International Atomic Energy Agency

GENERAL CONFERENCE

GC(XXXI)/OR.299
February 1988*
GENERAL Distr.
ENGLISH

THIRTY-FIRST REGULAR SESSION: 21-25 SEPTEMBER 1987

RECORD OF THE TWO HUNDRED AND NINETY-NINTH MEETING

Held at the Austria Center, Vienna,
on Thursday, 24 September 1987, at 9.40 a.m.

President: Mr. SHIELDS (Canada)
later: Mr. COLOMBO (Italy)

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[*] A provisional version of this document was issued on 5 October 1987.

[**] GC(XXXI)/818.

The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document GC(XXXI)/INF/246/Rev.3.

88-0786
2356e/0296e

GENERAL DEBATE AND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1986 (GC(XXXI)/800 and Corr.1) (continued)

1. Mr. DHARMAWARDENA (Sri Lanka) said that in March of the present year, a ceremony had been held in the capital of his country to commemorate three important landmarks: the thirtieth anniversary of the Agency, the fifteenth anniversary of the Regional Co-operative Agreement in the Asia and Pacific Region (RCA) and the silver jubilee of Sri Lanka's atomic energy programme. The ceremony had been attended by the Sri Lankan Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister in charge of atomic energy and the Agency's Deputy Director General for Technical Co-operation. The annual meeting of the RCA working group and an exhibition on activities under the Agreement had been held in the same month.

2. During its thirty years of existence, the Agency had performed a tremendous service for Member States, particularly those of the developing world which it had helped to initiate and develop their energy programmes and train manpower, thus enabling them to bring some of the benefits of nuclear energy to their people. Bearing in mind, however, that two thirds of the world population lived in those countries, the Agency's future task in bringing the benefits of nuclear energy to mankind was enormous.

3. His delegation commended the Agency on its laudable action in the aftermath of the Chernobyl accident, in particular the action to strengthen the safety aspects of nuclear power, thereby proving the essential need for its existence to ensure global safety in the use of nuclear energy. His country and many others had had to take action to control the radioactivity of imported food and, in the absence of any internationally recommended levels for intervention, had had to consult the other countries of the region. As the Director General had mentioned in his opening address, internationally acceptable levels would have to be adopted.

4. During the past four years Sri Lanka had undergone a period of ethnic unrest which had taken an increasing portion of the budget, thus reducing the funds available for other projects and slowing down some of the programmes. It was anticipated that the development programmes would soon catch up, as a result of major steps taken earlier in the year, in co-operation with its neighbouring country, to put an end to ethnic-related violence.

5. The peaceful applications of nuclear energy had proceeded smoothly in Sri Lanka during the past year. In agriculture, a new programme on mutation breeding had been started and a gamma radiation cell set up. In industry, the use of nuclear techniques, particularly NDT methods and X-ray fluorescence analysis, had expanded and work on the use of radiation for prevulcanization of natural rubber latex had been a great success. In medicine, two nuclear facilities for in vitro diagnosis had been started and improvements were being made in the use of radiation therapy for cancer treatment. In hydrology, the uses of nuclear techniques had been expanded by a project for assessing soil erosion by fallout caesium-137 measurement. In archaeology, thermo-luminescence had been used for dating objects dug out under a UNESCO-sponsored cultural project, the objects being analysed by nuclear techniques. The training programmes in nuclear science, nuclear engineering and electronics had continued as in 1986 and three new training courses on NDT had been launched.

6. His delegation greatly appreciated the Agency's equipment, training and expert assistance in those activities. While selecting the best experts for such Agency-sponsored projects, it was important to ensure that the experts concerned made a positive contribution to the country's total programme. There was no purpose in recruiting an expert, however competent in his own sphere of activity, if he interfered with other projects which were not his concern. It was also necessary for experts to be briefed so that they respected safety and other rules applicable in general and under local conditions. An expert who violated radiation protection regulations and practices and induced local junior staff to disregard such rules could cause great damage to a nuclear energy programme and to public relations.

7. The RCA programme in his region was one of the most successful of the Agency's activities and had resulted in considerable mutual benefit to the 14 Member States which were parties to the Agreement. His delegation expressed its strong support for the programme.

8. He wished to congratulate the Director General on his able direction of the Agency's activities and to inform him that Sri Lanka would contribute its share to the voluntary contributions fund.

9. Mr. KOCH (Denmark) noted that the Danish Parliament had decided, prior to the Chernobyl accident, that future energy planning in Denmark would not include nuclear energy. New and renewable sources of energy played an increasing role in Danish energy research, development and supply. Among OECD countries, Denmark had the lowest consumption of energy per unit per gross national product and it had the lowest level of electricity production prices in the European Community.

10. His delegation had noted with appreciation that four non-nuclear-weapon States had become party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in 1986. It was to be hoped that at the General Conference in 1988 it would be possible to welcome additional parties to NPT. However, it was a matter of concern that 46 of the 131 non-nuclear-weapon States party to NPT had not complied with their obligations under Article III of the Treaty regarding the conclusion of the relevant safeguards agreement with the Agency. Denmark noted with satisfaction that the Secretariat, as in previous years, had concluded that nuclear material under Agency safeguards in 1986 had remained in peaceful nuclear activities or had been otherwise adequately accounted for. Furthermore, negotiations with China to place some of its civilian nuclear installations under Agency safeguards would soon be finalized and with that agreement there would be safeguards agreements in force with all five nuclear-weapon States. The Agency's safeguards system should be continuously expanded and all nuclear facilities, without exception, should be subject to safeguards. With regard to the question of the financing of safeguards his Government believed that all Member States should participate in the financing which was a collective responsibility and which benefited all countries.

11. Another vital area in the Agency activities was nuclear safety. The Agency had witnessed a major development in the field of co-operation on nuclear safety since the Chernobyl accident. In particular, the adoption of the two Conventions on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency were important steps. As recognized at the special session of the General Conference in 1986, it was important to strengthen international co-operation

both at the bilateral and the multilateral level with regard to nuclear safety, radiological protection, physical security and environmental compatibility.

12. Since the special session, Denmark had negotiated bilateral agreements on nuclear safety and radiological protection with all its neighbouring countries or countries situated close to its territory. Negotiations with the Soviet Union had not yet been finalized, but it was hoped that negotiations would lead to the signing of an agreement in the near future. The bilateral agreements which had been concluded were all different in wording but were based on the same fundamental principles: a commitment to notify the other party directly of nuclear accidents; a commitment to exchange updated safety-relevant information on existing as well as planned nuclear facilities; and a right to request consultations. Such agreements were of great importance, not only as a means of obtaining the highest level of nuclear safety, but also as a confidence-building measure.

13. In the longer term, it would be in the interest of all countries for the contents of the bilateral agreements to be expanded to cover commitments to apply a standardized scheme on reporting the operational experiences of nuclear facilities. That was an area where the Agency would have a role to play in the development of bilateral co-operation. The Agency could make an instant contribution to the promotion of bilateral co-operation in the field of nuclear safety simply by collecting or registering the texts of the agreements concluded and by expressing its readiness to assist countries - upon request - in the formulation of such arrangements.

14. While recognizing that nuclear safety was primarily a responsibility of individual States, it was important that basic safety principles and standards be developed and adhered to by all Member States. The most realistic approach would be to develop safety principles and standards to which States could commit themselves on a voluntary basis. Denmark strongly supported the work which had been initiated in the Agency regarding the formulation of basic safety principles and an updating and strengthening of the NUSS Safety Codes. The adherence of Member States to common safety principles and safety standards would also facilitate the consultations foreseen within the framework of the bilateral agreements.

15. Mr. CUEVAS CANCINO (Mexico) said that his Government believed that the Agency had made undeniable progress in increasing the contribution of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy to the development of all countries, and had carried out its safeguards inspection activities in an exemplary way.

16. With regard to technical assistance, his country was grateful for the valuable assistance which it had received from the Agency in the fields of medicine and food. However, Mexico was experiencing difficulties associated with the huge investments involved in the development of its nuclear power programme and, in that area, the Agency had not provided enough assistance, although his country considered that the OSART missions were particularly helpful. The Agency's seminars and training courses were also very useful.

17. Nuclear power production created enormous problems and it was not surprising that many countries had doubts about it or that some countries had adopted other forms of power production. His Government, which regarded nuclear power as essential, had decided to pursue a nuclear power plant construction programme which would mean that by the end of the century Mexico would have five nuclear power plants accounting for more than 10% of electricity production in Mexico.

18. The Agency had not always been able to fulfil its functions associated with the transfer of technology which was often obstructed by financial interests. Developing countries mistrusted the policy of zero growth and considered that resources for technical assistance should in fact be increased so that, for example, fellowship applications were not rejected owing to a lack of places.

19. The Agency's second main objective was to prevent the atom from being used for military purposes. His country regretted that the Agency had not been able to contribute to establishing a world free of nuclear weapons. It had frequently been stated that the Agency was not the proper forum for the discussion of such questions. His country wished to take advantage of the Agency's anniversary to appeal to all States to modify that negative attitude. The prohibition of attacks against nuclear power plants was, for example, a vital subject which lay within the Agency's sphere of competence.

20. The problems of nuclear power, such as waste management, spread of radiation, and the consequences of possible accidents, transcended national boundaries. An attitude of supranationalism was essential and yet nationalism appeared to be stronger than ever. Unless the problem of nationalism were overcome, the Agency would be unable to carry out its work properly.

21. A fundamental aspect of Mexico's foreign policy was the exclusively peaceful use of nuclear energy and his country hoped that, through the Agency, nuclear-weapon-free zones, such as those established by the Tlatelolco and Rarotonga Treaties, would gradually be extended to cover all continents. The Agency should redouble its efforts (and that would obviously mean doubling its budget) to enable all peoples of the world to benefit from the numerous peaceful applications of nuclear energy.

22. In connection with that lofty objective, one large area had been neglected, namely the education of young people to inform them about the characteristics and potential of nuclear energy. Criticism of the use of nuclear energy was generally the result of ignorance. Some Member States had demonstrated the role which education could play in facilitating the acceptance of nuclear power and his country hoped that the Agency would participate in a wide-ranging programme designed to familiarize the world's youth with the use of nuclear energy.

23. Mr. BADRAN (Jordan) noted that the continuous efforts that the Agency had made in enhancing international understanding and co-operation during the past three decades had been rightly appreciated after the Chernobyl accident. The prompt response of the Agency with the full support of Member States in the immediate aftermath of the incident had demonstrated the Agency's important role in minimizing the consequences of any nuclear event or catastrophe. The Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency, which had been signed by a number of Member States, including Jordan, were typical examples of the importance of international co-operation.

24. Jordan hoped that the Agency would direct its efforts towards developing international conventions to cover legal international objective responsibility for nuclear damage, notification and assistance in case of

nuclear incidents in non-civilian nuclear facilities, prevention of attacks against nuclear facilities devoted to peaceful purposes, particularly those facilities subject to international safeguards, expansion of nuclear-weapon-free zones and prevention of horizontal and vertical proliferation of nuclear weapons directly or by proxy.

25. In addition to the critical unstable political and military situation in the Middle East, Israel continued to enhance its nuclear military capabilities and develop its combat nuclear potential in such a way as to become a threat to the whole area. Although the international community had repeatedly called upon Israel to subject its nuclear facilities to international inspection, Israel continued to ignore Security Council Resolution 487. The threat of Israel was not restricted to the Middle East, since Israel had close co-operation links with the South African régime to develop its nuclear military capabilities, thereby expanding the threat to Africa. Both countries should submit their nuclear facilities to the safeguards system and international inspection which would constitute an important step towards transforming both the Middle East and Africa into nuclear-weapon-free zones.

26. With regard to the nuclear safety programme, his delegation believed that it should entail the full and active participation of the manufacturers of nuclear systems in the programme and the participation of all countries, both nuclear and non-nuclear, industrial and developing, in the programme with full exchange of relevant information. Furthermore, it should concern itself with solving legal difficulties related to the flow of safety information within the framework of international or trilateral agreements where the Agency would be the third party.

27. The energy demand of developing countries was continuously increasing, and the majority of those countries still depended on imported energy. The average energy share per capita in developing countries was much less than 20% of the average energy share per capita in industrial countries. If the global rates and patterns of growth of energy consumption maintained their present shape then the gap between developing and industrial countries would require more than 90 years to bridge. In view of the fact that known economic

reserves of oil and gas might become depleted within three or four decades, it was clear that developing countries could lose the opportunity to make use of oil and gas in building their economies. Hence, the availability of nuclear energy to generate electricity would become absolutely decisive for the future of developing countries.

28. The United Nations Conference on the Use of Nuclear Energy for Peaceful Purposes had expressed very strongly the determination of the international community, particularly developing countries, to dismantle the technological barriers in the nuclear field. Although his delegation noted with satisfaction the Agency's efforts in the field of technical assistance, exchange of experts in medicine, agriculture, food preservation, exploration of natural resources etc., the United Nations Conference had revealed that there was still a number of psychological, economical, political and legal obstacles that prevented the dissemination of knowledge to include all countries that required it.

29. There had been little progress in the question of the amendment of Article VI.A.2 of the Statute over the past 10 years. The right of the African and the Middle East and South Asian groups to be fairly represented in the Board of Governors should not be ignored, nor should a solution to the matter be postponed, especially since a number of States in those two groups were making reasonable progress in acquiring nuclear technology. Jordan believed that the representation system related to those two groups should be amended without amending Article VI of the Statue as a whole.

30. With regard to the annual report for 1986, his delegation believed that the technical co-operation programme should be expanded and reconstructed in such a way as to facilitate the transfer of technology to developing countries in integrated batches through team-training systems. The programme should aim to help developing countries establish long-term plans to acquire nuclear knowledge and technology. There should be a continuous growth in the technical assistance programme and the zero-growth policy should be abandoned. Finally, developing countries should be able to establish a link with the data bank system through regional and international data networks.

31. Mr. HOSSAIN (Bangladesh) congratulated the Agency on its thirtieth anniversary and on the significant contribution it had made since its foundation in advancing the cause of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and in strengthening international co-operation in nuclear safety and radiation protection, although he could not but express some disappointment on the part of developing countries, especially those which had signed NPT, that technology transfer in the area of the peaceful applications of nuclear energy, and particularly in that of nuclear power, had not taken place to the extent expected. That was all the more unfortunate in that the growth of electricity consumption in the developed countries was levelling off while the developing countries were in dire need of new sources of commercial energy. The Director General had rightly pointed out in his opening statement that "new and renewable energy sources" could not meet that increasing energy need of the developing countries and that nuclear power would have to be introduced there, with due regard for safety, waste disposal and environmental problems. He hoped that the Director General and his staff would continue to help build up the infrastructure of developing countries and offer various advisory services during their progress towards nuclear power.

32. Bangladesh's first 3-MW research reactor had just completed one year's successful operation. The reactor had the capacity to operate in both steady state and pulsed mode. During that year, neutron flux distributions and neutron spectra had been measured in different experimental positions. For the effective utilization of the reactor, a comprehensive programme had been developed to meet immediate needs regarding radioisotope production and material analysis, to develop nuclear manpower through training and research, and to perform applied research related to the overall nuclear programme of Bangladesh. Although the main radioisotope production laboratory was still under construction, the reactor had been used for the trial production of technetium-99m by irradiating MoO_2 targets in a small laboratory set up with help from the Agency and the German Democratic Republic. A facility for producing iodine-131 from tellurium targets was soon to be installed in continuation of the same assistance. While some progress had been made with an experimental facility for neutron activation analysis and neutron radiography, substantial help was awaited from the Agency in setting up a

triple-axis neutron spectrometer for inelastic neutron scattering work. Co-operation had already been established with India in that connection and construction of a double-axis spectrometer had been initiated as a first step.

33. In the field of commercial food preservation by irradiation, an irradiator supplied by the Soviet Union through the Agency's technical assistance programme had formed the basis for a multi-purpose commercial irradiator being set up in Chittagong in collaboration with a reputed private entrepreneur. Stress would be given to the export of irradiated fish, dried fish and potatoes, in addition to the routine sterilization of medical products. In that connection, his country hoped the Agency would help remove restrictions on the international movement of irradiated products.

34. Bangladesh had for a long time been seeking to meet the growing demand for electricity by means of nuclear power, and had been attempting to build up the necessary infrastructure and manpower as a first step. However, the grid capacity was still low, and so Bangladesh had been urging the necessity of developing small and medium power reactors (SMPRs) which had already proved to be economical in some developing countries such as India and Argentina. Since Chernobyl, a fresh critical look needed to be given to the safety aspects, and a fresh feasibility study for a first nuclear power reactor was now being conducted. Such a capital-intensive programme had, of necessity, to be cost-effective, and the fund-giving agencies, in both the private and the public sector, had to make special concessions when financing nuclear power stations. The Agency had already organized a large number of surveys, studies and conferences in that connection, but that was not enough. He therefore urged the Agency to help set up a "nuclear development bank" to provide soft commercial credits for projects whose viability had been established and, if necessary, endorsed by the Agency.

35. The Agency had recently evaluated the progress made during the last 15 years by various programmes under the Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (RCA) for Asia and the Pacific Region and had thereupon extended the programme for a period of another five years. Bangladesh had been actively supporting programmes under the RCA and had benefited in many ways

from them. It deeply appreciated the financial and other assistance provided under the RCA and hoped that the flow of assistance for various projects would be maintained and that due care would be taken to widen the scope of such projects to make them more meaningful and better suited to the varied requirements of the countries in the region.

36. In that connection, he recalled that Bangladesh had recently proposed to the RCA countries the establishment of a Regional Centre for Research and Development and Application of Nuclear Science and Technology in one of the RCA Member States which would enable scientists in the region to exchange ideas in research, training and development in a proper institutional framework. As the idea had not gained acceptance, he now wished to suggest developing at least one "centre of excellence" in each RCA country, or strengthening such centres where they already existed.

37. Turning again to the Agency's technical co-operation programme, he noted with satisfaction that in recent years, the Agency had given attention to the impact of that programme on development and to package multi-year programmes with definite objectives. Bangladesh had greatly benefited from such a long-term programme in connection with its research reactor laboratories. The Agency should also seek to close the gap between research workers and investment entrepreneurs by providing experts and funds to cover the intermediate step of extension work and feasibility studies.

38. In concluding, he again congratulated the Agency on its excellent record of achievements in the past 30 years, and assured it of Bangladesh's continued co-operation.

39. Mr. EL MEDNI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) reiterated the importance of guaranteeing secure and adequate financial resources for the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund (TACF). The resources of that Fund should be increased so as to promote the economic and social progress of developing countries.

40. With regard to safeguards, it was a source of great pleasure to find that during the past year, the Agency had not found any abuse of materials or installations or diversion of source materials for any purposes other than peaceful ones. It was important that the Agency should ensure that there was

a proper balance between its regulatory and promotional activities. As far as financing of safeguards was concerned, his delegation believed that Member States with the greatest number and the largest installations should pay a larger contribution to the safeguards budget.

41. His country was determined to benefit from the applications of nuclear energy in agriculture and industry and also planned to use nuclear energy for electricity generation. However, some developed countries were attempting to hinder the progress of developing countries.

42. Israel had continued to ignore the wishes of the international community. Although it had been given five years to abide by United Nations resolutions, it had shown no evidence of its intention to do so. It had refused to submit its nuclear installations to the Agency's safeguards system and there was reason to wonder whether there was any justification for it to continue to be a Member of the Agency. In addition, there was a very close relationship between Israel and the racist régime in South Africa which used its nuclear capabilities for aggressive purposes. His country wished to join other peace-loving countries in condemning the two régimes in occupied Palestine and South Africa and in calling for them to cease their defiance of the international community.

43. An amendment of Article VI.A.2 of the Statute was necessary in order to establish an equitable geographical distribution in the Board of Governors, particularly as far as the regions of the Middle East and Africa were concerned. It was also necessary to be very careful in recruiting staff so as to ensure that developing countries received their fair share of posts. His country had ample expertise and it was to be hoped that the Agency would take advantage of it. Furthermore, his delegation wished to reiterate the importance of using the Arab language in the Agency in the same way as the other working languages.

44. Mr. CASTRO DIAZ-BALART (Cuba) said that the thirtieth anniversary was an auspicious occasion on which to reflect on the role which the Agency had played in supporting and promoting the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy. Over its thirty years, the Agency had provided valuable technical assistance to more than 70 different countries; according to its own

information, the amount disbursed in technical assistance had risen to over US $300 000 000 between the founding of the Agency and 1986; that assistance had made possible the introduction and development of various nuclear techniques in agriculture and food production, and also in public health and other sectors of indubitable importance to developing countries and the international community as a whole.

45. The Agency had been a suitable forum for studying and propagating international experience in nuclear safety and radiation protection, and for putting those technologies within Members' reach.

46. Of equal importance had been the experience of nuclear power generation and the fuel cycle which the Agency had compiled and circulated; special attention had also been given since the founding of the Agency to designing and applying safeguards; safeguards had been applied in 1987 in more than 90 States, and had major resource allocations.

47. The Agency's laboratory at Seibersdorf had played an important part in the above programmes, as had the International Laboratory of Marine Radioactivity at Monaco; those bodies had made it possible to carry out research needed by developing countries and to train staff from them, as well as fulfilling other objectives. A related matter was that of the fellowship programmes and training courses which had each year given hundreds of specialists from developing countries the chance to acquire the necessary knowledge and training to take new techniques back to their countries for adoption.

48. The International Centre for Theoretical Physics at Trieste had received more than 22 000 research workers from developing countries, who had been able to build up their knowledge, put new ideas into practice, exchange ideas with scientists from other countries and have at their fingertips the wealth of up-to-date information available at the Centre.

49. Cuba joined with the other members of the international community in celebrating the successes of the Agency's thirty years, and was using its mass media to publicize the Agency, its programmes and the assistance with which Cuba had been provided.

50. Nuclear power had expanded greatly during the Agency's thirty years, although the realities of the day could not be ignored; the annual report for 1986 gave data concerning power reactors in service or under construction at the end of that year: installed capacity in developing countries had remained effectively the same as in 1985 at about 4% of total nuclear power generation capacity. The electricity produced by those facilities had, moreover, decreased relative to the total produced by nuclear plants from 2.4% in 1985 to 1.5% in 1986, and with every passing year the figure dropped further behind; only ten or so Third World countries would have operational programmes by the year 2000.

51. The energy shortfall facing the developing countries was only one aspect of a much more complex problem of which those countries were victim; the problem was reflected in the acute economic crisis affecting them, in which one of the major elements was foreign debt. That debt had risen to a million million United States dollars at the time of speaking, with interest payments to service that debt of some US $120 000 000 annually; the paradoxical result of that situation was that those which most needed nuclear power were least able to afford it. President Castro of Cuba had said the following at the inaugural meeting in Havana of the sixth ministerial meeting of the Group of 77:

> "Faced with these realities, what is the future awaiting our peoples? In 1985, the population of the underdeveloped countries was already three quarters of the population of the world. In 2025, there will be 6 799 000 000 people in the Third World, 83.1% of the world's population, according to the calculations: this means that our countries, in the next forty years - less than one lifetime - will be faced with the colossal challenge of providing food, clothing, education, employment, housing and health care for an average of almost eighty million more people each year. Will our impoverished, indebted and exhausted countries be able to meet even that challenge?"

52. The energy crisis in the developing countries was only one aspect of the acute economic crisis under which their people laboured, and its only solution required, among other things, the establishment of the new international economic order approved by the United Nations.

53. It was paradoxical that, while the Third World was suffering under the most brutal economic crisis it had ever seen - one deplored by the summit meeting of the non-aligned States, and, more recently, by the 1987 session of

UNCTAD - an amount equivalent to the total foreign debt of those countries was going annually to military expenditure: at the current rate of increase in that expenditure, the total foreign debt of the Third World could be paid seventeen times over in the thirteen years to come. From a purely economic point of view, many benefits would derive for the peoples of the Third World, and for humankind as a whole, from a cessation of the arms race.

54. The arms race must, however, cease first and foremost insofar as it was pregnant with a far greater risk, that of the destruction of humankind and the wealth of thousands of years of civilization and culture, the destruction of nature and even of the planet itself. Great efforts were being made in negotiations towards effective measures to stop the arms race and turn it in its course, in other words, to bring about nuclear disarmament and, in the end, general and complete disarmament.

55. The programme to eliminate nuclear weapons before the year 2000 put forward by the Soviet Union in January 1986 was of particular importance amongst those efforts, as were the proposals it had made in February 1987 to reach separate agreement on the total elimination of intermediate-range missiles in Europe and on the total elimination of battlefield missiles. Recent events had shown that the above was possible, and the whole of humanity was awaiting the conclusion of that agreement.

56. Turning to matters concerning the work of the Agency, he said that the 1988 budget contained an imperceptible increase, in pursuance of the zero-real-growth policy which Cuba had opposed at various times; an official consultation system had been recently adopted in working out the draft budget, which Cuba considered useful as it enabled Member States to participate more actively and directly in that important task. Cuba welcomed the fact that the increase of 12% in the TACF for 1988 was to be maintained; its position on other matters, such as the financing of technical assistance and the revision of Article VI of the Statute, had not changed.

57. The General Conference had before it a recommendation from the Board concerning the suspension of South Africa, the result of a long history of denunciations in the General Conference, and other fora, of its racist régime; those denunciations stemmed from the repeated violations which that country

had committed and continued to commit. It was beyond doubt, he said, that South Africa's possession of unsafeguarded enrichment plants enabled it to develop and acquire the capacity to produce fissile material for purposes that were not peaceful; in addition, it was reinforcing that capacity by illegally acquiring uranium from Namibia; it was beyond doubt also that international peace and security were thereby seriously endangered, particularly the peace and security of African States.

58. With the exception of a few States which gave de facto support to its apartheid régime, South Africa, despite its hypocritical statements, had been the object of revulsion and condemnation on the part of all governments and all peace-loving peoples for its policy of aggression, its repeated violations of the frontiers of neighbouring States and its brutal repression of its own people. Cuba therefore supported the most severe measures which the General Conference might take, and, distancing itself from any promises or compromises, would keep itself abreast of whether those measures were being implemented in full.

59. Israel's nuclear capabilities had been studied as a matter of course at other meetings, and many delegations had expressed their concern. It would appear that the problem was no longer a potential, regional one, but one which had become a real problem on a wider scale. Statements by an Israeli expert and the news concerning the development of new and more powerful missiles testified eloquently to the fact that Israel, was, as he spoke, already no mean nuclear power. If the chaff of all the elliptical statements were blown away, the gist showed that what must be done was to inscribe that matter on the agenda of the Conference on Disarmament and other fora which discussed disarmament by nuclear-weapon States.

60. He said that Cuba's programme for the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy continued to advance on a firm footing; Cuba's first nuclear power station was being constructed, and the international undertakings accepted with regard to it were being observed and would continue to be; special attention was being given to strict measures to ensure its safe operation, measures which touched its construction, installation and operation and also training for its personnel.

61. Preliminary work was also continuing on a nuclear research centre, which, together with Cuba's first nuclear power plant, would be a corner-stone of its nuclear power development.

62. An advanced nuclear science and technology institute was soon to be set up on the basis of the existing department, with a view to increasing the numbers and quality of specialist staff for the nuclear power programme; the new institute would increase the range and depth of specialist subject teaching.

63. The food irradiation plant provided by the Agency through a technical assistance project had begun operation in a satisfactory manner; as well as being a practical step towards introducing an important technology to Cuba, it was planned to offer training to specialists from other countries in the region.

64. All the above advances were in addition to those in nuclear applications in medicine, agriculture and industry, and Cuba had decided in that light to indicate its interest in taking part in ARCAL; by so doing, it would expand on the valuable co-operation arrangements between Cuba and a number of countries, particularly the Soviet Union and the other CMEA countries, and also other friendly countries in the Third World.

65. Cuba had in 1987 put itself forward for a seat on the Board of Governors for 1987 to 1989, which would be the second opportunity it had had to take part in the work of that important body. The way in which Cuba had adopted nuclear energy was an example of what could be done when a people had political and economic independence and the right to decide what was their best way to a better life and to development.

66. It was a matter of some satisfaction that the thirtieth anniversary of the Agency had seen a number of important successes of great benefit to all Member States; the peaceful applications of nuclear energy which it had supported and promoted over those thirty years were the only ones which humankind could accept, directed as they were to improving human well-being; many nations in the Third World had been able to gain access to those applications of nuclear energy thanks to the Agency's dedicated efforts.

67. Humankind was, he said, living through a time of great challenges; never before had the indissoluble link between the struggle for peace and the struggle for development been so clearly seen. Cuba called, therefore, upon all to unite their efforts and will to start out on the path towards the end of nuclear weapons, that same path which led to the conversion of nuclear technology into a factor in development, prosperity and well-being for those who had been left behind in the strategic stalemate which had a stranglehold on the world; all should act towards the goal of giving nuclear energy, born in the shadow of the politics of terror, blackmail and threat, its proper place in the life of humankind of the third millenium, one in the sunshine of progress, liberty and the independence of peoples.

68. Mgsr. CEIRANO (Holy See) said that, in commemorating the foundation of the International Atomic Energy Agency thirty years earlier, Members might ponder on the reasons that had induced so many States to bring the organization into being, or to accede to it afterwards, and - even more important - whether, looking back on the Agency's past history and forward into its probable future, those reasons were still valid.

69. That was particularly so for the Holy See, belonging as it did to the Agency not as a mere observer but as a full Member.

70. The Holy See had decided to join the Agency on 20 August 1957 because of its uniqueness. Never before nor since had an international organization, by its very existence, represented the realization of the biblical vision of turning swords into ploughshares. The International Atomic Energy Agency represented the determination of its founding fathers to transfer the use of nuclear energy from the field of destruction to the field of creation. What had until then been seen primarily under the terrible aspect of the atomic bomb was now to be viewed in the pleasant light of a new and very useful tool of almost limitless possibilities in the hands of mankind. It was to that vision of a new and better world, free from war and want, that the Holy See had given its support by becoming a founder Member of the Agency.

71. The Agency had been entrusted with a twofold task. On the one hand it had to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, of special importance to developing countries and to all other countries which lacked - or which

suffered a serious shortage of - other energy sources. But the peaceful use of nuclear energy was not limited to energy in the strict sense - to nuclear power. Today the application of nuclear radiation played an ever-increasing role in such differing areas as medicine, agriculture and food preservation. On the other hand, the Agency had to supply safeguards which ensured that the systematic international co-operation which assisted nations in building up their nuclear programmes for their own economic and social development was not abused by the transfer of material and know-how for the purpose of building up military nuclear capacity.

72. In that connection, he mentioned the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to which the Holy See had become a party and under which, by agreement with the Agency, it was subject to the special safeguards system called for by the Treaty. The Holy See had done so in order to encourage all members of the international community to do the same. It attached the utmost importance to the on-site inspections carried out by the Agency to verify that activities in the field of the peaceful use of nuclear energy were not being used to further the proliferation of nuclear weapons. It urged all States which had not yet done so to reconsider their position and participate in a worldwide system of control.

73. In addition to the two tasks of peaceful use and safeguards, there was a third one, namely, nuclear safety. Various accidents, such as Three Mile Island and especially the tragic accident which had occurred the previous year at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, had made both the public at large and those responsible for the management and operation of nuclear installations sensitive to the need for the highest possible safety standards when handling nuclear material. There again, the Agency had already played an important role in recent years - and would certainly continue to do so - in enhancing radiation protection programmes with regard to the production, transport and disposal of nuclear material and waste. It was his delegations's firm belief that the peaceful use of nuclear energy had no future unless the safety problems could be satisfactorily solved very soon.

74. The dangers arising for all States from the possibility of nuclear accidents with transboundary effects also called for an increased measure of international co-operation. The two conventions worked out and signed in 1986 under the Agency's auspices, calling for information and collaboration in the event of a nuclear accident, were positive steps in the right direction, as His Holiness Pope John Paul II had pointed out only recently. Those conventions were not sufficient, however. They needed to be supplemented by an agreement on international liability for damage inflicted by transboundary nuclear pollution. A State would be induced to apply even higher safety standards by an obligation to compensate other States for damage originating in its territory. That was true particularly for States which justified their nuclear activities on the grounds that the advantages gained for society from nuclear energy warranted certain risks to the life or property of individuals - a moral position that the Holy See considered dubious to say the least.

75. Why had the Agency been so successful in the first thirty years of its existence? The answer lay in what he would like to call "the spirit of Vienna". The International Atomic Energy Agency had been primarily an organization of co-operation rather than confrontation. The co-operation of Members among themselves and with the Secretariat had run more smoothly than in other organizations. That had enabled the Agency to be an organization within the United Nations system - although strictly speaking not one of its specialized agencies - which had demonstrated exceptional commitment to the purposes and principles for which it had been established.

76. Accordingly, the Holy See joined in commemorating the anniversary of the Agency as an international organization that had lived up to the expectations placed in it thirty years earlier. That certainly justified the same expectations for the future. The Holy See therefore reaffirmed its continued support for the work of the Agency in the years ahead.

77. Mr. SUCRE FIGARELLA (Venezuela) commended the Agency on three decades of successful and fruitful work during which it had done more than most other international organizations to further the cause of international co-operation and peace - especially considering that its specific province, while full of constructive and promising possibility, was also fraught with great dangers.

78. "Atoms for Peace" was not merely a slogan, it was a concrete programme: although there was nothing that could be as destructive to human society as the release of atomic energy, there was also nothing which presented such an opportunity for good as its peaceful use. Now that the Agency's first thirty years had shown that those energies could be channelled in the right direction, it was possible to hope that future generations would be able to carry the work on to even greater achievements for peace, progress and prosperity.

79. That being said, he wished to consider three questions which had also been touched upon by the Director General in his opening statement. The first was whether nuclear energy was a safe source of power. Since the Chernobyl accident in particular, governments and public opinion had been asking whether the construction of nuclear power plants was justifiable at all. The so-called Brundtland report and innumerable other papers of a general nature had been published in that connection, but there seemed little point in such generalizing and evading the difficult decisions. Nuclear energy could not be properly characterized by either apocalyptic judgements or exaggeratedly favourable opinions. Clearly, where energy was concerned, countries had to make decisions which took into account such considerations as environmental protection, cost, optimum utilization of available natural, financial and technical resources and so on.

80. In his own country's case, circumstances had made a decision on those matters easy. Venezuela had a considerable production of fossil fuels, including gas, oil and coal, as well as a vast hydroelectric potential. However, there was no doubt that scarcity of energy would become a worldwide problem in the future, because a steady continuation of growth and development demanded an increase in energy consumption. For that reason, Venezuela's policy was to conserve its own hydrocarbon reserves and to press on with exploration to determine its real potential. Thus, Venezuela was making every effort to assure its future energy supply while at the same time protecting the natural environment, for without ecological equilibrium there could be no true development. However, decisions in the field of energy supply could not be made on the basis of simplistic criteria or elaborate theoretical schemes which did not take account of the dynamism of the facts. For that reason, his

country had requested the Agency's help in conducting a study on the estimated energy demand for future years so as to be able to draw up the most appropriate energy policy possible.

81. The second question which he wished to take up was whether the Agency was fulfilling its tasks with regard to establishing appropriate standards to guarantee nuclear safety. That was a vast and very important question because nuclear energy was not a normal energy source. Not only the contamination aspect, but also the effects of radiation on life in all its forms and the profound complications of a military or strategic nature involved in nuclear fission must be considered.

82. Chernobyl had shown that, in the case of a nuclear accident, no country was exempt from the consequences, however remote it might be. It was true that accidents happened in the use of other energy sources, indeed in all other human activities, as well, but those which occurred in the nuclear field had wider and more long-term consequences. Radioactive contamination presented the most serious challenge to human society.

83. It was the Agency's achievement to have drawn attention to those problems while at the same time organizing an effective, comprehensive and far-sighted system for establishing standards which would allow the use of nuclear energy in safe conditions. However, there was one question which merited special attention, namely that of international liability in the field of nuclear safety. That was admittedly a politically difficult issue but there could be no true nuclear safety in the world, however perfect the safety standards adopted, without genuine co-operation between nations within an international legal framework establishing equal rights for all without distinction. Of course such an integrated co-operative system would call for the conclusion of political agreements at the highest level in a climate of peaceful co-existence between nations, but the present time was characterized by high hopes that decisive steps might at last be taken towards strategic disarmament, and so it would be only logical if the climate of confidence which now existed between the great Powers could also benefit negotiations being conducted in other international fora such as the Agency. In other words, the time had come for all countries which were in favour of nuclear

non-proliferation, having signed the Tlatelolco Treaty or the NPT, to demand the establishment of an international legal order which would become ever more binding between nations and which would guarantee access to nuclear technology under safe conditions and with a right to compensation for damage caused by third parties in the case of a nuclear accident. It was one of the essential tasks of the Agency to keep under permanent review the entire system of nuclear safety so as to be able to introduce all modifications made necessary by developments in international relations and in technical and scientific co-operation.

84. His country believed that such a legal order would also help the Agency's safeguards system to fulfil its purpose better. The safeguards system was generally recognized as one of the great achievements of the Agency, many countries were subject to it, and experience showed that it operated efficiently and competently. However, it was worth asking to what extent it had been effective in preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The system had certainly been effective wherever States, in the exercise of their sovereignty, had permitted it to be. However, safeguards ended where the strategic interests of States began. That was a reality of international law which no one could deny, and if a regime of co-operation and equal rights was to be set up, therefore, it would be necessary to create a supranationally binding system of some kind.

85. The third question was whether the Agency was properly fulfilling its function of assuring that atomic energy served the interests of a better life for mankind by promoting international co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy. Much progress had indeed been achieved in that area, because no strategic considerations stood in the way. On the contrary, co-operation in that field had become a genuine global endeavour without frontiers, and that applied not only to the utilization of atomic energy as a power source, but also to the use of radiation and isotopes in agriculture, biology, medicine, industry and hydrology. Venezuela firmly supported the Agency's activities in those areas and had benefited much from them, in particular from the regional programme known as ARCAL, which had become a magnificent instrument for co-operation throughout the Latin American region. The answer

to the third question was thus that Venezuela had an interest in supporting and, indeed, strengthening the Agency as an instrument of international co-operation.

86. Turning to the Agency's current financial difficulties, he said that Venezuela had been a reliable contributor in spite of its own financial problems and limited resources. It was certainly the responsibility of Member States to fulfil their commitments to international organizations. However, it was necessary also to consider the true value of the international co-operation achieved, which had been productive, no doubt, but in which much effort and many resources had been wasted in useless bureaucracy, repetitious plans, and a lack of understanding of the reality in each country. His delegation appealed to the managements of international organizations, at the present time of financial crisis, to review their programmes so that appropriate solutions could be found to the current problems in a spirit of collaboration. It had to be said clearly and simply that Venezuela could not accept any additional burden in its international commitments and that the organizations must adopt a policy of retrenchment which was in conformity with the present situation.

87. That being said, he hoped that the Agency, having given such excellent results in the past, could rise to even better ones in the future, if all, great and small, worked together to create a nuclear civilization without frontiers for the good of all humanity.

88. Mr. AVENDAÑO (Ecuador) congratulated the Agency on its thirtieth anniversary and on the contribution it had made since its foundation to peace, health and development throughout the world.

89. Although Ecuador had only a limited number of projects related to nuclear energy, positive results had been obtained in the production of radiopharmaceuticals, in the provision of nuclear medicine services, particularly in cardiology, neurology and oncology, in agriculture, where nuclear techniques had been used for research on avoiding the harmful effects of fumigation and fertilization systems, and in the establishment of safety standards for the protection of life and the environment. In addition, his country would continue to participate in the ARCAL programme.

90. The earthquake which had occurred in March 1987 had been a serious setback for his country's projects, however, and Ecuador hoped that the international community, particularly the large donor countries, would be able to provide effective assistance to its people.

91. His country had always been in favour of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy while condemning any activity which diverted that form of energy to other, destructive purposes. For that reason, it supported international co-operation to prevent such diversion and had signed such international instruments as the Tlatelolco Treaty and a safeguards agreement with the Agency to demonstrate the peaceful nature of its own nuclear energy activities.

92. Nuclear accidents, like the hazards of thermonuclear war, respected no frontiers and illustrated the disastrous consequences of the use of nuclear energy as a destructive force. Thus, all countries must make every effort to ensure the safety of their nuclear facilities. The Agency was playing an important role in maintaining confidence in the safe and peaceful use of nuclear energy, and in that context his country particularly welcomed the entry into force of the conventions on early notification and emergency assistance.

93. Peace signified not merely the absence of war, but peaceful co-existence free of threats and tensions. Ecuador was in favour of dialogue and détente and was opposed to all warlike confrontations which might have incalculable and harmful consequences for mankind in general. It therefore reiterated its support for the Agency's noble objectives and paid tribute to the Secretariat's valuable efforts in seeking to attain them.

94. Mr. FITZGERALD (Ireland) said that the current session of the General Conference was especially significant in that it marked the Agency's thirtieth anniversary. During the previous 30 years, the Agency had made a major contribution to world peace and to strengthening the collective security of its Member States.

95. Another significant date, namely the twentieth anniversary of the conclusion of NPT, was to occur in 1988. While his country remained deeply dissatisfied with the present scale of the nuclear arms race, particularly between the two superpowers, it felt that the restrictions imposed by NPT had

helped to avoid an even more serious escalation of the problem of nuclear weapons. As one of the original signatories, Ireland reaffirmed its full and unconditional commitment to NPT and its belief in the validity and purpose of its provisions.

96. One of the priority aims of the United Nations was the maintenance of international peace and security through the collective efforts of Member States. In the nuclear age, all States and peoples were inextricably linked in a complex system of interrelationships, within which the concepts of national and international security could no longer be considered in isolation. It was as necessary now as it had been in 1968 for the international community to face up to the nuclear threat and to concentrate its collective will on the preservation of international peace and security. Of all the attempts to deal with that threat, none had been of greater significance than NPT. NPT united 130 States in a firm commitment to the belief that nuclear weapons were unacceptable as a long-term basis for security. It made a major contribution to world stability by inhibiting the spread of nuclear weapons and underlining an obligation to pursue a path towards nuclear disarmament. In that context, he welcomed Spain's decision to accede to the Treaty.

97. The Treaty had originally been formulated in response to widespread concern at the prospect of a world in which nuclear weapons might become more widely available, a phenomenon which could well have led to their use in war. Had the feared proliferation of nuclear weapons taken place, it would have destroyed all hope of establishing peace and security for all nations and would probably have resulted in a worldwide nuclear arms race of gigantic proportions. The fact that that had not happened had been largely due to the willingness of those non-nuclear States which had signed NPT to renounce forever the acquisition of nuclear weapons, seeing that their possession could in fact only diminish their security. It was greatly to be regretted that some States still refused to see the logic of that position and had not acceded to NPT. His delegation urged them to reconsider their position. NPT did not impose obligations on non-nuclear States only - rather it embodied an acceptable balance of mutual responsibilities and obligations. Those

States, Ireland among them, which had renounced nuclear weapons had delegated special responsibility to States which already possessed such weapons. Ireland continued to follow with great interest the current dialogue between the United States and the Soviet Union and welcomed the recent superpower agreement to eliminate all intermediate-range nuclear weapons, which represented a step towards reversing the nuclear arms race and easing tensions generally. It was to be hoped that that would represent but a first step in eliminating all nuclear weapons and that progress could also be made in the not-too-distant future in other areas of the superpower dialogue, particularly strategic nuclear weapons.

98. It had been encouraging, in the months after Chernobyl, to see that the world community had enhanced international co-operation on nuclear safety. That momentum had to be maintained. While action had been taken and progress made on many of the proposals on nuclear safety and radiological protection made at the first special session of the General Conference the previous year, much still remained to be done. The need for further progress in that area had also been highlighted by the recommendations of the Brundtland report on nuclear energy and the environment, including public safety. His Government endorsed the approach recommended in the report and would support proposals when they came up for consideration at the United Nations. The recommendations should also be studied by the Agency, the CEC and other fora which promoted regional co-operation.

99. A number of matters should be treated with high priority by the Agency's Member States. Many countries which had chosen not to generate electricity from nuclear power were justifiably concerned about the transboundary effects of other countries' nuclear power programmes, and positive action was therefore required. An important step would be to ensure that operational safety standards were as high as possible, uniform and subject to independent verification; the Agency's Nuclear Safety Standards would be an appropriate basis. Countries with nuclear power programmes should accept such standards for their nuclear installations and agree to a system for verifying their maintenance. Also, those standards should be revised to reflect the best technology and experience available.

100. The concept of the Agency's Operational Safety Review Teams (OSARTs) had achieved general acceptance internationally. The experience and differing perspectives brought by the visiting experts enabled a valuable independent second opinion to be given on the operation of a nuclear installation. He hoped that countries which had not yet done so would submit their installations to such a review and particularly welcomed the United Kingdom's announcement that it would soon arrange for an OSART mission. While the OSARTs were a commendable example of international co-operation in nuclear safety, the concept should be further developed. At the Board of Governors his country had made a proposal which was based on the OSART concept and which would complement the OSART programme. The approach proposed was more general than that of OSART missions, aiming at voluntary reviews of regulatory organizations to provide independent advice on the possible optimization of regulatory activities and to exchange information on good regulatory practices. He looked forward to the Agency's further consideration of the proposal when the question of the exchange of information on regulatory practices was discussed in the coming years.

101. The conclusion, signature and adoption of the early notification and emergency assistance conventions within a matter of months of the Chernobyl disaster was another example of valuable international co-operation in nuclear safety. However, practical benefits would depend on a clear understanding and, if necessary, the elaboration of the relevant procedures for early notification and for assistance under the conventions, which should be clarified and tested from time to time by means of emergency exercises.

102. The transboundary consequences of the Chernobyl disaster were still being experienced and although the tangible effects on international trade had diminished, the effects on health could at present only be guessed. There was now an opportunity to check and verify risk estimates for low levels of radiation dose by means of epidemiological studies: Ireland would support and encourage those efforts and looked forward to the publication of the results.

103. The inadequacy of existing arrangements for compensating the victims of a nuclear accident were a further source of concern. The effectiveness of existing international conventions on third-party liability was limited by the

small number of States which had adhered to them, the amounts of compensation available and the types of damage covered. Ireland therefore supported the efforts being made to harmonize those conventions, but stressed the need to start work to overcome their other shortcomings. Countries that were confident of the safety of their nuclear power programmes had an opportunity to reassure the international community that the likelihood of a major nuclear accident was remote by accepting responsibility for damage which could result from such an accident. The international agreement already reached on the risks from space exploration and development could serve as a model for the nuclear field.

104. The Agency's current cash-flow difficulties were a very serious matter. While many Member States were experiencing difficult economic circumstances and there was a need for stringency in all aspects of the Agency's operations, it was nevertheless essential to the vital activities of the Agency that it should not be deprived, even temporarily, of the necessary funds. He therefore appealed to all Member States to fulfil their financial obligations to the Agency on time, so that the organization's activities would not suffer and the time of the Director General and his staff not be wasted.

105. Mr. OLUMOKO (United Nations Council for Namibia) congratulated the Director General and the Secretariat on the occasion of the Agency's thirtieth anniversary.

106. The continued illegal occupation of Namibia by South Africa, which constituted an act of aggression against the Namibian people and a challenge to the United Nations, represented a serious threat to international peace and security. It was now 21 years since the United Nations had terminated South Africa's mandate over Namibia, but the apartheid régime in Pretoria was still in illegal occupation of the territory. During that time, the international community had on repeated occasions condemned the régime's oppressive policies, and called for its withdrawal. One such occasion had been the International Conference for the Immediate Independence of Namibia, held in Vienna in July 1986.

107. 1987 would mark the forty-second year that the question of Namibia had been taken up as a major concern of the General Assembly. It was now nine years since the Security Council had adopted resolution 435 (1978)

endorsing the United Nations plan for Namibia, yet the impasse still continued. Efforts to bring about the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) had foundered on the issue of the prior withdrawal of Cuban troups from Angola, the so-called concept of linkage. Both the General Assembly and the Security Council had rejected that concept.

108. Pending the implementation of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against South Africa, the General Assembly had called upon all States to take legislative, administrative and other measures in order effectively to isolate South Africa politically, economically, militarily and culturally. The Council for Namibia appreciated the efforts made by many States in that regard.

109. The Council was deeply concerned about the plunder of Namibia's natural resources by South Africa, certain western States and other foreign economic interests, in violation of the Charter of the United Nations, the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council, the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 21 June 1971 and Decree No. 1 for the Protection of the Natural Resources of Namibia. In an effort to implement that decree, the Council had contacted governments and corporations and had organized hearings and seminars with a view to halting foreign investments and operations in Namibia. The General Assembly had affirmed that those States which were now illegally operating in Namibia and exploiting its natural resources would be liable to pay reparations to a future legitimate government of an independent Namibia. In addition, the General Assembly had declared that the continued exploitation of the territory's natural resources, notably its uranium deposits, and the accumulation of profits by foreign economic and financial interests, were a grave threat to the integrity and prosperity of Namibia and a major obstacle to its independence. The Council was continuing to compile statistical information on the wealth illegally extracted from the territory, with a view to assessing the extent of compensation which would eventually be due to an independent Namibia.

110. In May 1985, the Council had declared that it would initiate legal proceedings against corporations and concerns engaged in the plunder of Namibia's natural resources. Legal proceedings had recently been instituted

in the District Court of The Hague against the Dutch uranium enrichment plant, URENCO-Nederland V.O.F. and its State-controlled managing partner, Ultra-Centrifuge Nederland N.V., seeking to prevent them from carrying out orders on the basis of purchases of Namibian uranium.

111. The current situation in southern Africa was a gloomy one: the Pretoria régime's continued illegal occupation of Namibia had been characterized by a series of repressive measures, including conscription, curfew and martial law. The need for the imposition of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against South Africa had become even more urgent, and he appealed to members of the Conference to exert the maximum pressure on the Pretoria régime to cease its obstruction of progress towards Namibia's independence.

112. The United Nations system, together with the international community, should take more energetic and concerted action in support of the legitimate struggle of the Namibian people for self-determination, a struggle which was led by its sole authentic representative, the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO). In that regard, he welcomed the decision by the Board of Governors to recommend to the Conference the suspension of South Africa's privileges and rights of membership of the Agency, in accordance with Article XIX.B of its Statute.

113. He thanked those Member States which had supported the efforts of the Council to discharge its responsibilities, and again called on the Agency to take all necessary measures to implement General Assembly resolutions aimed at strengthening co-operation between the Agency and the people of Namibia. The Agency had an important role to play in promoting and developing technical assistance projects for Namibia, before independence, during the transitional period, and after independence. In particular, it could make an increased contribution to training activities, which should be conceived as a consolidated and comprehensive assistance programme, specifically designed to meet the country's needs.

114. He was grateful for what the Agency had done to assist the Namibian people through the Council's Nationhood Programme, and hoped that that programme would be substantially enlarged. He also commended the efforts made

by the Director General over the past few years to increase the representation of developing countries in the Secretariat. The Council would like to see Namibians recruited for employment by the Agency, and would in due course put forward names of suitably qualified candidates.

115. In conclusion, following the request made by the General Assembly to all specialized agencies, he wished to call upon the International Atomic Energy Agency to continue to grant a waiver of assessment to Namibia during the period in which it was represented by the United Nations Council for Namibia.

116. Mr. SAKO (Côte d'Ivoire) congratulated the Agency on its efforts, during the thirty years of its existence, to attain its statutory objectives of accelerating and enlarging the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world and ensuring that assistance provided by it or at its request or under its supervision or control was not used in such a way as to further any military purpose.

117. The effectiveness of the Agency's safeguards system had allayed many suspicions and reassured Member States that material and facilities under safeguards served only peaceful purposes. The system had achieved a high level of credibility, it played a decisive role in the implementation of the NPT, and it had been cited many times at the Geneva Conference on Disarmament as a model for the verification of arms limitation agreements. However, international security would be even better served if all States possessing nuclear facilities would place them under Agency safeguards in the near future.

118. The Agency had also done much to assist Member States in developing nuclear power, which now accounted for a significant share of electricity production in many developed and some developing countries. In attempting to make that source of power available to a greater number of developing countries, the Agency had provided technical assistance and manpower training and carried out extensive studies on the infrastructure needs which must be met before nuclear power could be introduced. The report of a senior expert group on that subject recently issued by the Agency[1], he hoped, would help solve many of the problems which developing countries faced in the promotion and financing of their nuclear power programmes.

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[1] See document GOV/INF/527.

119. Other Agency activities which were of particular importance to developing countries included the use of nuclear techniques in food and agriculture, life sciences, physical sciences and medicine. His own country placed special hopes in the use of those techniques in the area of food and agriculture, and he hoped that the assistance provided by the Agency in that area would continue to receive broad support from Member States. In that connection, he wished to express his country's gratitude to those donors which had provided extrabudgetary resources for the implementation of several of its high-priority projects.

120. International co-operation was more than ever necessary to resolve the problems of the future, especially where the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and support to the developing countries in their efforts to close the gap to the industrialized countries were concerned. In that context, it was particularly important to provide financing on easier terms for developing countries' nuclear power programmes and to make resources available on a reliable and predictable basis for the execution of their vital development projects.

121. In conclusion, he wished to stress the importance also of strengthening nuclear safety measures, in particular by the future use of reactors in which human error was minimized - the need for which had been highlighted by the Chernobyl accident.

122. Mr. KONGSIRI (Thailand) noted that throughout the thirty years of its existence, the Agency had proved to be a valuable institution not only by contributing to international peace and security through its attempts to curb the proliferation of nuclear weapons, but also by helping to improve human living standards through its extensive activities in the field of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

123. There was no doubt that safeguards was one of the main functions of the Agency and his delegation believed that the Agency had performed that function exceptionally well. As a peace-loving country and a State party to the NPT, Thailand attached great importance to the nuclear non-proliferation regime, and to the continued effectiveness of the Agency's safeguards system.

124. Another principal function of the Agency was the promotion of international co-operation for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The Agency had also perfomed that function very satisfactorily. It had provided various types of technical assistance to developing countries, and had acted as a centre for international co-operation in various fields of nuclear energy.

125. In the past year, several developments had enhanced technical co-operation and assistance between the Thai Government and the Agency. As always, it had actively participated in many of the Agency's programmes through technical assistance projects, the Regional Co-operative Agreement (RCA), research contracts, seminars, meetings and conferences. Following the signing of a tripartite agreement for the transfer of special nuclear materials, by the Thai Government, the Agency and the Government of the United States of America, Thailand had been provided with special nuclear material for 1985 and 1986 procurements of nuclear fuel elements for its research reactor amounting to US $50 000 each year. Such assistance had been very useful and his country was very grateful to the Agency and appreciated the generosity of the United States Government. In that connection, a Safety Mission had been sent to Thailand in June and the experts' comments and recommendations had been constructive and would be taken seriously to ensure better safety in his country's nuclear facilities. His country hoped that it would have the opportunity to receive another such mission.

126. A number of technical assistance projects had been completed while many more projects were being implemented. One outstanding completed project was the Energy and Nuclear Power Planning Study for Thailand. The result of the study clearly indicated that nuclear power for electricity generation would be economical for Thailand after the year 2000. The result had been submitted to the Committee on Energy Policy for further consideration.

127. His country was also very grateful to the Agency for the level of current assistance to Thailand which had been of paramount importance to its development activities. The activities under the Regional Co-operative Agreement Project had also been very useful. It was hoped that the level of technical assistance to Thailand for 1988 would, if not increased, at least remain at the same level. Nevertheless, his delegation was concerned at the

view that the level of implementation rate should be taken as the measure of success. A rush to spend funds allocated to technical assistance on a project might lead to an undesirable situation where the benefits of such assistance to recipients became meaningless.

128. No matter how valuable nuclear energy was as a source of energy, it would not benefit mankind if it were not safe. Nuclear energy would continue to be a precious asset of mankind so long as its harmful characteristics were controlled. The control mechanisms should cover not only measures designed to prevent nuclear accidents, but should also cover measures designed to provide early warning systems and emergency assistance in case of a nuclear accident. The adoption of the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency was a step in the right direction. In that connection, he was happy to announce that his country would sign those two conventions, subject to ratification, before the end of the General Conference.

129. Finally, his delegation was pleased to announce that it had already pledged its voluntary contribution of US $34 200 to the Agency's Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund for the year 1988.

130. Mr. PAPADEMAS (Cyprus) joined previous speakers in congratulating the Agency on its thirtieth anniversary and conveyed a message of congratulations from the President of the Republic of Cyprus, Mr. Spyros Kyprianou, to the Director General.

131. The Agency was unique amongst the family of international organizations for its achievements in the service to humanity in areas such as nuclear power production and applications of nuclear energy in the fields of agriculture, medicine, water conservation and so on. In addition, the safety measures provided by the Agency helped to ensure the safe and peaceful use of nuclear energy. The safety regulations of all power plants should be inspected regularly by the Agency.

132. Non-proliferation was essential and all nations should adhere to the Non-Proliferation Treaty since the accumulation of a gigantic stockpile of nuclear weapons was a constant and continuous threat to mankind's existence.

In that connection, the recent announcement of the two superpowers to conclude a summit treaty abolishing medium- and shorter-range nuclear missiles was very welcome and constituted an achievement of high historic importance.

133. In conclusion, his delegation wished to thank the Agency for the technical assistance which it had provided to Cyprus in the fields of agriculture and medicine. Since not all countries could afford atomic reactors for electricity production the application of nuclear energy in other fields should perhaps be expanded for the benefit of more peoples, especially in the developing countries. Finally, his delegation was happy to announce its voluntary contribution of US $7600 to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund subject to parliamentary budgetary approval.

134. Mr. ELTAHIR (Sudan) noted that the Agency's thirtieth anniversary commemorated many laudable achievements, especially in the implementation of the technical assistance programme. As the Director General had pointed out in his statement, many developing countries lacked the necessary infrastructure for radiation protection and the Agency could play a crucial role in that area. The report prepared by the group of experts concerning the problems and the possibility of developing the use of nuclear energy in developing countries was very useful and his delegation supported the conclusions of the report which highlighted the important contributions which the Agency could make in assisting developing countries in planning and implementing nuclear power programmes. Sudan hoped that Member States would arrive at a consensus concerning the implementation of the recommendations of the group of experts.

135. His country was in the process of rehabilitation and reconstruction work following a period of drought and desertification. That work required many studies and careful programming of resources. Within that framework, Sudan was focusing its attention on nuclear power which could make a practical contribution to the country's social and economic development through the use of radioisotopes and irradiation techniques in medicine, agriculture, plant and animal husbandry as well as groundwater studies. It was hoped that new groundwater resources would be discovered in order to assist in the country's development. The Agency had repeatedly given advice promptly to the Sudan regarding the practical application of nuclear power. In particular, his

country was very grateful to the Agency's Seibersdorf Laboratory for the considerable services which it had provided and hoped that the laboratory would be consolidated so that it could live up to expectations.

136. The problem of the radioactive pollution of food following the Chernobyl accident highlighted the need to develop the necessary capabilities to ensure proper environmental and radiation protection. Assistance should be provided to developing countries in order to train the necessary scientific staff. There was a need to establish specific recommendations concerning acceptable levels of radioactivity in food which could be used when formulating national rules and regulations. With the Agency's assistance, his country had been able to establish a national radiation protection programme for people working in the medical and research fields; however, the field of radioactive waste management continued to require more assistance and technical preparation.

137. The problem of the maintenance of sophisticated technical equipment was a source of concern to many countries. The frequent breakdown of such equipment could to some extent be avoided and it was hoped that more spare parts maintenance would be provided in order to prevent disruption of programmes.

138. His country agreed in principle, on the Agency's budget for 1988, but wished to repeat its reservations regarding the principle of zero growth especially in relation to the Agency's development programmes which were of importance to developing countries. With regard to Article VI.A.2 of the Statute his delegation felt that it was time to take positive steps to find a solution which satisfied the aspirations of the regions concerned so as to enhance the principle of equality in the distribution of seats on the Board among the various regions.

139. The two Conventions on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and Assistance in Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency were very welcome and all countries which had not done so were urged to accede to those two conventions. The Agency should continue to expand its nuclear safety programme which was essential at regional and international levels.

140. It was regrettable that the racist régime in South Africa continued to defy the decisions of the international community. South Africa's refusal to place all its nuclear facilities under the Agency's safeguards system constituted a challenge to Africa as a whole and to neighbouring countries in particular. The international community should therefore support Africa in its efforts to put an end to South Africa's defiance and violation of all international resolutions. Furthermore, the co-operation and solidarity between South Africa and Israel represented a danger to the Middle East region and prevented the Middle East and Africa from being declared nuclear-free zones.

141. Mr. ERTEL (Council for Mutual Economic Assistance - CMEA), began by reading out a letter to the Director General from the Secretary of the CMEA, Mr. V. Sychev.

142. The letter conveyed the congratulations of the CMEA on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Agency, which it considered the most important, representative and authoritative body in the field of co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The CMEA Secretariat welcomed the continuing development of co-operation between the two organizations on the basis of the agreement concluded in 1975 and looked forward to further collaboration in the safe development of nuclear power, the use of nuclear energy exclusively for peaceful purposes, the strengthening of confidence in international relations, and the creation of a comprehensive system of international peace and security.

143. Having read out that message, he went on to say that 1986 had been an important stage in the implementation of the decisions of the June 1984 economic summit meeting of the CMEA member countries which had since reasserted the importance of seeking new forms of closer co-operation to increase national outputs on the basis of scientific and technical progress so as to assure higher levels of economic efficiency and public well-being.

144. Through a number of agreements, CMEA member countries were engaged in large-scale international scientific and industrial co-operation under a Co-ordinated Programme for Scientific and Technical Progress up to the year 2000; that programme had become the basis for scientific and technical

co-operation within the CMEA, an organization which was playing a leading role in promoting socialist economic integration through specialization and co-operation in science, technology and industrial production and through expanding foreign trade.

145. The 42nd Session of CMEA in November 1986 had called for more rapid attainment of those goals and had encouraged the use of such novel measures as direct links in the areas of science and industry between the economic organizations of individual member countries and the establishment by interested countries of joint industrial enterprises, scientific organizations, and other ventures on an economic basis.

146. The CMEA member countries had addressed the problems of energy and raw material resources by collaborating over a number of large projects, jointly expanding the capacity of nuclear power plants, and agreeing on co-operative measures to save energy and raw materials. Nuclear power had not lost its significance as a reliable power source for the future, and nuclear power plants in CMEA member countries had produced some 209 000 million kWh of electricity in 1986, which represented approximately 10% of the total electricity generated. Plants using WWER-type water-water reactors, designed in the USSR and built with Soviet technical assistance, had been operating successfully in Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, and the German Democratic Republic. Further such reactors were in the planning stage or under construction in Bulgaria, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, and Poland.

147. In recognizing the importance of further co-operation in the field of nuclear power, the 42nd Session had approved a construction programme for nuclear power plants and nuclear heating plants to the year 2000. The programme would take the total power of nuclear plants in CMEA member countries, excluding the USSR, to 50 gigawatts, as against approximately 8 gigawatts in 1986. Nuclear power in those countries would thus account for 30-40% of the power generated. In the USSR, the share of nuclear power would be boosted from about 11% in 1986 to about 30% which would mean expanding nuclear power plant capacity by a factor of 5-6. In addition, nuclear district heating plants would be built both in the USSR and in the other CMEA countries.

148. So comprehensive a programme of nuclear power development would be possible only through close scientific, technical and industrial co-operation, based on the highest levels of nuclear engineering, specialization and joint efforts between the CMEA member countries and Yugoslavia. Those countries already had the capability of assembly line construction of 440 MW(e) power plants with WWER-440 reactors and preparations for the construction of WWER-1000 reactors were nearing completion.

149. If the objectives set by the Session were to be reached, it was especially important to link them with the division of responsibilities under the Co-ordinated Programme to the year 2000, so that nuclear power plants could incorporate the latest technological advances, and safety features. With a view to faster and safer development of nuclear power under the Co-ordinated Programme and the plan for technical co-operation over the period 1986-90, joint efforts were envisaged for co-operation and co-ordination in research and development work on the rapid adoption of WWER-1000 reactor technology, on high-output fast reactors, and on equipment for control and monitoring systems in nuclear power plants and for radiation protection. It was intended to further the development of combined nuclear district heating and power plants and single-purpose nuclear heating plants and to seek ways of guaranteeing nuclear safety, reprocessing power plant waste, decontaminating surfaces, and transporting spent fuel.

150. The development of nuclear power had brought new concerns to the population relating to the safety of nuclear power plants and the prevention of environmental pollution. The Three Mile Island and Chernobyl accidents, as well as other accidents in capitalist countries, had failed to curtail the use of nuclear power; on the contrary, they had focused attention on ensuring it was safer. The CMEA member countries welcomed the response of the Agency's Member States to the Soviet proposal for promoting co-operation between all States in order to create an international regime of safe nuclear power development.

151. The CMEA member countries were prepared to make their contribution under the supplementary nuclear safety programme and the two Agency-sponsored conventions. They had already devised measures to increase nuclear safety at

power plants and to enhance radiation protection, for example by maintaining high standards of quality in design, construction and operation; improving repair techniques and non-destructive and diagnostic in-service testing methods for equipment and piping, and introducing better personnel training in design, construction and operating procedures, in radiation protection procedures for staff, surrounding populations and the environment under normal operating and accident conditions, and in the prevention of accidents, the elimination of their consequences and the development of legal documents and conventions. Measures to redesign and modernize existing power plants were also proposed.

152. The CMEA member countries believed that the issue of nuclear safety was inextricably linked with the halting of material preparations for nuclear war. Recognizing that nuclear arsenals threatened life throughout the world, the Soviet Union had put forward a programme supported by all peace-loving people to eliminate all nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction from the earth before the end of the century.

153. The States members of the Warsaw Pact had reaffirmed, in the documents for the May 1987 meeting of the Political Consultative Committee, their conviction that the prevention of war and its perpetual elimination from peoples' lives, the maintenance of world peace, the halting of the arms race and a movement towards specific disarmament measures aimed ultimately at full and multilateral disarmament, would call for the joint efforts of all countries and all peace-loving forces.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.