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on Thursday, 24 September 1981, at 10.40 a.m.

President: Mr. XUTO (Thailand)

CONTENTS

<u>Item of the agenda**</u>	<u>Paragraphs</u>
8	Military attack on Iraqi nuclear research centre and its implications for the Agency
	1 - 4
7	General debate and annual report for 1980 (resumed)
	5 - 59
	Statements by the delegates of:
	Norway
	5 - 13
	Viet Nam
	14 - 17
	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
	18 - 22
	Reply by delegates of the Republic of Korea and the United States of America
	23 - 24
	Lebanon
	25 - 30
	Zambia
	31 - 36
	Bangladesh
	37 - 41
	Austria
	42 - 47
	Mongolia
	48 - 55
	Panama
	56 - 59

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**/ GC(XXV)/652.

The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document
GC(XXV)/INF/201/Rev.2.

MILITARY ATTACK ON IRAQI NUCLEAR RESEARCH CENTRE AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE AGENCY (GC(XXV)/643, 643/Rev.1)

1. The PRESIDENT recalled that the Conference had decided to consider item 8 of the agenda in plenary session. The question of the military attack on the nuclear research centre and its implications for the Agency was an extremely serious one and its importance could not be underestimated. The matter should therefore be examined by the Conference very carefully because the attack constituted an unprecedented challenge to the Agency and its Member States. He hoped that the General Conference could arrive at a solution which would strengthen the Agency's effectiveness and re-establish confidence in the Agency and its safeguards system. The importance of the problem had been clearly demonstrated by the fact that all the delegates who had so far taken part in the general debate had made mention of it and others would probably do so. The time had come to consider definite suggestions and he asked whether any delegates wished to present a formal proposal.

2. Mr. BENNINI (Algeria) said he wished to present the draft resolution contained in document GC(XXV)/653/Rev.1, which was before the General Conference. The sponsors of the draft resolution were Algeria, Indonesia, Jordan, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Morocco, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Yugoslavia and Zambia. The wording was consistent with the resolution adopted by the Board of Governors on 12 June 1981. It was also in keeping with the text adopted by the Security Council of the United Nations on 19 June 1981. The Israeli attack represented a challenge to the Agency and its safeguards system and the sponsors of the draft resolution believed that the General Conference should take strong measures to re-establish their credibility.

3. The PRESIDENT noted that the draft resolution was extremely important and deserved to be studied carefully by members of delegations. He therefore proposed that consideration of item 8 be suspended and the general debate (item 7 of the agenda) resumed.

4. It was so decided.

GENERAL DEBATE AND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1980 (GC(XXV)/642, 642/Corr.1, 642/Corr.2) (resumed)

5. Mr. OFSTAD (Norway) said that his delegation could accept and support the Agency's budget for 1982. However, it was concerned to see that the size of the budget was seriously affected by the exchange rate between the Austrian schilling and the United States dollar and suggested that the Board of Governors should study the problem during the preparation of the 1983 budget.

6. The Norwegian delegation could accept the target for voluntary contributions to the General Fund proposed for 1982, since it would provide for a reasonable increase in the technical assistance given by the Agency.

7. Norway had a special interest in the Agency's regulatory activities and his delegation wished to emphasize once again the importance which it attached to nuclear safety and protection of the environment. It also appreciated the important work carried out by the Agency on international plutonium storage and international spent fuel management.

8. The previous year, the Nordic countries had stated in a memorandum addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations that they attached great importance to all efforts aimed at preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons to new countries; however, they had stressed that that should not constitute a limitation on the right of States to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes as long as they accepted effective safeguards. The memorandum had further stressed that all non-nuclear-weapon States which were parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) should officially accept the Agency's safeguards system by concluding a safeguards agreement as laid down in NPT.

9. The Norwegian delegation had read with satisfaction the Secretariat's conclusion that for 1980 once again all the material placed under safeguards had remained exclusively within peaceful nuclear activities or had been otherwise adequately accounted for. In that context, it was important to note that a significant improvement had been obtained in the attainment of inspection goals. The Norwegian delegation had also noted with satisfaction the arrangements made to carry out inspections in Iran and Iraq in spite of current difficulties. On the other hand, delayed safeguards reports submitted by certain States to the Agency were a matter of grave concern. If the practice continued, it could result in a lack of confidence in the Agency's safeguards system.

10. He wished to express the deep concern of his Government about the Israeli air attack on the nuclear research centre near Baghdad. The attack was a very serious matter and a clear violation of international law. It could lead to dangerous developments in an area where tension was already high. The Norwegian delegation believed that the Middle East conflict could not be resolved by force and that it was important for the countries in the region to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other States.

11. Norway believed that the problems to be considered by the Committee on Assurances of Supply were of great international importance. In many countries nuclear energy would have to be used to cover a large part of electricity production. There was therefore a need to consider how nuclear supplies could be guaranteed on a predictable and long-term basis in accordance with an effective system of non-proliferation. It was in that way that any development towards nuclear autarchy could be discouraged.

12. The Norwegian delegation hoped that the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy for Economic and Social Development would represent a step in the right direction, towards facilitating the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The Agency had a very important role to play in the preparation of the Conference and during the Conference itself because its work was directly relevant to the subject matter to be discussed.

13. The Norwegian delegation had carefully studied the arguments put forward for and against changes in Article VI.A.2 of the Statute aimed at increasing the number of seats on the Board. Member States should certainly be satisfied that they had a fair chance of being represented on the Board; nevertheless, the Norwegian delegation was somewhat reluctant to support an increase in membership since the Board was already a large body and could lose its efficiency by further increases.

14. Mr. NGUYEN TUAN LIEU (Viet Nam) said that his country was well aware of the benefits that could be derived from the peaceful uses of atomic energy and had been engaged for more than two decades in the development of nuclear science and technology, with special emphasis on applications in medicine, geological prospecting, agriculture and certain branches of industry. It was now

endeavouring, with the help of the USSR, to speed up work on the reconstruction and enlargement of the Dalat nuclear reactor, which would be used for research, training and the production of radioisotopes. The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam had signed an Agency safeguards agreement relating to the reactor in June 1981.

15. The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam had first taken part in the work of the General Conference in 1978, and since that time co-operation between it and the Agency had been built up. Viet Nam highly appreciated the various forms of aid which the Agency had provided, particularly the services of experts for technical assistance projects. His delegation hoped that the Agency would increase the assistance given to the developing countries and would continue to make it more effective. In the course of the past year Viet Nam had joined the Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (RCA). It was to be hoped that RCA would increase and strengthen co-operation between countries in the region of Asia and the Pacific for the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

16. The Vietnamese Government strongly condemned the Israeli aggression against the Iraqi nuclear research centre and asked the General Conference to take punitive measures, including suspension of the rights and privileges of membership. Responsibility for the attack fell also on those countries which supported the expansionist policy of Israel.

17. The people of Viet Nam had made great sacrifices to regain their independence and were deeply anxious to secure peace so that they could reconstruct their country. The Vietnamese Government based its policy firmly on the principles of peace, friendship and co-operation and had frequently reaffirmed its wish to establish friendly and helpful relations with the other countries of South East Asia so as to set up a zone of peace and stability. It was against the wishes of Viet Nam that the hegemonistic tendencies of a certain Asian power were threatening peace and security in South East Asia, inciting hostility between peoples and raising barriers against co-operation between the countries in the region. The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam condemned the nuclear arms race of the war-mongering imperialist circles and greatly valued the peace initiatives recently taken by the USSR. It was playing an active part in the struggle to eliminate once and for all the risk of nuclear war and in the fight to defend world peace.

18. Mr. CHOI (People's Democratic Republic of Korea) said that the Agency's annual report for 1980 and the Director General's statement provided a detailed analysis of past activities and recent developments in the field of nuclear energy. The Agency had effectively carried out its mission in the past year, particularly with regard to work on the safety of nuclear power plants and the fuel cycle, the Nuclear Safety Standards (NUSS) programme and the use of radio-isotopes and radiation in agriculture, medicine, food preservation and other fields.

19. Technical assistance to the developing countries was an important aspect of the Agency's activities, and he welcomed the proposed increase in the target for voluntary contributions from \$13 million in 1981 to \$16 million in 1982. The Technical Assistance Fund had, of course, grown each year but it still fell far short of the requirements of the developing countries: a number of sound projects had not been approved because of a shortage of funds or qualified personnel.

20. His delegation noted with satisfaction that the Secretariat had not detected any diversion of a significant quantity of nuclear material and that it felt it was reasonable to conclude that all safeguarded material had remained in peaceful nuclear activities or had otherwise been adequately accounted for. His delegation had been angered by the barbaric military attack carried out by Israel on the Iraqi nuclear centre in June and strongly condemned that act of violence as an attack on international law and a challenge to the Agency. The Agency's safeguards system should be improved, particularly by increasing the effectiveness of inspection activities, special emphasis being given to areas and regions where there was a real danger of nuclear weapons proliferation.

21. His Government attached great importance to the establishment of a fuel and power industry. The Sixth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea had launched a large-scale power development programme aimed at an annual production of 120 million tonnes of coal and 100 000 million kWh of electricity by the end of the 1980s. His country had to increase its electricity production by constructing hydro and thermal power plants and at the same time developing new energy sources. It was for those reasons that the Party Congress had planned the construction of a nuclear power plant in the 1980s. Finally, a great deal of research and development work in nuclear power was being carried out and major efforts were being made to train qualified specialists.

22. His Government had always maintained a peaceful policy in Asia and the world. In March of the current year, a joint declaration on the establishment of a nuclear-weapons-free zone in north-east Asia had been made by the Workers' Party of Korea and the Socialist Party of Japan. To that end, it called for the immediate withdrawal and destruction of nuclear weapons deployed in Korea, Japan and neighbouring waters, the prohibition of the development, testing, production, possession, transport, storage and use of nuclear and biochemical weapons and the withdrawal of foreign military bases and troops illegally deployed in that region. His country thus demanded the withdrawal at the earliest possible date of the United States armed forces and nuclear weapons illegally deployed in South Korea.

23. Mr. SHIM (Republic of Korea), exercising his right of reply under Article 58 of the Rules of Procedure, deplored the note of political confrontation introduced into the General Debate in the statement of the delegate of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The Agency's General Conference was a forum where only mutual understanding in the field of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy should be expressed. Furthermore, that delegate's statement constituted blatant interference in the affairs of another State.

24. Mr. DAVIS (United States of America), also exercising his right of reply, denied the accusations made against his country and pointed out that the Agency's General Conference was not the place for such a political debate.

25. Mr. HAMIYE (Lebanon) said that at its twenty-fifth session the General Conference was facing a large number of problems. Nuclear applications had considerably increased in many fields and electricity requirements were growing from year to year, so that Member States urgently required the Agency to provide the world with reassurance while guaranteeing it the benefits of the atom.

26. One of the most serious problems which the Agency had had to deal with in 1981 was the destruction of the Iraqi nuclear centre, which was an unprecedented act of aggression with serious implications. Indeed, it was an act of aggression against the very principles and credibility of the Agency's activities. It was the responsibility of all Member States to make every effort to consolidate the Agency's activities and, in particular, to strengthen further its safeguards system. The expulsion of the aggressor from the Agency would merely confirm an existing state of affairs, as it had already excluded itself through its conduct.

27. The lack of progress in the discussions within the Committee on Assurances of Supply was another problem. The Committee should now tackle its real work, which was to draw up a procedure for the supply of nuclear fuels, techniques and services on a secure and predictable basis which would give mutually acceptable assurances against the risk of nuclear weapons proliferation and under which parties would fulfil their contractual obligations without unilateral or arbitrary conditions being imposed.

28. The replacement of the term "technical assistance" by the term "technical co-operation", as proposed by the Director General, well reflected the spirit which should prevail in relations between all members of the international community. Technical co-operation programmes for the developing countries should be further expanded and, in order to improve their effectiveness, should be financed through the Regular Budget.

29. With regard to representation on the Board of Governors, he pointed out that the interest of the developing countries in nuclear energy had increased substantially and that the areas of Africa and of the Middle East and South Asia were under-represented; that being so, Article VI.A.2 of the Statute should be appropriately amended. The developing countries should also be better represented within the Secretariat.

30. His delegation, also in the interests of equitable representation, supported the draft resolution submitted by Syria calling for the adoption of Arabic as an official and working language of the General Conference.

31. Mr. MUFAYA-MUMBUNA (Zambia) read out a message from Mr. Kenneth D. Kaunda, President of the Republic of Zambia, to the President of the General Conference:

"Dear Mr. President,

"On the occasion of the twenty-fifth regular session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, I wish to extend to you, and to all delegates at this regular session, fraternal and warm greetings. I wish to take this opportunity to reaffirm Zambia's support of the Agency's Statute in so far as this reflects the legitimate needs and aspirations of the majority of the Agency's Members for the peaceful exploitation of the atom for the socio-economic betterment of mankind.

"When the Agency came into being, some 24 years ago, very few developing countries were members of this organization. The situation has changed tremendously over the years. The developing Member States now constitute the majority of the Agency's Members. Many, if not all, of them are struggling with tremendous energy requirement problems, food problems, health problems and other socio-economic problems. In this regard, the Agency must play its commensurate role in helping to solve these problems, not through any paternalistic arrangements, but through the co-operative efforts of all Members as sovereign States in all activities of the Agency, including the shaping and maintenance of a more dynamically responsive and up-to-date Statute.

"I trust that this session of the Conference will continue to work toward promoting interdependence, understanding and peace among Member States, and socio-economic development, especially in the less developed Member States, through the peaceful exploitation of the atom. To this end, I strongly implore all of you at this session to give undivided attention to strengthening the Agency's technical assistance programme.

"I believe that the attainment of these goals requires a great deal of political will. Without it, not much can be achieved. Above all, the cardinal ingredient for our success is love amongst us as individuals and as Member States. The Agency should be an instrument for peace, and not for war, for development and not for destruction.

"Without love, man's exploitation of the atom will be misguided, as we have witnessed over the past 36 years. Without love, mankind has been led to develop devices for mass destruction. The nuclear arms race is unnecessary, wasteful of scarce resources and suicidal. It could and should be reversed. To this end, the Agency can, through strong political will and love, play an important role.

"Finally, allow me, on behalf of the people of Zambia and on my own behalf, to wish the Conference and the Agency success, and may God bless you all."

32. The Zambian delegation warmly welcomed the entry into the Agency of Zimbabwe, a country with which Zambia had much in common, and fervently hoped Namibia would also be able to become a Member of the Agency, which would help to put an end to the shameless exploitation of its natural resources, especially uranium, by its racist and illegal occupier.

33. In 1980, Zambia had continued to receive technical assistance from the Agency, but the execution of some projects had encountered certain difficulties, due in particular to delays in the delivery of radioactive materials and equipment and in the designation of some experts. Unfortunately, the real level of technical assistance in 1980 had declined from that in 1979, and the costs of experts' services had increased rapidly. Those increases were apparently administrative in origin, and efforts should be made to improve the effectiveness of technical assistance, especially by providing experts' services where they were most needed. As to the financing of the technical assistance programme, it was only too obvious that all had not been done to arrive at a solution, which could be found only by financing that programme under the Regular Budget in the same way as safeguards. All Member States still opposing that type of arrangement should change their attitude for the sake of development, understanding and goodwill between all Member States. Zambia would contribute to the Technical Assistance Fund in accordance with its base rate of assessment.

34. In Zambia, one of the Government's principal interests in the nuclear field was uranium ore prospecting and mining, a programme for which the Agency was not sparing of its assistance. The prospects were promising, but the resources, mining of which would commence in the near future, would be exclusively for peaceful purposes and would not be sold to enemies of the Zambian State. His country was prepared to co-operate with any parties interested in that undertaking provided that they respected its policy guidelines.

35. With regard to the composition of the Board of Governors, he wished to give further emphasis to a point made in the message from the President of the Republic of Zambia: the African region was the least represented on the Board (21.33%). That situation would become worse as new African States became Members. Article VI.A.2 should therefore be amended in such a way that the areas of Africa and of the Middle East and South Asia reached a representation of 33.33%.

36. Zambia wished to associate itself with all peace-loving and progressive States which had unreservedly condemned Israel's attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor. His delegation would support any disciplinary measure that might be taken against Israel. It also supported the Director General's proposal that the scope of the Additional Protocol of 1977 to the Geneva Convention of 1949 should be enlarged to prohibit military attacks on all nuclear facilities.

37. Mr. ISLAM (Bangladesh), reiterating his country's firm commitment to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, said that as long as there was no complete ban on nuclear weapons, and as long as Articles IV and VI of NPT were not really applied, non-proliferation might well remain a myth. His delegation strongly condemned the bombing of the Iraqi nuclear research centre by Israel. The Agency should take appropriate steps to preserve the confidence of Member States in the Agency and its safeguards system.

38. Examination of the Agency's budget for 1982 showed that of the expenditure of \$29 452 000 foreseen for technical assistance only \$4 477 000 came under the Regular Budget, the remainder consisting of voluntary contributions and extra-budgetary resources. That imbalance should be corrected, and the Agency should take all possible measures to increase the resources available for technical assistance. His delegation wished to propose the following measures: first, the Agency should urge UNDP, the Interim Fund of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development and other funding organizations for research and development to increase their contributions; secondly, a revolving fund could be established to give developing countries access to resources for emergency purposes; thirdly, the Agency should organize seminars or symposia in developing countries in order to increase local participation; fourthly, better use should be made of the technical manpower and funds in the developing countries by means of structures based on the concept of technical co-operation between developing countries. The Regional Co-operative Agreement was a good example of how that concept could work.

39. Bangladesh was attempting to establish a nuclear power programme in order to reduce the shortage of electricity which was slowing down its industrialization and to benefit from the advantages of nuclear energy for science and technology. Like other developing countries, Bangladesh needed small and medium reactors, but the initial investment cost of any nuclear power plant was very high and was increasing every year. His delegation urged

the Agency, which was already interested in the matter, to look for a way of solving the financial problem. To that end, it could encourage manufacturers to supply small and medium power reactors to the developing countries and also attempt to persuade the World Bank and other financing agencies, such as the Asian Development Bank, to offer special loans for the purchase of such reactors. His delegation was grateful to the Agency for the assistance it had already provided to his country in that field and suggested that the Agency should convene a conference of suppliers, possible recipients and financing agencies with a view to finding a practical solution to the problem.

40. In undertaking nuclear power programmes, developing countries needed help for the entire fuel cycle; his delegation was therefore strongly in favour of the establishment of regional fuel cycle centres.

41. With regard to the Regional Co-operative Agreement (RCA), his country had been participating actively in all RCA projects since the signing of the Agreement in 1972, and hoped that the IAEA and the developed countries would increase their financial contribution to those activities. His Government was prepared to make its Dacca facilities available to RCA countries for use as an Asian research and training centre. He also invited all States party to RCA to hold the fifth RCA Working Group meeting in Dacca in 1983. The tenth anniversary of RCA would be in September 1982, during the twenty-sixth regular session of the General Conference. It would also coincide with the International Conference on Nuclear Power Experience, to be held in Vienna from 13 to 17 September 1982 under the auspices of the Agency. On that occasion, the anniversary of RCA could be celebrated by a one-day seminar on the activities pursued under the Agreement with the participation of the signatory States.

42. Mr. MUSSI (Austria) noted with satisfaction that 17% of world electricity would be nuclear in 1985, but regretted that prospects for the future of nuclear power were less promising, especially in the developing countries, where its introduction depended largely on the technical development and availability of small reactors. Technical assistance was an important activity of the Agency, and Austria's voluntary contribution to the Technical Assistance Fund would be raised to US \$115 200, an increase by 20% over 1981.

43. Austria had always supported the principle of non-proliferation and the Agency's safeguards activities. Since the complex of problems associated with non-proliferation went, as a whole, far beyond the Agency's field of action, each country must make its own effort, within the framework of its own policies, to improve international security. In that context a central role must be attributed to the Agency and its safeguards system.

44. Austria condemned without reservation Israel's attack on the Iraqi nuclear research centre, an act that constituted sufficient grounds for suspending Israel's right to exercise the privileges of membership. Austria hesitated to advocate such action only because it had always supported the principle of universality in international organizations. It subscribed entirely to the provisions of resolution 487/1981 of the Security Council.

45. His delegation hoped that negotiations between supplier and recipient States in the Committee on Assurances of Supply would be crowned with success. However, the recipient countries must understand that access to nuclear techniques could be allowed only if adequate safeguards precluded the possibility of their use for purposes other than those intended. Access to those techniques should therefore be proportional to the scope of safeguards. As a signatory of NPT, Austria had accepted "full-scope safeguards"; it seemed quite unjustified for countries not to place all their nuclear activities under Agency safeguards, as that was the only way of ensuring full access to nuclear technology on the one hand and the application of full-scope safeguards on the other.

46. Recalling two legal instruments signed by the Agency and the Austrian Government, the Agreement Supplementing the Agreement Regarding the Headquarters of the IAEA and the Agreement Regarding the Establishment and Administration of a Common Fund for Financing Major Repairs and Replacements, the former would enter into force on 1 October 1981 and the latter had entered into force retroactively as of 1 January 1981. His delegation was gratified at the fruitful co-operation between a scientific organization like the Agency and its host country, which was not limited to making facilities available but also involved useful exchanges of information between the Agency's laboratories and Austrian scientific research institutions.

47. During the Conference session in New Delhi in 1979, the Austrian delegation had made a proposal concerning the trans-frontier aspects of nuclear power stations, and the Agency had been requested to determine a set of criteria which States would have to take into account when they entered into negotiations concerning the construction of a nuclear power station near a common border. Austria hoped that the question of the safety criteria applicable to nuclear power stations near frontiers would be considered by a technical working group within the framework of the Agency and that a catalogue of minimum standards applicable in negotiations between neighbouring States would be prepared, so that identical safety criteria would apply, at least between neighbouring countries.

48. Mr. SODNOM (Mongolia) said that in July 1981 his country had commemorated the sixtieth anniversary of the Mongolian people's revolution, which had marked the beginning of considerable achievements and profound changes in that country. After passing directly from feudalism to socialism, his country had experienced rapid economic development, improvement in the standard of living, the achievement of full literacy of the population and cultural and scientific progress. The development of Mongolia was based on a diversified and close co-operation with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. In March 1981, for example, a Mongolian cosmonaut had for the first time joined Soviet colleagues in an orbital flight, in the Soyuz VI space station.

49. The twenty-fifth regular session of the General Conference was being held in difficult times, when imperialist and reactionary powers were attempting to increase international tension and to re-open the arms race. To such attempts Mongolia opposed a policy of peace, dialogue and co-operation, as defined by the twenty-sixth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and in the appeal "To the parliaments and peoples of the world" issued by the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. The best way of ensuring peace and security was to stop the arms race, to take effective action towards disarmament and to conduct constructive international negotiations. In that connection, universal adherence to NPT was of particular importance.

50. Mongolia condemned the attack by Israel on the Iraqi nuclear research centre, which had caused damage not only to Iraq, but also to the Agency, to its prestige and its safeguards system and to international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Mongolia fully supported the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Security Council and by the Board of Governors of the Agency on that subject.

51. In view of the difficult situation in Asia, the eighteenth Congress of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party had proposed the preparation of a convention on non-aggression and renunciation of force in relations between the States of Asia and the Pacific. A regional conference, to which all the Permanent Members of the Security Council could be invited in addition, might be held for that purpose.

52. His delegation in principle approved of the annual report for 1980 because it clearly reflected the development of the Agency's activities, which had contributed to the progress of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to a strengthening of the regime aimed at securing non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

53. Mongolia attached great importance to co-operation with the Agency and considered that nuclear energy played a fundamental role in solving many problems of economic and social development. His country approved of the Agency's technical assistance activities and remained convinced that they should be financed by voluntary contributions paid in national currency by Member States. Mongolia was prepared to make its modest contribution to the Technical Assistance Fund.

54. With regard to the budget for 1982, constant attention should be given to possibilities of reducing unproductive costs and achieving savings, though without prejudice to the Agency's principal programmes.

55. In conclusion, his delegation hoped the present session of the General Conference would promote the further development of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and the strengthening of the non-proliferation regime, and would thus contribute to the peace and well-being of all the States and peoples of the world.

56. Mr. KOREF (Panama) reiterated that his Government strongly condemned the military attack by Israel on the Iraqi nuclear research centre.

57. The Agency's technical assistance was of the greatest importance to the developing countries: through it they could benefit from the advantages of nuclear energy not only for the production of electricity but also in areas such as agriculture, medicine and industry. The use of nuclear techniques in agriculture and stockbreeding, for example, and the increased production that would result from it, would enable developing countries to free resources for the

import of advanced technology. It was therefore desirable to increase the funds available for technical assistance.

58. With regard to voluntary contributions to the Technical Assistance Fund, it was necessary to reform the present system of fixing a target by negotiation, because that system was humiliating for the developing countries and unpleasant for the developed countries.

59. His delegation recommended that the Agency recruit more staff from developing countries, since such staff not only had the necessary technical competence but were also well acquainted with the situation in the developing regions of the world.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.

