordinating the work being carried out in different countries to make the benefits of nuclear science available to mankind.

71. In Mongolia, the Council of Ministers had a Nuclear Energy Committee which was responsible for studying the possible uses of nuclear energy in the country, promoting the training of qualified staff and co-ordinating collaboration with foreign countries and international organizations. To that end, the Committee co-operated with the corresponding bodies in the Soviet Union and other socialist countries and with the Joint Institute of Nuclear Research at Dubna.

72. Mongolia had several laboratories for nuclear studies, in particular those associated with Mongolia University, the Academy of Sciences, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Public Health. In collaboration with other socialist countries and with the Joint Institute at Dubna it was carrying out both fundamental and applied research. Special attention was being paid to the utilization of the latest achievements of nuclear physics in medicine, agriculture, biology and geology. The Mongolian Government was keenly interested in those branches of nuclear science which could play a leading part in the economic, scientific and cultural development of the country.

73. In conclusion, the Mongolian delegation wished to express the conviction that its country's collaboration with other Member States, whatever their social structure, would contribute greatly to the development of nuclear physics in Mongolia and to the utilization of the latest achievements in that field for the well-being of the Mongolian people.

#### STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATE OF FRANCE

74. Mr. GOLDSCHMIDT (France) said he wished to present a brief clarification by way of reply to delegates who had referred in the general debate to nuclear tests. Some of those references had been in general terms and others had been directed at particular countries. He considered it essential to point out that nothing in the Statute gave the Agency power to deal with questions of that nature; it would therefore seem better not to refer to them at sessions of the General Conference but to deal only with matters relating to the Agency's statutory functions.

#### CREDENTIALS OF DELEGATES TO THE SEVENTEENTH (1973) REGULAR SESSION

##### (b) REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE (GC(XVII)/514)

75. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the draft resolution contained in the last paragraph of the report of the Credentials Committee (GC(XVII)/514), the adoption of which was recommended by the Committee.

76. Mr. MOISIU (Albania) said that he did not recognize the validity of the credentials of the representatives of the Saigon clique, which held power only with the economic and military support of the United States. Nor could he accept the validity of the credentials issued by the puppet

régime of Phnom Penh or of those issued by the Seoul Government, which had no right to represent the Khmer Republic and South Korea respectively. He was therefore unable to approve the part of the report relating to the credentials of the representatives of those three States.

77. Mr. ARKADIEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking on behalf of his own Government and of the Governments of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the German Democratic Republic, the Hungarian People's Republic, the Mongolian People's Republic, the Polish People's Republic and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, said that one could not pass over in silence the absence at the current regular session of the General Conference of a delegation of the legitimate and democratically elected Government of Chile, especially as it appeared that a number of countries were considering Chile for membership on the Board of Governors.

78. Using peaceful means and acting within a framework of strict legality, Chile's Government of National Unity had striven to transform Chilean society in the interests of the overwhelming majority of the people. However, reactionary forces and a reactionary military clique in Chile, encouraged and supported by imperialist circles abroad, had done everything to upset the normal life of the country and openly taken the road of violence, military dictatorship and terror. The forces of reaction had not stopped at the violent overthrow of the legitimate Government; they had also killed the popularly elected President and were taking savage reprisals against those faithful to the cause of the people.

79. His delegation and those other delegations on whose behalf he was speaking profoundly regretted the tragic death of the President of Chile, Salvador Allende, who had courageously championed the interests of the Chilean people, democracy and peace and had been an outstanding member of the national liberation movement, and were deeply indignant at the crimes committed by the Chilean forces of reaction.

80. Mr. ANINOIU (Romania) wished to raise three objections to the draft resolution before the General Conference. First, he regarded as unacceptable the credentials issued by the Saigon Government which was not alone competent to represent South Viet-Nam, since in that country there was a provisional revolutionary government which had been recognized by a large number of countries and in international legal instruments. Second he endorsed the remarks of the delegates of the Soviet Union and Poland, mentioned in paragraphs 2 and 3 respectively of the Committee's report, concerning the non-validity of the credentials issued by the Seoul Government, which had no right to represent the Korean people as a whole. Lastly, he was also unable to recognize the validity of the credentials from which the representatives of Phnom Penh claimed to derive their powers.