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AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE VI.A.2 OF THE STATUTE

The summary record of the discussion in the Board of Governors on 13 September 1990 under the item "Amendment of Article VI.A.2 of the Statute" is reproduced in the Attachment.

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ATTACHMENT

RECORD OF THE 736th MEETING
(held on 13 September 1990)

AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE VI.A.2. OF THE STATUTE (GC(XXXIII)/RES/522)

1. The CHAIRMAN said that, from comments made by members in the February Board meetings, in the informal working group on Article VI as a whole and in his recent consultations, there did not appear to have been any new developments regarding the question of amending Article VI.A.2. He had circulated a draft text[*] which reflecting that situation and which could be submitted to the General Conference together with the summary record of the Board's discussion at its present meeting as the Board's report pursuant to General Conference resolution GC(XXXIII)/RES/522.

2. Ms. TALLAWY (Egypt) said that her delegation's position regarding Africa's legitimate request for better representation on the Board had not changed. Despite the unfortunate lack of progress made, Egypt had not given up its efforts. It was imperative that a solution be found to the problem of the under-representation of certain Member States.

3. Mr. CHIKELU (Nigeria) said that the slow progress in solving the problem of representation on the Agency's Board of Governors in a manner acceptable to all Member States clearly showed that a greater spirit of compromise was necessary. There was no doubt that the regions of Africa and the Middle East and South Asia (MESA) were grossly under-represented on the Board and that a modification of Article VI.A.2 was long overdue. Africa should be given three more seats and MESA should be given two. He therefore urged all members of the Board to support that proposal, which would give greater credibility to the Board's decisions.

4. Mr. KHAN (Pakistan) recalled that the question of the amendment of Article VI.A.2 had been under discussion by the Board for the last fourteen years. It was high time that a decision was taken instead continually deferring the matter. The regions of Africa and MESA were the most poorly

[*] Subsequently issued as document GC(XXXIV)/929.

represented on the Board of Governors, with only 21% and 23%, respectively, of their countries holding seats on that body. Such under-representation was unjust and discriminatory. Although under-represented, MESA and African countries were nevertheless expected to contribute generously to meeting the world's energy demands by providing raw materials. African uranium had been used for decades to fuel the power reactors of western Europe and the United States and it was oil from countries in the MESA region which had bought time to permit the safe development of nuclear power.

5. It was sometimes claimed that the countries in those regions were not sufficiently well advanced in nuclear technology to merit representation on the Board. However, it was quite clear that during the last two decades those countries had developed their atomic energy programmes at a rapid pace. In order to ensure the development of peaceful nuclear power programmes throughout the world, it was necessary for each region to be properly represented on the Board and to be given the chance of participating fully in the decision-making process.

6. The resistance shown by some members of the Board to any increase in its composition had provoked a reaction from countries which were denied representation and had resulted in a proposal for a large expansion of the Board. The only way of avoiding such a large increase was to reach an agreement on a more modest expansion. Immediate attention should therefore be given to amending Article VI.A.2 of the Statute.

7. The CHAIRMAN took it that the Board wished to adopt the draft text which had been circulated as its report to the General Conference pursuant to resolution GC(XXXIII)/RES/522, to be submitted together with the summary record of the Board's discussion at the present session.

8. It was so decided.