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on Friday, 24 September 1976, at 3.15 p. m.

President: Mr. de CARVALHO (Brazil)

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* A provisional version of this document was issued on 10 November 1976.

** GC(XX)/573.

THE RECORD

GENERAL DEBATE AND REPORT FOR 1975 (GC(XX)/565) (continued)[1]

1. Mr. CHOI (Republic of Korea) said his Government greatly appreciated the way in which the Director General and the Secretariat had met the challenges with which the Agency had been faced during its existence. His delegation was happy to welcome Nicaragua to membership of the Agency. The annual report (GC(XX)/565) for 1975 had rightly focused attention on the problems which Member States - especially those of them which were developing countries - were experiencing. It was gratifying to note that the Agency, having identified financing problems and the shortage of trained manpower as the major constraints encountered by developing countries in implementing their nuclear power programmes, was organizing a series of seminars and training courses to help remedy the situation. In October 1975, his country had been host to an Agency regional workshop on laboratory technicians' training, which had been successful in identifying regional requirements and suggesting effective ways of training technicians. His Government looked forward with interest to the outcome of the Agency's study on ways and means of meeting the fuel cycle needs of groups of countries on a regional basis; the study would provide a frame of reference for developing countries.
2. His Government had acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)[2] on 23 April 1975 and subsequently concluded, on 31 October, an NPT safeguards agreement with the Agency. In February 1976, the subsidiary arrangements had entered into force. Also in 1976, a directorate of national safeguards and international co-operation had been established within the Ministry of Science and Technology, with responsibility for nuclear material accounting and safeguards. His country had thus fulfilled all the requirements laid down for an international as well as a national safeguards system.
3. Although the Republic of Korea had acted on its own in acceding to NPT, it still believed in the merits of "package accession" covering the entire Korean peninsula. Simultaneous or concerted accession should be actively promoted as one of the best ways of achieving the universality of NPT. His Government hoped that strict observance of the provisions of NPT would further enhance international co-operation in the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy, with the special needs of the developing countries receiving due consideration.
4. In the Republic of Korea, the KORI nuclear power station was expected to go critical about mid-1977 and commence full operation by the end of the same year. Because of uncertainty about

supplies of enriched uranium in the early 1980s and the consequent need for a diversification of nuclear fuel sources, the Wolsung nuclear power station, the construction of which had already begun, would be based on a CANDU-type reactor. Financial constraints were affecting other nuclear projects; in fact, as a result of increased costs the entire nuclear power programme had had to be readjusted and somewhat curtailed.

5. His delegation hoped that the Agency would establish machinery for promoting, with appropriate safeguards, the free flow of relevant nuclear power technology among Member States. The Agency should focus its programmes on activities likely to be of immediate benefit to the developing countries and promote closer co-operation among its Member States.
6. Mr. BARBALHO (Brazil), after congratulating Nicaragua on its admission to the Agency and cordially welcoming to Rio de Janeiro the delegates of the States Members of the Agency, recalled that Brazil had, from the outset, correctly foreseen the important role which would devolve on the Agency. His country had been one of the group of twelve States responsible for drafting the Agency's Statute and had participated in the work of the Preparatory Commission, providing the chairmen for the meetings of both bodies. Brazil had always strongly supported the Agency in its task of providing technical assistance and preventing the diversion of fissile materials to military uses.
7. With its population of over 110 million, Brazil urgently needed to raise the living standards and improve the quality of life of its people. The achievement of those aims required enormous amounts of energy and, with the economically exploitable hydro power resources near industrial centres already harnessed, the Government had decided to implement a vast nuclear programme. For that purpose it had created during the preceding two years new organizational arrangements for the administration of nuclear activities, the National Nuclear Energy Commission being responsible for regulatory and licensing functions and NUCLEBRAS - a recently established holding company - being entrusted with the programme of plant construction in liaison with the private sector.
8. As a further step in the development of a nuclear industry, Brazil had concluded an agreement with the Federal Republic of Germany in June 1975 for co-operation in the peaceful utilization of atomic energy and an agreement with the Agency for safeguards covering all the goods and services to which the co-operation agreement related.
9. A large-scale programme for the training of Brazilian personnel would be started during the coming weeks, the aim being to train all the persons directly or indirectly engaged in nuclear activities. Brazil was convinced that if, in the early 1960s, serious thought had been given to the consequences of unlimited recourse to fossil fuels,

[1] GC(XX)/OR. 187, paras 29-99.

[2] Reproduced in document INFCIRC/140.

especially petroleum, environmental contamination could have been largely avoided; much the same could be said as regards the use of chemical fertilizers, the disposal of industrial wastes and so on.

10. The expansion of nuclear generation posed extremely complex problems which could be solved only through close international collaboration. It was essential that all countries have the information necessary for weighing the advantages and drawbacks of nuclear power and securing its acceptance by the public.

11. As had often been pointed out, the Agency's resources were not enough for it to meet all requests for technical assistance; however, the Agency had made a great effort to allocate those meagre resources in an equitable manner.

12. In conclusion, his delegation sincerely hoped that the twentieth regular session of the General Conference would prove to be an important step along the path which the Agency was following in helping mankind to achieve peace and prosperity.

13. Mr. de SACADURA CABRAL (Portugal) welcomed the admission of Nicaragua to membership of the Agency and thanked the Director General for his lucid statement at the inaugural meeting, in which he had clearly brought into focus the various aspects of the main problems at present facing the Agency.

14. Certain directives in the "Programme of action" of the Portuguese Government reflected the growing importance being accorded to the utilization of nuclear energy in Portugal. As regards electric power generation, Portugal was very dependent on foreign countries, owing to the considerable volume of petroleum which had to be imported. It was expected, moreover, that recovery from the present economic crisis would mean a substantial increase in electricity consumption. In order to meet the demand, new hydroelectric and thermal power plants would be built; at the same time, the advisability of resorting to nuclear energy as a means of producing electricity would have to be considered. It was expected that the Government would take a decision on the matter before the end of the current year or at the beginning of 1977. Acquisition of the experience and know-how needed for licensing nuclear plants thus assumes special importance, particularly in so far as the aspects closely connected with public safety were concerned. A revision of the Legislative Decree on the licensing of nuclear power plants, which would permit more effective intervention by the Government departments concerned and fuller participation by the public, was under way.

15. As regards the nuclear fuel cycle, work had continued on the production of uranium concentrates in accordance with the previously defined policy, calling for maximum use of production capacity and the storage of nearly all the concentrates produced with a view to future needs.

It was expected that about 110 tonnes of U_3O_8 would be produced during the current year. Portugal's reasonably assured uranium ore reserves represented some 8000 tonnes of U_3O_8 ; about half of those reserves were located in the south of the country and were not yet being worked. The existence of considerable stocks of uranium concentrates and the deferment of a decision on nuclear power plant construction meant that Portugal was interested in the creation of a "uranium bank" which would make it possible to use immobilized stocks. Although the idea appeared to have been temporarily shelved, his Government continued to be interested in bilateral agreements leading to contracts for the loan of uranium concentrates.

16. An effort had been made to re-orient research and development activities so as to take into account the most pressing economic and social needs of the country. At the Research Institute of the Nuclear Energy Board, for example, all activities and organizational methods had been subjected to a thorough reassessment. Priority had been given to applied research and to development, but the radiation protection and other services which lay within the competence of the laboratory were not being neglected. Action had also been contemplated in spheres outside nuclear energy.

17. In accordance with the general foreign policy principles followed by Portugal since the Revolution of 25 April 1974, the country's relations with international organizations, and particularly with the Agency, were being so conducted as to strengthen international peace and co-operation among all countries of the world. The year 1976 assumed particular significance for Portugal in the nuclear field, since in June the Portuguese Government had given its approval for the country's accession to NPT.

18. The Portuguese Government endorsed the Agency activities concerned with the application of safeguards, the physical protection of nuclear materials, nuclear safety and protection of the environment and also its efforts to expand its technical assistance programme. Portugal was moreover interested in carrying out more activities jointly with the Agency. During the present year a research contract had been awarded, and requests for fellowships and other forms of technical assistance were being considered by the Agency.

19. Mr. KOSTADINOV (Bulgaria) welcomed Nicaragua to membership of the Agency and noted with satisfaction the presence at the Conference of a representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

20. The year which had elapsed since the conclusion of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe had confirmed his Government's conviction that the Final Act of that Conference created favourable conditions for strengthening collective security and international co-operation not only in Europe but throughout the world.

21. Under the competent management of its Director General the Agency was making a significant contribution to international co-operation in the peaceful utilization of atomic energy, as could be seen from the report of the Board for 1975 and the Agency's programme for 1977-82.

22. In view of the particular importance of safeguards, Bulgaria was following with the closest interest all Agency action in that field; it considered that the safeguards system should be extended to cover all the nuclear activities of non-nuclear-weapon States not party to NPT. His delegation approved the increase in the staff of the Department of Safeguards and Inspection and in the funds allocated to it; in that connection, he noted that it would be preferable for Agency safeguards activities to be undertaken by nationals of States party to NPT.

23. His delegation was convinced that the prevention of the further spread of nuclear weapons depended chiefly on the manner in which the principal nuclear exporters conducted their transactions. In that context, he stressed the importance of the Agency's study of regional nuclear fuel cycle centres. In view of the prevailing international apprehension with regard to commercial dealings in nuclear equipment and materials, it was difficult to overestimate the positive contribution which the establishment of such centres would make to non-proliferation.

24. The report of the Board for 1975 accorded relatively little space to the subject of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes (PNE). However, that did not diminish the importance of the subject, nor the Agency's responsibilities. In that connection he drew attention to the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on Underground Explosions for Peaceful Purposes (the PNE Treaty).

25. Turning to the Agency's programme for 1977-82, he observed that in preparing that document (GC(XX)/567) the Secretariat had clearly been guided by the rapid development and introduction of nuclear science and technology in many areas, and above all by the development of nuclear power as a promising method of meeting growing energy requirements. There appeared to be two main trends in the Agency's programme: firstly, promoting and facilitating the introduction of new nuclear techniques in the developing countries (mainly by the provision of technical assistance); and, secondly, ensuring that those techniques were used exclusively for peaceful purposes. As regards the allocation of technical assistance, the Bulgarian delegation considered that priority should be given to non-nuclear-weapon States party to NPT. In view of the great importance of Agency technical assistance, Bulgaria regularly paid its contribution to the General Fund, and he was pleased to announce that in 1977 the amount of Bulgaria's voluntary contribution would be in accordance with the recommendations made at the present session of the Conference.

26. Bulgaria's programme of nuclear power station construction was being implemented with the aid of the Soviet Union. The Kozloduj power station, with two water-moderated and -cooled reactors having a total capacity of 880 MW, was already in operation and a further power station of the same capacity was under construction at the same site. Bulgaria intended to continue building light-water reactors in the years immediately ahead, as they were the most economical and generally most practical type of reactor from Bulgaria's point of view. Under the reactor construction programme, the total installed nuclear capacity would attain about 8000 MW by 1990. The development of nuclear power was to a great extent dependent on a country's industrial base. That also applied in the case of Bulgaria, where over the past four or five years a start had been made on the production of certain reactor components.

27. There was no doubt that the development of nuclear power posed certain problems for Bulgaria, particularly as regards nuclear safety and environmental protection. That was why the Bulgarian Committee for Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy had recently been given wider powers enabling it to exercise control in matters concerned with the safety of nuclear installations. The Agency's work on the preparation of codes and guides relating to nuclear safety and radioactive waste management had been of considerable value in that connection. Bulgaria had been receiving equally valuable assistance from the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA), whose standing committee on the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes furnished regulatory documentation frequently prepared in consultation with the Agency.

28. A further important feature of the Agency's activities was its training course programme. Bulgaria had more than once made use of that programme and would continue to follow with interest the Agency's activities in the sphere of training. In November 1975, the Agency had organized a study tour to several socialist countries, including Bulgaria, in which 22 representatives of developing countries had taken part. A visit to the Kozloduj power station and a number of lectures had enabled the group to acquaint itself with Bulgaria's experience in the introduction of nuclear power. Bulgaria was ready to maintain its co-operation with the Agency in that sphere if required.

29. His delegation welcomed the progress made in expanding and modernizing the International Nuclear Information System (INIS), which represented a truly praiseworthy example of international co-operation in the handling of scientific and technical information.

30. In conclusion, he said that Bulgaria approved of the Agency's programme and budget for 1977. The Bulgarian Government would continue to support fully the Agency's efforts in strengthening international co-operation in the peaceful uses of

atomic energy and preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

31. Mr. SILANGWA (Zambia) welcomed Nicaragua as a Member of the Agency. He also welcomed the PLO as an observer at the General Conference and expressed the hope that the Agency would accord similar recognition to African liberation movements in the future.

32. It was gratifying to note that the Agency was conducting its activities in a spirit of economy. Even though more could have been accomplished, the Agency's efforts in providing technical assistance and training in 1975 were undoubtedly commendable, and Zambia itself had benefited from a number of the Agency's activities in the past year.

33. Turning to the Agency's programme for 1977-82, he noted with satisfaction that the Agency was attaching great importance to activities which would further the economic and scientific development of the developing countries. Special attention should be paid to the effectiveness of technical assistance as a means of creating the requisite scientific infrastructure in those countries. Any constraints on the full realization of the technical assistance programme should be examined and removed. His delegation was concerned at the fact that the Secretariat had failed to take a firm line on the question of linking the provision of technical assistance with accession to NPT. Zambia looked forward to the implementation of proposals leading to an increase in the funds available for the technical assistance programme and in expert services under that programme in the coming years.

34. Since 1968, Zambia, with the help of the Agency, had established facilities for the application of radioisotopes and for radiation protection. It was currently taking steps to ensure exploitation of the country's radioactive mineral resources and the peaceful application of atomic energy. To that end the Zambian Government was enacting a law for the establishment of an institution to be known as the Prescribed Minerals and Materials Commission, whose functions would include the regulation of all matters relating to certain specified minerals, nuclear energy, radioactive substances and research.

35. With regard to non-proliferation, his delegation supported all efforts aimed at reducing the nuclear threat, but such efforts should be pursued in full cognizance of the views of all nations - regardless of whether they did or did not possess nuclear weapons - and without any selfish motives; lack of adequate consultations, the failure of some key nations to fulfil certain obligations under NPT and the encouragement given to "fascist, racist and belligerent" régimes could completely frustrate them.

36. His delegation was well aware that the Agency was a scientific and technical organization. However, it held the strong conviction that science and technology should be closely related to the

environment in which they were applied. In that connection, Zambia viewed with deep concern the Agency's approval of the draft safeguards agreement with the belligerent minority régime of South Africa and therefore remained opposed to the agreement which the Agency was to conclude with that régime. His delegation fully supported the proposals made the previous day by the delegate of Nigeria concerning South Africa and urged all peace-loving Member States to accept them.

37. Safeguards agreements were important for the Agency's operations, and decisions authorizing the Secretariat to conclude such agreements should not be taken as a matter of administrative routine and a prerogative of the Board. Zambia proposed that the Board's decisions on such crucial matters, especially when they related to areas of tension, should be taken subject to ratification by the General Conference.

38. Mr. ALI (Bangladesh) congratulated the President and the nine Vice-Presidents on their election and welcomed the representative of Nicaragua, on the occasion of his country's admission to membership of the Agency, and the representative of the PLO, attending in the capacity of observer. He thanked Brazil for the excellent facilities which it had provided for the twentieth regular session of the General Conference.

39. During the first two decades of its existence, the Agency had done good work in promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Until recently, most developing countries had confined their nuclear programmes to the use of nuclear techniques in dealing with agricultural, food and health problems and in water resources development. Consequently, the Agency's activities had involved no significant transfer of technology from the advanced countries and not much risk of diversion to non-peaceful uses. With the growing demand for energy in the developing countries and the rising price of oil, however, nuclear energy had come to the fore as an alternative source of power. Many previously uninterested countries had begun to look to the Agency for help in establishing nuclear power programmes. There had been a consequent shift of emphasis in the technical assistance field, and for the past few years the Agency's main task had been to help Member States - particularly those which were developing countries - acquire the means of producing nuclear power and at the same time to ensure that its technical assistance was not diverted to military uses.

40. As far as technical assistance was concerned, Bangladesh welcomed the broadening of the Agency's programme for the training of personnel to meet the future needs of the energy authorities and utilities in the developing countries. Unfortunately, however, more and more obstacles were obstructing the transfer of nuclear technology. Admittedly, whenever such a transfer took place under its auspices the Agency had to ensure that safeguards were applied.

Recently, the countries supplying nuclear technology had agreed that nuclear equipment, material and information would not be furnished to third countries in the absence of Agency safeguards to prevent diversion to military uses.

Although Bangladesh had no objection to such a precaution, the Agency's safeguards should not give rise to discrimination between third countries and should not result in "technical imperialism"; also the supplier countries should not use those safeguards to put pressure on or exploit the developing countries.

41. In the matter of safeguards, the Agency was, within the scope of its Statute, efficiently performing the function entrusted to it in connection with NPT, which provided for the application of Agency safeguards to all nuclear facilities and materials in non-nuclear-weapon States party to it. However, NPT made a distinction between nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon States, and unless the nuclear-weapon States took more effective steps to end the nuclear arms race and fulfil their NPT obligations, it might become ineffective. The qualitative improvement and stockpiling of nuclear weapons had given rise among the countries of the Third World to a feeling that they were being dominated or even threatened by the nuclear-weapon States, and some Third World countries might feel the need to acquire nuclear weapons for themselves. The so-called "threshold States" had remained outside NPT, and some of them might well join the nuclear Powers with or without their aid. In that context, his country strongly supported the plea for the application of Agency safeguards to all nuclear installations, materials and technology in every country, whether or not party to NPT.

42. It was not enough for safeguards to be applied to only some of a country's nuclear facilities. Moreover, his country believed that the principal danger lay in the spread of uranium enrichment and fuel reprocessing plants. In the case of such facilities, Agency safeguards were inadequate. Enrichment and reprocessing should therefore be carried out at regional nuclear fuel cycle centres under international control and management; they should not be carried out under the national control of any country, whether it possessed nuclear weapons or not.

43. International efforts, based on NPT and Agency safeguards, to control the spread of nuclear weapons had not been fully successful. Thought had therefore been given to the possibility of complementing those efforts by the creation of nuclear-free zones where the development or importation of nuclear weapons would be prohibited. However, such an approach was viable only if the countries involved had a common interest in security and full trust in each other, and those conditions were lacking in some regions of the world. With a view to overcoming that difficulty, at the 25th Pugwash Conference which had taken place during January 1976 in Madras, the idea of a world nuclear-free zone established by a treaty to

which all nations could accede had been proposed. The States currently in possession of nuclear weapons would be urged to undertake not to use those weapons against countries which had acceded to the treaty. The areas encompassed by such a world nuclear-free zone need not be continuous, and the expectation was that its establishment would be feasible even if initially only a few countries acceded to the treaty. The idea offered an opportunity of mobilizing the political and moral forces of all nations, and his delegation hoped that the Agency would examine it closely in liaison with the Pugwash Council.

44. The nuclear-weapon States themselves should assume greater responsibility for combating proliferation. That they could do by accepting the same safeguards as the non-nuclear-weapon States and, above all, by helping to create a world climate in which there was less pressure to acquire nuclear weapons. They should accordingly enter into genuine negotiations to bring about nuclear and general disarmament, first concluding an agreement on strategic arms limitation, then reducing their nuclear arsenals and finally destroying all nuclear weapons. The specific steps recommended at the 25th Pugwash Conference included: firstly, the cessation of the underground testing of nuclear weapons and then of all nuclear weapon tests irrespective of environment and country; and, secondly, the restriction and ultimately the discontinuation of the flight testing of nuclear weapon delivery systems. The Pugwash Conference had also advocated a ban on all development and production of nuclear weapon systems and of other weapons of mass destruction, a speeding-up of the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) and a halt to the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapon manufacture. All those proposals, and in particular the suggested prohibition of all testing of nuclear explosives, had the full support of his country.

45. During the past year, the world situation had improved as a result of such positive developments as the signing in Helsinki of the Treaty on Security and Co-operation in Europe, the progress made in the SALT talks, the start of meaningful dialogues between the industrialized and the developing countries, and the consideration being given at the international level to ways of rectifying the inadequacies of NPT. Those developments had been accompanied by a slackening of political tension among the industrialized countries, where there was growing confidence that a war involving them directly could be averted. Advantage should be taken of the opportunity thus offered, not only by the nuclear-weapon States but by all nations of the world, to put an end to the arms race and utilize all resources for the betterment of man's condition.

46. Passing to the Agency's programme and budget for 1977, he commended the Director General and the Secretariat on the reasonable size of the Regular Budget and on the fact that the programme was in accordance with the priorities set by the Scientific Advisory

Committee (SAC). He was concerned, however, as the proposed budget was nearly 18% higher than the 1976 budget, whereas the technical assistance programme fell short of the developing countries' expectations. Substantial funds should be allocated under the Regular Budget to the Division of Technical Assistance for emergency provision to the developing countries of nucleonic and electronic spare parts and components. Such funds could be obtained through savings in other programmes.

47. In its general programme of technical assistance, the Agency should lay stress on training intermediate and lower-grade technicians in the numbers required to meet the developing countries' needs. To that end it should strengthen the training programmes in individual developing countries, at the same time encouraging regional co-operation, and promote the establishment of national training centres, the best of which might then become regional training centres. It would be in the Agency's interest to co-operate in such activities with other members of the United Nations system, especially the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). In addition, the Agency should take steps to create special funds for the financing of nuclear power plant projects in developing countries on favourable terms.

48. Turning to his own country's activities in the nuclear field, he said that Bangladesh now had an indigenous scientific and technical community with the help of which it was hoping to harness nuclear energy for the welfare of the people. Since the General Conference last met, a number of projects had been completed, programmes in agriculture, biology and medicine had been intensified and a uranium prospecting programme had been initiated. Work in nuclear physics, solid-state physics, nuclear chemistry, radiation chemistry, electronics, theoretical and applied physics and environmental protection had continued, and a study was in progress for the construction at Rooppur of a nuclear power station whose target date for entry into service was 1985.

49. In conclusion, he assured the Agency of his country's continued support.

50. Mr. IBE (Philippines) said that the developing countries had gradually come to recognize that atomic energy could be of substantial benefit to them and that their realization of that fact had manifested itself in their recent efforts to increase their influence within the Agency and achieve better representation in the General Committee. That development was to be welcomed and encouraged, and the Agency's activities would accordingly have to reflect more and more the growing interest of the developing countries in the peaceful uses of atomic energy; the Agency's technical assistance programme, which in the past had been able to meet less than 50% of requests, would have to be expanded.

51. The provision of technical assistance was a primary function of the Agency and was, moreover,

envisaged in NPT. Unfortunately, however, the technical assistance aspect of NPT and the corresponding function of the Agency had been subordinated to Agency safeguards. It would be possible to finance the Agency's technical assistance programme from an assured and predictable source - namely, assessed contributions - and his Government would be prepared to contribute its share on an equitable basis. As an indication of its support for the technical assistance programme, his country would be contributing to the General Fund an amount in excess of that corresponding to its base rate of assessment and providing three Type II fellowships.

52. Like most Member States, his country regarded the application of international safeguards as an equally important function of the Agency and believed that assistance in the peaceful utilization of atomic energy should always be subject to an undertaking by the recipient not to use such assistance for military purposes or for the production of a nuclear explosive device. It would support any action by the Agency to strengthen its safeguards system, including procedures for the physical protection of nuclear materials. It welcomed the fact that further countries had acceded to NPT, but regretted that the safeguards agreement between the Agency, the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM) and the non-nuclear-weapon Member States of EURATOM had not yet entered into force.

53. In the matter of a common policy on nuclear exports, his country was concerned about the secretive activities of the "London Club", which might be interpreted as an attempt to impose conditions not contained in NPT for the supply of nuclear equipment and materials. Such an imposition would be unfair to importing countries which were parties to NPT.

54. His country recognized the need for worldwide strengthening of the physical security of nuclear materials and facilities in view of the rapid expansion of the nuclear industry and the alarming increase in terrorist activities throughout the world; it was inevitable under the circumstances that the Agency's safeguards activities and the associated expenditures should grow. The Philippines nevertheless strongly favoured the establishment of a reasonable balance between the Agency's technical assistance and safeguards functions and a corresponding allotment of its funds.

55. His Government attached particular importance to the Agency's activities in the field of nuclear power development. His country had recently embarked on its own nuclear power programme and was looking to the Agency for continued support, especially in connection with the safety analysis of nuclear power plants and the training of personnel. It also supported the idea of establishing regional nuclear fuel cycle centres, including one for Asia and the Far East.

56. The Agency's success in promoting nuclear power had perhaps given rise to certain problems,

including that of public acceptance, which could not be ignored in nuclear power planning. The Agency should help developing countries to overcome the distrust with which nuclear energy was sometimes regarded.

57. Another problem was that of the availability of nuclear fuel for power reactors. Given the expansion of nuclear power programmes, the Agency should study the possibility of international uranium supply management designed to ensure that Member States with no indigenous uranium were not at an undue disadvantage. It could, for example, consult with uranium-supplying countries party to NPT regarding the possibility of preferential supply conditions for non-nuclear-weapon States party to NPT, in accordance with Article IV. 2 of that Treaty. That would further enhance the Agency's role in the promotion of the peaceful uses of atomic energy and strengthen NPT. With regard to uranium prospecting and exploitation, the Agency should provide more assistance to countries carrying out programmes in that area.

58. His delegation agreed that the Agency should possess adequate knowledge regarding conventional and emerging alternative power sources such as solar, geothermal and tidal energy and wind power. It was to be hoped that the necessary funds would be made available on a voluntary basis by interested Governments and organizations.

59. His country, which was greatly interested in the Agency's activities in the field of food irradiation, intended to establish an experimental pilot plant for food irradiation in the Manila area. Philippine laboratories were actively participating in the Agency-sponsored Asian regional project on the technical and economic feasibility of preserving fish by radiation. His delegation regarded the establishment of an international facility for the study of food irradiation technology and economics as an important aspect of the Agency's work. The idea of such a facility had been put forward by the Netherlands Government at the seventeenth regular session of the General Conference, but no progress towards its realization appeared to have been made by the Agency.

60. As a party to NPT, his country had placed all its nuclear activities under Agency safeguards. However, it feared that, unless there was a change in the established growth trends of its various activities, the Agency would ultimately be spending more on safeguards than on promoting the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

61. Mr. KATORI (Japan) congratulated the President on his election and thanked the Government of Brazil for its warm hospitality. His country and Brazil had close relations, which had recently been strengthened by the state visit of President Geisel to Japan.

62. Since the founding of the Agency in 1957 the world had witnessed remarkable advances in the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy in many fields and an increase in the importance of

nuclear power. However, such developments were accompanied by problems which affected all countries; for example, as the utilization of nuclear energy expanded, the danger of diversion to military ends and of other abuses increased. The Agency had, therefore, both to encourage the development of applications of nuclear energy and to prevent diversion. His country would continue to support the Agency in its task.

63. In Japan, the scale of nuclear power generation was now such that the establishment of a full nuclear fuel cycle had become a matter of urgency. His country had to ensure an adequate supply of nuclear fuel and increase the yield of such fuel by designing and building fast breeder reactors, establish a reprocessing system and cope with the problem of radioactive wastes. It was making every effort at the national level to find answers to those problems, but felt that some aspects could be dealt with effectively only through international co-operation. It was awaiting with particular interest the results of the Agency's study of multinational nuclear fuel cycle centres, and the Agency could count on Japan's continued co-operation in that connection. As to the question of waste management, the Director General had mentioned the desirability of expanding the Agency's present activities so as to include the co-ordination of research and development and studies of the possibility of establishing multinational depositories for radioactive wastes in places where geological conditions were favourable.

64. The question of safety, which was crucial to the development of nuclear energy, was giving rise to problems not only in Japan and other industrialized countries but also in countries just embarking on nuclear programmes. Japan, which was engaged in several research and development programmes concerned with safety, was also participating in a number of international projects. It fully supported the Agency's activities in the field of safety and hoped that the Agency would come to play an even greater role in promoting exchanges of information, providing technical assistance and organizing symposia and similar meetings.

65. The peaceful utilization of nuclear energy concerned both the industrialized and the developing countries. The Agency had provided technical assistance to 77 countries in 1975, and he hoped that it would continue providing such assistance to developing countries, especially in the form of equipment and training. His country attached great importance to those activities, and its contributions in support of them had been increasing year by year. At present, Japan was the third largest contributor among the Agency's Member States, and it was ready to pledge a contribution for 1977 in accordance with the scale of assessment. In addition, Japan was providing technical assistance to developing countries on a bilateral basis through training courses, the services of experts, equipment and fellowships, and it intended to expand those activities.

66. The danger of nuclear proliferation was increasing and, in his opinion, the best way of

combating it was to secure the participation of as many countries as possible in NPT. His own country had acceded to NPT on 8 June 1976 and hoped to see its example followed by a large number of countries, so that NPT might become a truly effective instrument for preventing nuclear proliferation. In that connection, the action taken by the United Kingdom and the United States of America was to be welcomed; it would help to eliminate the existing inequality between nuclear- and non-nuclear-weapon States and to increase participation in NPT.

67. Noting that the Agency had so far concluded 127 safeguards agreements, he said his Government hoped that Agency safeguards would be so applied as to cope with the expansion and the increasing diversity of nuclear activities. In that connection, he welcomed the efforts being made to rationalize and improve the present safeguards system.

68. On the question of PNEs, he recalled that in 1975 the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (CCD) had come to the conclusion that it was technically difficult to distinguish between a PNE and the detonation of a nuclear weapon; technically speaking, therefore, proliferation of peaceful nuclear explosives was tantamount to proliferation of nuclear weapons. That being so, it was necessary to emphasize anew that non-nuclear-weapon States should adhere to the provisions of Article V of NPT if they wished to enjoy the economic benefits deriving from PNEs. He accordingly commended the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Nuclear Explosions for Peaceful Purposes for its studies of the technical, economic and legal aspects of PNEs. It was to be hoped that those studies would soon lead to the drafting of the agreement envisaged in Article V of NPT.

69. In conclusion, he thanked the Director General for his outstanding work in guiding the activities of the Agency since the previous session of the General Conference.

70. Mr. PANYARACHUN (Thailand) said his delegation appreciated the importance which the Agency attached to technical assistance; in view of the fact that most Member States were developing countries, technical assistance was of interest to more of them than any other Agency activity.

71. During the past year, emphasis had been placed on the planning and implementation of nuclear power programmes and on prospecting for raw materials. That was a natural trend as more and more countries were acquiring nuclear power stations. However, Thailand was not entirely satisfied with the way in which the Agency was making very frequent use of the costly services of experts; it would be better to allocate more funds to other types of assistance. That should be borne in mind when the long overdue review of the guiding principles for the provision of technical assistance took place.

72. Noting that Thailand was still very interested in applications of nuclear techniques in agriculture

and medicine, which were very important for all those Member States which were developing countries, he expressed satisfaction at the close co-operation in that area between the Agency, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). His country greatly appreciated the Agency's many studies and other activities in connection with nuclear safety and environmental protection and its programmes for training in the planning and implementation of nuclear power projects.

73. With regard to PNEs, he said that the complexity of the subject called for great caution and that the "economic advantages" - if any - should be considered in the light of the radiation effects. At all events, such explosions should always be performed under Agency surveillance.

74. Thailand still supported fully the establishment of regional nuclear fuel cycle centres and the Agency's study on that subject. His country welcomed efforts, both within the Agency and elsewhere, to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Many of those efforts had resulted in an expansion of the Agency's safeguarding role and, consequently, in increased expenditures. The fact that certain nuclear-weapon States had decided on the unilateral submission of their commercial nuclear power stations to the Agency's safeguards was also increasing safeguards expenditures, but there was no corresponding benefit in terms of non-proliferation. The problem would become more serious as nuclear technology developed and spread.

75. The Government of Thailand welcomed the ratification of NPT by Japan. However, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons should be only a first step toward the final goal: nuclear disarmament. Whilst it was aware of the inequalities involved in NPT, his country had acceded to it in view of its importance for the world community.

76. He pointed out that had he been able to attend the last meeting of the General Committee he would have made a statement supporting the non-recognition of the credentials of the delegate of South Africa.

77. Thailand, which fully supported the Agency's promotional and regulatory activities, had hosted several meetings during 1976 and had already pledged its contribution to the General Fund for 1977.

STATEMENT BY THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION

78. Mr. AL-SHAIB (Observer from the Palestine Liberation Organization) expressed the gratitude of the PLO, the body representing the Palestinian people, to the General Conference for deciding to invite it to attend its sessions as an observer. Its important decision was a further manifestation of the international recognition of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people

and its legitimate struggle to exercise those rights. The decision was also an additional proof that the policy of trying to deny the Palestinian people its rights and existence was destined to complete failure. The PLO would spare no effort to make a positive contribution to the Agency's work of promoting the peaceful utilization of

atomic energy and preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons. In conclusion, he expressed the gratitude of the PLO to all delegations which had supported the draft resolution contained in document GC(XX)/572.

- The meeting rose at 5.45 p. m.