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A COMMUNICATION FROM THE DELEGATE OF SOUTH AFRICA

Note by the President

On 28 September the President received a request from the delegate of South Africa for communication to the Conference of a statement, the text of which is accordingly reproduced below.

1. The mandate of the Board of Governors in designating Member States pursuant to Article VI.A.1 of the Statute is absolutely clear. The Board is required to designate "the nine Members most advanced in the technology of atomic energy, including the production of source materials" and also the Member that is "most advanced in the technology of atomic energy, including the production of source materials" that is located in each specified area in which none of the first nine is located. The sole criteria to be applied by the Board are advancement in nuclear technology and source material production and geographical location. No other criteria are relevant. The Board has always scrupulously fulfilled its statutory obligations in this respect.
2. The General Conference has adopted the draft resolution contained in document GC(XX)/576. However, neither this resolution, nor any other resolution adopted by the General Conference can in any way affect the Board's clearcut responsibilities under Article VI.A.1 of the Statute, whether they relate to the designation of the first nine Members or those located in other geographical areas.
3. To seek to influence the Board to proceed along an unconstitutional path, in defiance of the clearcut provisions of the Agency's Statute, can only imperil the Agency and undermine its legal authority which is the indispensable foundation of all its activities and, particularly, of its functions in relation to the application of safeguards. The Agency can ignore its Statute only at the risk of its own destruction.

