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# GENERAL CONFERENCE

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TWENTY-FIFTH REGULAR SESSION: 21-27 SEPTEMBER 1981

RECORD OF THE TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY-EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Neue Hofburg, Vienna,  
on Monday, 21 September 1981, at 10.40 a.m.

Temporary President: Mr. HAUNSCHILD (Federal Republic of Germany)  
President: Mr. XUTO (Thailand)

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\*\*/ GC(XXV)/640.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT declared the twenty-fifth regular session of the General Conference open.

2. In accordance with Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure he invited the delegates to observe one minute of silence dedicated to prayer or meditation.

All present rose and stood in silence for one minute.

3. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT welcomed the delegates, observers, representatives of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, and representatives of other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. He expressed his gratitude to the Government of Austria for once again making available the Hofburg Palace. He also thanked everyone present for the co-operation they had extended to him during his period of service as President of the General Conference at its twenty-fourth session and expressed his Government's appreciation for the tributes paid to his country on that occasion.

4. The Agency had played an important role for almost a quarter of a century in fostering the peaceful uses of atomic energy and had assumed a central role in international nuclear relations. He expressed his confidence that it would successfully continue in that role. Recent events had confronted the Agency with some difficulties, to be sure, but he firmly believed that with the co-operation of Member States those difficulties could be overcome.

ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT

5. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT invited nominations for the office of President of the Conference.

6. Mr. GEORGE (Australia) said that, on behalf of the South-East Asia and the Pacific regional group, he had great pleasure in proposing Mr. Xuto, delegate of Thailand, as President of the twenty-fifth regular session of the General Conference. Mr. Xuto had long experience of international affairs and had participated actively in a wide range of international conferences. The current session of the Conference had before it a number of issues, discussion of which needed the guidance of a person possessing Mr. Xuto's wisdom, objectivity and experience.

7. Mr. GHEZAL (Tunisia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, seconded the nomination of Mr. Xuto. The ability which Mr. Xuto had demonstrated as Chairman of the Group of 77 and his reputation as a fair negotiator would be an asset for the Conference.

8. Mr. DAVIS (United States of America), on behalf of the North America regional group, Mr. VAN BARNEVELD KOOY (Netherlands), on behalf of the Western Europe regional group, and Mr. SITZLACK (German Democratic Republic), on behalf of the Eastern Europe regional group, supported the nomination.

9. Mr. Xuto (Thailand) was elected President of the General Conference for its twenty-fifth regular session by acclamation.

10. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT, congratulating Mr. Xuto on his election, said that his experience and skill would certainly stand him in good stead in conducting the business of the Conference.

Mr. Xuto (Thailand) took the Chair.

11. The PRESIDENT thanked the delegates for electing him as President of the General Conference and expressed his appreciation to the delegate of Australia for his kind words and also to the delegates of Tunisia, the United States, the Netherlands and the German Democratic Republic for their support.

12. In taking the chair he was aware of the high standard set by so many outstanding predecessors, in particular Mr. Haunschild, who had presided over the Conference's deliberations at its twenty-fourth session. On behalf of all the delegates he wished to express his appreciation to Mr. Haunschild for the able manner in which he had guided the business of the Conference the previous year.

13. The fact that it was the twenty-fifth session reminded everyone that the Agency had completed almost a quarter of a century of its existence. It was time to reappraise the Agency's work and judge how it had fulfilled the objectives for which it had been established.

14. United Nations General Assembly resolution 810, adopted at its ninth session, had clearly laid down the aims and purposes of the Agency as well as the cardinal principles which had led to its establishment. The United Nations had expressed a belief that the benefits arising from the momentous discovery of atomic energy should be placed at the service of mankind. The aim had been to promote the use of atomic energy so that it would serve only the peaceful pursuits and ameliorate the living conditions of mankind. The United Nations had recognized the importance and the urgency of international co-operation in developing and expanding the peaceful uses of atomic energy to assist in removing the burdens of hunger, poverty and disease. It had also expressed its belief that all nations should co-operate in promoting the dissemination of knowledge in the realm of nuclear technology for peaceful ends.

15. Thus, the Agency's primary mission was to seek to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world. The Agency had carried out that mission mainly through its technical assistance programme, and had gradually become the organization through which countries preparing to embark on nuclear power programmes or to use nuclear techniques in particular fields could obtain the help of highly qualified experts, acquire scientific equipment and impartial advice, and participate in advanced scientific and technical activities.

16. The past 25 years had witnessed enormous changes on the international scene. Increasing numbers of developing countries had made significant strides in the use of peaceful nuclear technology and its application to their development. In that connection, the Agency had a clear role. Being a multilateral development institution, it must work for the benefit of mankind as a whole. Since the majority of mankind lived in the developing world, it was precisely there that the Agency should focus its primary attention.

17. Developing countries had their aspirations as well as legitimate interests and concerns. Their efforts towards development could never succeed unless and until some of the fundamental disparities were eliminated - equitably and expeditiously - at the international level.

18. The establishment of a New International Economic Order must take account of energy problems, and in particular the use of nuclear power in overcoming the energy crisis which had seriously affected the developing world. He agreed with

the Director General's view that nuclear energy could make a substantial contribution by providing a cheap and reliable source of energy.

19. With almost 25 years behind it, the time had come for the Agency to chart a new path to meet new challenges. As part of the global effort to restructure world society on the basis of equity, partnership, and community of interests, the Agency had an important role to play.

20. In its management, the Agency should make fuller use of the growing technical competence of the developing areas of the world and the contributions they were now able to make. In fulfilling its mission, the Agency should be in a position to secure substantial increases in its resources so that it could meet the ever-growing needs of developing countries: to that end it should expand its promotional activities at least as much as its safeguards activities, which continued to be of the utmost importance for reducing the risk of nuclear proliferation and hence were of interest to all nations. Everyone should recognize that technical assistance and safeguards were the two main pillars of the Agency and deserved equal emphasis.

21. Delegates were no doubt aware that the present session of the General Conference was of particular importance and that the deliberations might be long and difficult. The debate on the Board's annual report would provide an opportunity for reviewing developments in the field of atomic energy throughout the world and the main problems which Member States had encountered in that field together with the solutions envisaged. One must hope that in discussing the budget, and in its search for ways and means of financing technical assistance, the Conference would be able to reach a consensus which would make the session a milestone as the Agency entered its silver jubilee year.

22. One of the important matters which the General Conference would have to consider was the implications of the situation created by the military attack on the Iraqi nuclear research centre in June, which constituted an unprecedented challenge to the Agency and to each of its Members and could seriously affect the very foundations of international nuclear trade. He fervently hoped that the Conference would arrive at a solution which would reinforce the efficiency of the agency and strengthen confidence in Agency safeguards and international co-operation aimed at promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

23. The process of choosing a new Director General had also served to focus attention on the deep-seated problems resulting from the vast changes in the international landscape. The appointment of the new Director General by consensus would certainly contribute to strengthening the foundations of international co-operation, which was essential not only for the Agency but also for the world at large.

24. In conclusion, he appealed to all delegates to demonstrate a sense of responsibility and to help in finding positive solutions to the extremely difficult problems before them.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

25. The PRESIDENT recalled that, under Rules 34 and 40 of its Rules of Procedure, the General Conference had to elect, on proposals of the President, eight Vice-Presidents, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole and five additional members of the General Committee. Following consultations which had been held between representatives of the eight geographical areas, he proposed that the delegates of the following Member States be elected as Vice-Presidents of the General Conference: Canada, Ecuador, France, Hungary, Iraq, Japan, Nigeria and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

26. He further proposed Mr. Dalal, the alternate to the delegate of India, as Chairman of the Committee of the Whole and the delegates of the following States as additional members of the General Committee: Algeria, Czechoslovakia, Peru, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

27. The General Conference accepted the President's proposals.

28. The General Committee was thus duly appointed.

#### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE AGENCY (GC(XXV)/641)

29. The PRESIDENT said that the General Conference had before it document GC(XXV)/641, referring to an application for membership of the Agency by the Government of Zimbabwe. He asked for delegates' comments on that application.

30. Mr. AGIOBU-KEMMER (Nigeria) said that it was a privilege to be able to approve Zimbabwe's application for membership. With its application Zimbabwe had demonstrated very soon after becoming independent that it shared the desire of many developing countries, especially African ones, to have access through the Agency to the peaceful uses of nuclear technology for power production and other purposes and thereby to raise its standard of living. After a long and hard struggle Zimbabwe had gained independence and had already proved itself a responsible member of the international community. Its short history as a nation showed how people of different cultures and backgrounds could live in peace and concord. Zimbabwe would certainly prove to be a worthy Member of the Agency and Nigeria strongly recommended that the General Conference approve Zimbabwe's application by acclamation.

31. Mr. DAVIS (United States of America), speaking on behalf of the North American group, approved Zimbabwe's application for membership. His delegation had welcomed the opportunity of participating in the decision of the Board of Governors to approve by acclamation the recommendation in respect of Zimbabwe's membership. In his opinion the Government of Zimbabwe fully met the criteria for membership laid down in the Statute.

32. Mr. CALISTO VARELA (Ecuador), speaking on behalf of the Latin American group, approved Zimbabwe's application for membership. He firmly believed that Zimbabwe's participation in the Agency's work would be most valuable; African countries would in the future be playing an increasingly important role in the development of nuclear energy.

33. Mr. MANLEY (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), speaking on behalf of the member countries of the European Community and the Western Europe group, strongly supported Zimbabwe's application for membership. The United Kingdom, which had close ties with Zimbabwe, would particularly welcome it as an Agency Member State. At the Board's meetings in June the delegation of Nigeria had declared that Zimbabwe was fully able to absorb nuclear technology. The United Kingdom delegation shared that view and believed that Zimbabwe would not only benefit from the Agency's technical assistance but would also make a valuable contribution to the Agency's work as a whole.

Zimbabwe had already shown that it was determined to play a full and responsible role in the international community; its prompt application for membership would be welcomed by all who supported international efforts aimed at making nuclear energy available for peaceful purposes, and by all who wished to see science and technology develop in Africa.

34. Mr. OSZTROVSZKY (Hungary), on behalf of the Eastern Europe group, gave his full support to the proposed admission of Zimbabwe as an Agency Member State. Zimbabwe had emerged as a nation from a long and complex struggle and had managed to cast off the yoke of colonialism. As an Agency Member State it would be able to use atomic energy for peaceful purposes which would contribute to its spiritual and economic development.

35. Mr. AL-KITAL (Iraq), speaking on behalf of the countries of the Middle East and South Asia, warmly welcomed Zimbabwe's application for membership. Zimbabwe, whose struggle for independence had been admired by many, would beyond any doubt make a valuable contribution to the Agency's work; moreover, Zimbabwe would doubtless assist its fellow developing countries by endeavouring to ensure that their rights to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes were respected.

36. Mr. GEORGE (Australia), speaking on behalf of the South East Asia and Pacific group, strongly supported Zimbabwe's application for membership. He was confident that Zimbabwe would make a useful and constructive contribution to the work of the Agency. Australia and Zimbabwe had close and cordial links in addition to those arising out of their membership of the Commonwealth; indeed, Australia had been privileged to participate in some of the arrangements that had led up to Zimbabwe's independence. The countries of South East Asia and the Pacific well understood the aspirations embodied in Zimbabwe's decision to join the Agency and thereby to benefit from technical assistance, which would contribute to its development and prosperity.

37. The PRESIDENT took it that the General Conference wished to adopt the draft resolution in paragraph 2 of document GC(XXV)/641.

38. It was so agreed.

39. Mr. CHIVIYA (Zimbabwe) said he wished to express his Government's gratitude to the Agency's Member States for approving Zimbabwe's application for membership. Zimbabwe intended to participate fully in all the Agency's activities, believing as it did that the development and utilization of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes would contribute to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world.

40. The energy crisis had affected both developed and developing countries, but the latter had had to face more serious difficulties than the former as a result of the higher cost of energy. The desire to solve that problem in an equitable fashion had led to the holding in August 1981 of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy. Although the Conference had not discussed nuclear power, the nuclear contribution to world electricity requirements was already considerable. Twenty-three countries, including seven developing countries, now used nuclear power, and those figures would increase as plants currently under construction began to operate. However, nuclear power was being challenged by some members of the public on grounds of safety, environmental effects, international security, economics and social and political implications. All the issues involved were fundamental concerns of the Agency, and his small country, Zimbabwe, would play a positive role with a view to achieving a peaceful and equitable international energy order.

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

41. The PRESIDENT welcomed the representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Mowaffak Allaf, and invited him to take the floor.

42. Mr. MOWAFFAK ALLAF said he wished to convey a message to the General Conference from the Secretary-General, Mr. Kurt Waldheim.

43. Developments during the past year had once again focused attention on the central role assigned to the Agency by the world community in the continuing effort to extend the benefits of the peaceful application of nuclear energy without increasing the risk of spreading nuclear weapons. The safeguards system administered by the Agency was a vital element in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). Recent events had underscored the need to defend the integrity and effectiveness of that system. But although the safeguards system was at the heart of the non-proliferation regime, that regime contained other components as well, including institutional arrangements. One of the most urgent tasks facing the entire international community was to extend and strengthen the entire regime so as to erect a reliable barrier against proliferation and thus establish a truly world-wide system which would be generally accepted and uniformly and fairly administered. Only then could the world live with the assurance that the possibility of the spread of nuclear weapons had been effectively eliminated.

44. It was natural that the world's growing energy requirements should result in an increasing demand for nuclear energy and for the developing countries to have access to it. At the same time, the need for efforts to enhance public acceptability, including safety assurances, remained imperative. There had been an increase in installed nuclear capacity in only a small number of industrial countries. At present, most developing countries chose not to have recourse to nuclear power in meeting their energy requirements. That was probably due to a variety of causes, among them the very high capital cost involved. As all were aware, the General Assembly had decided to convene, in 1983, the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy. The discussion in that forum of the role of nuclear energy, especially in the developing countries, could have an important bearing on the Agency's work in fulfilling a vital function in that field.

45. He wished, in conclusion, to express his appreciation for the close co-operation which he had enjoyed with the Director General of the Agency over the past ten years. The Director General had discharged his complex responsibilities in an exemplary manner. Under his leadership, the Agency had grown into the efficient organization that it now was, and it could be confidently said that the excellent co-operation existing between the United Nations and the Agency would continue in the years ahead.

46. At its present session, the General Conference was faced with important decisions that would help to shape the Agency's future course, and he wished it every success in its endeavours.

STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

47. The PRESIDENT invited the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Mr. Sigvard Eklund, to take the floor.

48. The DIRECTOR GENERAL said that he wished to report on the Agency's activities since the last session of the Conference and to outline the programme and budget recommended by the Board of Governors for adoption.

49. At the end of 1980, more than 300 research reactors in 48 Member States and 253 power reactors in 22 Member States had been in operation, the power reactors generating 8% of the world's electricity. Nuclear power had thus already made a substantial impact in a field which had previously been reserved for conventional sources of power. By 1985, 17% of all electricity in the world was expected to be generated by nuclear means. Undoubtedly, therefore, nuclear energy would retain its importance for a considerable time, because the world would not easily find a substitute means of generating that much electricity.

50. However, the situation beyond 1985 looked far less satisfactory: according to available information, the annual rate of construction work on new nuclear power plants outside centrally planned economies was expected to be less than 5000 MW, as compared with more than 10 000 MW per year between 1981 and 1985. If orders for more new plants were not forthcoming soon a general slow-down of nuclear power programmes beyond 1990 would be inevitable, with serious consequences for the nuclear industry in many countries.

51. A new market, and a vast one in countries with cold climates, where 40% or more of energy consumption was for the simple purpose of heating buildings, might be opened up through the use of nuclear reactors for district heating, as had been the case in Sweden for a decade beginning in 1963. In the Soviet Union two district heating plants were under construction and their operational experience might represent a breakthrough for such a use of nuclear energy.

52. One important inhibiting factor was the lengthy lead time between commitment and commercial operation for nuclear plants. At present the average lead time was 61 months for Japan, 63 months for France, 82 months for the Federal Republic of Germany and 121 months for the United States. In view of the high cost of money, it was not surprising that, while in France the cost of nuclear electricity was a third of that of oil-fired and one half of that of coal-fired plants, in the United States the balance was often tipped towards coal.

53. In the developing countries, unfortunately, nuclear power would give little direct help in solving energy problems in the present or the next decade. So far, nuclear power plants were in operation only in four developing Member States (India, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea and Argentina), and only 1% of the electrical generating capacity of all developing countries collectively was nuclear, the corresponding figure for the developed world being almost 8%.

54. The introduction of nuclear power in the developing countries essentially depended on the technical development and availability of small reactors which could be installed in those countries in spite of the absence in many of a well-established electric grid and an elaborate technical infrastructure. There were a few manufacturers, in the Federal Republic of Germany, France, India, the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union, who were designing medium-sized (200-400 MW(e)) reactors which would be economic. The work done by Swedish and Finnish experts on an inherently safe reactor for district heating purposes, the SECURE (Safe and Environmentally Clean Urban Reactor), might also contribute a solution to the problem of designing an inherently safe nuclear power reactor in the 300-MW(e) range. Such reactors would be able to provide large consumers, such as metropolitan areas with populations of 10 million people or more, with the necessary electricity. With the passage of time, the Agency

should increasingly provide assistance to developing countries in that field, in particular where training and the establishment of regulatory infrastructures were concerned.

55. An aspect of nuclear power of particular interest to the developing countries related to the impact of the oil price crisis, which was most strongly felt in the developing countries, where the high cost of oil and coal had in recent years often reversed the trend of economic growth, as the recent Nairobi Conference had shown. As much as half the total export earnings of countries like Brazil and India went toward meeting the mounting costs of oil imports. It had been estimated that by the year 2010 the developing countries' needs for oil, if growth targets were to be met, might exceed the present total world demand. Through an expansion of nuclear power in the industrial countries the pressure on oil demand and oil prices could be relieved, which would indirectly help developing countries lacking oil.

56. The need for nuclear power in the developed world depended upon the need for energy in general and on the availability and cost of other sources of energy. Underwater drilling had revealed large new oil reserves. Coal was the object of much interest, and the use of liquefied or gasified coal in refined form was beginning to seem not only a technical, but also an economic possibility. On the other hand, combustion of fossil fuel had environmental consequences, owing to the release into the atmosphere of oxides of carbon, nitrogen and sulphur and other elements leading to globally dispersed contamination.

57. A survey of nearly 90 published assessments of the risks at each stage of electricity production from coal, oil and nuclear fuel, performed in 1980 by the United Kingdom Health and Safety Executive, had shown that suitably sited, constructed and maintained nuclear systems currently in operation involved no more, and probably less, risk than oil- or coal-burning systems, if the entire fuel cycle were taken into account in each case.

58. In the long term, logic and reason must prevail. Surely those who were truly concerned about protecting the environment and safeguarding health and safety would come to perceive that the nuclear path carried no unacceptable risk of short-term damage to the environment or of long-term climatic change.

In relation to the environment it should not be forgotten that the developing countries' need for wood and charcoal as a basic energy source might alone lead to the destruction of one third of the world's forest area during the next 20 years if no acceptable substitutes were available.

59. With regard to the safety aspects of nuclear power, the Agency was in an advanced stage of establishing an up-to-date set of internationally agreed safety standards for nuclear power plants, called NUSS. The Agency was also assisting Member States in implementing NUSS recommendations by means of advisory missions and training courses. The 1980 Stockholm Conference on Current Nuclear Power Plant Safety Issues had contributed to achieving uniformity in methods of handling safety issues. The Agency was also in the final stage of issuing the revised IAEA Basic Safety Standards for Radiation Protection.

60. It was generally agreed among specialists that the basic technology was available for adequate disposal of radioactive waste. Remaining technological questions were being answered. It was expected that most countries with nuclear power programmes would in the 1980s define appropriate waste disposal systems for their programmes, including the establishment of repositories for low- and intermediate-level radioactive wastes. The Agency had initiated the development of a series of guidelines for underground disposal.

61. Two major international conferences were to be held on questions specifically related to nuclear power, one in September 1982 on nuclear power experience over a period of nearly three decades, and another, scheduled for spring 1983, on radioactive wastes.

62. A proposal originating in the United States concerning the establishment of an international convention on nuclear safety co-operation and mutual emergency assistance in connection with nuclear accidents was likely to come up for consideration by the Board in 1982. A Nordic Mutual Emergency Assistance Agreement in connection with radiation accidents had been concluded in 1963 between Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and the Agency, and a number of bilateral agreements on the exchange of information on nuclear safety and radiation protection had been concluded in recent years between several countries of Western Europe (Denmark, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Kingdom).

63. The question of the trans-boundary effects of nuclear power stations had been raised by a Member State. That was a question with broader implications and the appropriate forum to deal with it would be the United Nations General Assembly. The United Nations, and especially the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), had already been active in that field for some time.

64. The controversy over nuclear power in some affluent societies had begun to affect national policies. Over the years, calls from world leaders for stronger support of nuclear power had been heard repeatedly. In the communiqué of the Ottawa Summit in July 1981 leaders of the Western nations had stated that, in most of their countries, progress in constructing new nuclear facilities was slow. They intended in each of their countries to encourage greater public acceptance of nuclear energy, and to respond to public concerns about safety, health, nuclear waste management and non-proliferation (of nuclear weaponry). They would further their efforts in the development of advanced technologies, particularly for spent fuel management. The Prime Minister of India had said in Nairobi in August 1981 that nuclear energy was the only power source able to meet India's demands and that, unless something positive were available to take its place, there could be no question of replacing it.

65. The reality was, however, that, although energy experts ten years previously had predicted that nuclear power would provide 50% of the world's electricity by the turn of the century, recent projections had fallen to 22% of a reduced overall world energy production figure. If that trend was to be reversed, prompt, decisive action would be needed to translate the declaration of intent into effective policy decisions with appropriate legislative measures designed to assure shorter lead times for the construction of nuclear plants, prompt operational licensing and assured supplies of fuel and material. The worldwide energy system of the 1990s would be determined by the decisions that Governments took at the present time, and the very survival of the nuclear industry might depend on that.

66. The very vocal minority which did not want to accept nuclear energy and which had a considerable political influence might well turn pro-nuclear if faced with an energy shortage caused by a worsening oil situation, or if the



energy-related financial burden were to have drastic effects on the entire economy of a country, and hence on the social life and standard of living of its people. On the other hand, that minority might become more anti-nuclear if accidents occurred in nuclear plants, irrespective of whether or not they involved any release of radioactivity. The public media therefore bore the heavy responsibility of ensuring that the public was always correctly informed, so as to avoid creating unfounded fears. The dynamics of technical developments were often simply not considered in planning for the future. Thermal reactor systems, however, merely represented a temporary contribution to the world energy supplies, on a time scale comparable to the oil period; a long-term contribution must assume the development of fast systems or breeders. What should be understood in that respect was that the development from the thermal to the fast breeder stage was part of a continuing process.

67. The Agency's responsibility in the sphere of safeguards resulted from both the Statute and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). The latter should be regarded as based on mutual trust between the nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon States and not upon mistrust.

68. A few years previously it had seemed as if the number of States party to NPT had reached its ceiling. However, since then a number of countries had acceded, including Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Turkey and, most recently, Egypt. In all, three nuclear-weapon States and 110 non-nuclear-weapon States belonged to NPT. Several were in regions which had witnessed armed conflicts in recent years. Their willingness to accept NPT was therefore of considerable significance. It was to be hoped that their example would be followed by those who had not yet done so, and that the day would come when NPT was universally accepted by all nations of the world. The process would be greatly facilitated by the early conclusion of an agreement on a comprehensive test ban and the implementation of both Articles IV and VI of NPT.

69. What was also necessary was that Member States with existing or planned nuclear activities of significance that had acceded to NPT but had not yet concluded safeguards agreements with the Agency should do so without further delay.

70. Of the group of countries which had not yet acceded to NPT, there were a few which were developing significant nuclear activities. The concern felt by the international community over the possible growth of unsafeguarded facilities and nuclear materials was clear. The situation required even greater consideration in view of the growing complexity of nuclear matters in those countries which would inevitably require more attention from the safeguards point of view. The gap remaining in the universal application of full-scope safeguards was not large, but any gap at all could only serve to diminish the utility of the entire regime, while at the same time increasing tension.

71. It was a matter of deep regret that a blow had been inflicted on the Treaty in connection with the recent air attack on the Iraqi research reactor centre. The matter had been discussed in the Board of Governors and in the UN Security Council, and it could only be added that the incident underscored the urgent need for enlarging the scope of the Additional Protocol of 1977 to the Geneva Convention of 1949. In its present form the Protocol prohibited military attacks against nuclear power plants, and the Disarmament Committee should consider a general prohibition against attacks on nuclear establishments as a whole. It was horrifying to think of the consequences of a military attack on any of the existing 260 nuclear power reactors, not to speak of the situation around 1985, when their number might have increased to over 400. The same held true with regard to the many research reactors. Radiological warfare could indeed in that manner be initiated through the use of conventional weapons.

72. Regarding the operations of the Agency's safeguards system itself, the system could only be as effective as the Member States collectively wished it to be. The Agency would continue to discharge its safeguarding responsibilities with the greatest possible efficiency and economy, but it was up to Member States to contribute financial means, equipment and well-qualified specialists so as to further strengthen the Agency's safeguards operations.

73. The installation of new safeguards equipment, together with an increase in the number of new installations expected to come under safeguards during the next few years, would inevitably lead to extra cost. But the growth of nuclear power generation and other peaceful nuclear activities could only go forward successfully within a non-proliferation and safeguards framework in which the

world at large had confidence. Such a framework was of vital importance for both the industrialized and the developing countries.

74. The technical assistance activities of the Agency, first launched on a modest scale in 1958, had now come of age and had grown into a stable system of worldwide technical co-operation in the nuclear field. In view of that development the old term "technical assistance" with its implied donor-recipient relationship should no longer be used by the Agency, but should be replaced by the more appropriate and commonly used term "technical co-operation". Accordingly, it was intended to rename the Department concerned the "Department of Technical Co-operation".

75. It was not often appreciated that, in addition to the technical assistance activities financed out of voluntary contributions made by Member States, there were a number of other Agency programmes related to the needs of the developing countries - for example, such activities as the application of radioisotopes in medicine, food and agriculture, hydrology, industry, etc. and various forms of assistance in the field of nuclear power, radiological protection and nuclear safety.

76. The target for voluntary contributions had been increased to \$16 million for the year 1982 and a system of indicative planning figures had been approved by the Board of Governors for a three-year period. That had facilitated the programming task of the Secretariat and would help in implementing large-scale, multi-year projects appropriate to the needs of developing countries as their nuclear programmes progressed.

77. As in the case of safeguards, the Agency's technical assistance programme could also only be as effective as the Member States wished it to be. All were therefore requested to help the Agency in improving and expanding the aid programme for the developing countries by increasing contributions to the maximum extent.

78. The budget for 1982 amounted to \$86.3 million, which represented an increase over 1981 of 2.3% assuming a dollar/schilling exchange rate of 15.50. Professional staff had increased by 5, from 607 to 612, and GS and M&O staff by 9, from 854 to 863. The budget was again one of zero real growth. Because of the expanding requirements of safeguards, technical assistance and nuclear safety, the zero-growth approach applied over a longer period would mean in practice significant curtailment for other activities, such as the applications of radiation and radioisotopes and the utilization of research reactors. That was particularly regrettable as those activities were of relevance to the needs of developing countries.

79. During the 24 years of the Agency's existence, an enormous technical development had taken place in the nuclear field. That had been reflected in changes in the programmes of many national organizations, energy in general and regulatory activities having been transferred to new bodies set up for that specific purpose. A large number of applications of radiation and isotopes had been absorbed in different branches of science and technology.

80. In that context he wished to draw attention to an interesting proposal made by the Prime Minister of Jamaica at the recent Nairobi Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, suggesting a somewhat enhanced role for the Agency. In discussing the establishment of a centre for research on and the development of new and renewable sources of energy, the Prime Minister had expressed the view that such a new centre should be associated with an existing agency of common interest such as the Agency. He found that an interesting idea, and one which deserved careful consideration.

81. All the changes he had just mentioned inevitably had an influence on the International Atomic Energy Agency and should be reflected in its programme and structure. To what extent, for example, did the activities in the Seibersdorf or Monaco Laboratories continue to respond to the needs of Member States? Could the Monaco Laboratory be useful in the context of the international arrangements contemplated in the Law of the Sea discussions?

82. The United Nations General Assembly had decided to convene, in 1983, a conference for the promotion of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In the relevant United Nations resolution, the Agency

was invited to fulfil what was described as "its appropriate role within the scope of its responsibilities at all stages of preparation of the Conference". However, the meaning of the term "appropriate role" was not clear. The Agency had been engaged in promoting international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy ever since its establishment 24 years previously, and that was indeed its primary responsibility. A conference of that nature would thus seem more appropriately to come directly within the sphere of the Agency's activities.

83. In the resolution to which he had just referred there was particular reference to the Agency's Committee on Assurances of Supply (CAS), the conviction being expressed that progress in the work of the Committee would greatly contribute to the success of the Conference. CAS had been established by the Board of Governors in June 1980 to consider ways and means in which supplies of nuclear material, equipment and technology and fuel cycle services could be assured on a more predictable and long-term basis in accordance with mutually acceptable considerations of non-proliferation. It had held three sessions so far, but had still to come to grips with the substantive issues involved.

84. Turning to another matter, he recalled that the Agency's Statute stated that the organization's permanent staff should be kept to a minimum. He was of the opinion that that provision had been very useful in permitting rotation of personnel, making it possible to maintain a cadre of competent staff familiar with scientific and technical developments as well as with national policies in their home countries. The staff of the inspectorate had in general been given long-term contracts after a short trial period; it might be advantageous to strive at rotation of safeguards inspectors also, when the cadre had become so large that a turnover of a few per cent each year would not affect the efficiency of the Department of Safeguards.

85. In that context, he wished to touch upon a staffing matter which had come up on several occasions lately, namely the proper representation of developing countries on the staff of the Agency, particularly at the senior level.

86. By the very nature of the Agency's work, it was perhaps inevitable that the bulk of the staff had been initially recruited from the advanced countries. However, over the years the developing countries had been showing increasing interest in the work of the Agency and many had also developed a high degree of expertise in manpower problems. It was understandable that they should expect a larger share in the operation of the Agency.

87. Within the framework of administrative possibilities, he had therefore endeavoured to increase the number of staff from the developing world at all levels, and it had been his policy that, given equal qualifications and experience, preference would be accorded to candidates from the developing countries. It needed hardly to be added that that process would inevitably imply a readjustment of the posts now held by the advanced countries. Their co-operation was indispensable in that regard, and he trusted that he could count upon it.

88. In conclusion, it was his pleasant duty to express the Agency's appreciation and thanks for the co-operation and help which the host country, as usual, had generously extended to it in the past year.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.

