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TWENTY-THIRD REGULAR SESSION: 4-10 DECEMBER 1979

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

RECORD OF THE SEVENTEENTH MEETING

Held at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi,
on Friday, 7 December 1979, at 11.35 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. COSTA ALONSO (Mexico)

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*/ A provisional version of this document was issued on 21 January 1980.

**/ GC(XXIII)/620.

The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document GC(XXIII)/INF/188/Rev.5.

THE AGENCY'S BUDGET FOR 1980 (GC(XXIII)/612 and 612/Mod.1) (continued)

1. On behalf of the Group of 77, Mr. SILVA ARANDA (Peru) presented the following draft resolution concerning the financing of technical assistance:

"The Group of 77,

"Recalling the mandate given by the General Conference to the Board of Governors in its Resolution GC(XVIII)/RES/318 on the financing of technical assistance,

"Bearing in mind the importance of technical assistance for the development of nuclear porgrammes for peaceful purposes in developing countries,

"Recognizing the importance of technical assistance to all Member States and the necessity to give to it the same attention as the other main functions of the Agency, and

"Noting the pressing need to ensure a satisfactory and assured source of financing to implement adequate and effective technical assistance programmes,

"Requests the Board of Governors to study the matter and to submit a comprehensive report to the General Conference at its twenty-fourth regular session on the means to ensure the provision of technical assistance from the Regular Budget."

2. He recalled that the General Conference had five years previously adopted Resolution GC(XVIII)/RES/318 requiring the Board of Governors to study the matter of the financing of technical assistance. Unfortunately, as that resolution had not been acted upon, technical assistance still did not meet the needs of the Third World and the Agency could not increase it as long as it did not have sufficient funds available. He said that the draft resolution corresponded to the need to accord greater attention to the technical assistance programme and raise it to the same level of importance as the programme of regulatory activities.

3. Mr. LOOSCH (Federal Republic of Germany) said his delegation needed time to study the draft resolution and consult with other delegations. He therefore requested that the meeting be suspended.

The meeting was suspended at 11.45 a.m. and resumed at 12.55 p.m.

4. Mr. THOMAS (German Democratic Republic) said that in his view the draft resolution related to a matter not included on the agenda of the Committee of the Whole.

5. Mr. LOOSCH (Federal Republic of Germany) was of the same view, and pointed out that, in title and content, the draft resolution was something quite new and different from the recommendations which the Committee usually submitted to the General Conference. The text should be reworded to constitute simply a recommendation to the Board of Governors to study the matter of the financing of technical assistance.

6. Mr. SILVA ARANDA (Peru), supported by Mr. COELHO (Brazil), said that the matter was too important to be treated as a simple point of procedure and side-stepped yet again. Certainly the Board of Governors should make a study of the question but, in so doing, it should take into account all aspects of the problem; that was why the draft resolution called for a "comprehensive report". It was high time to tackle the problem at its roots. The authors of the draft resolution were ready to discuss any amendments that might be proposed.

7. Mr. GRINBERG (Bulgaria) fully appreciated the concern of the authors of the draft resolution, and all the more so since his country also received technical assistance from the Agency. He agreed that the matter was very important but felt that, not having received any instructions from their Governments, delegations were not in a position to deal with the problem. What was more, the mandate of the Committee of the Whole was to discuss the proposed budget figures and not the method of drawing up a report.

8. Mr. OSREDKAR (Yugoslavia) said that it was not a matter of mandate. The authors of the draft resolution were not seeking a long debate on the financing of technical assistance but simply wished to formulate a recommendation to the Board of Governors. The matter was an extremely important one and could not be treated as a simple question of procedure or of mandate.

9. Mr. KIRK (United States of America) shared the view of the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany. The text of the draft resolution should be reworded so as to be objective and neutral. He therefore proposed that the meeting be adjourned to allow consultations to take place before the afternoon meeting with a view to resolving the problem of procedure posed by the text.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.