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### RECORD OF THE THREE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SIXTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Austria Center Vienna  
on Tuesday, 18 September 1990, at 5 p.m.

President: Mr. VAJDA (Hungary)  
later: Mr. MAYORSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist  
Republics)

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[\*] GC(XXXIV)/914.

GENERAL DEBATE AND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1989 (GC(XXXIV)/915) (continued)

1. Mr. GLADOUSH (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) pointed out that the present session was being held in a crucial period of world history when the East-West dialogue carried out without distrust and confrontation created favourable conditions for the solution of world economic problems. In a climate of mutual responsibility progress had been made towards the elimination of the potential nuclear threat to the very survival of mankind. In that process a substantial role belonged to international organizations and in particular to the Agency.
2. The Director General had stated in an article in the journal "Mezhdunarodnaya Zhizn'" (International Affairs) that the new East-West relations would lead to a radical improvement in the international climate which was conducive to wider co-operation and which called for fuller, more effective use of international organizations. His delegation fully agreed with that view especially as the Agency had demonstrated not only in words but in deed its ability to promote international co-operation in the safe and peaceful utilization of nuclear energy, to apply effective safeguards, to provide practical assistance to developing countries and so on.
3. The documentation submitted to the Conference showed that the Agency had successfully implemented its major programmes, to which his country attached especial importance, particularly to those in the areas of nuclear and radiation safety, technical co-operation, safeguards, technical information services, etc.
4. His delegation highly appreciated the Agency's constructive role in ensuring non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. At a time when genuine nuclear disarmament was starting, non-proliferation assumed particular importance, and compliance with the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) was one of the factors which ensured continuation of the process, as had been confirmed by the recent Fourth NPT Review Conference.
5. That his country had, for the first time, attended the NPT Review Conference was indicative of its growing interest and its desire to assist actively in strengthening the non-proliferation regime. He recalled that the solemn declaration of sovereignty by the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet in July 1990

had proclaimed the Republic's intention to be a permanently neutral State in future, which would not join any military blocs and would adhere to three non-nuclear principles: not to accept, not to produce and not to acquire nuclear weapons.

6. His country would continue by all means to assist in raising the effectiveness and authority of the Agency as the guarantor of NPT. He was in favour of further enhancing the effectiveness of Agency safeguards and of full coverage of the nuclear activities of non-nuclear-weapon States.

7. He accorded high priority to the Agency's activities on strengthening international co-operation in nuclear and radiation safety, especially on operational safety of nuclear power plants. The level of such safety should be high at all nuclear power plants and other nuclear facilities operating at present, no exception being made in the case of any country or facility. Repetition of Chernobyl would discredit the peaceful use of the atom altogether. It was therefore imperative to ensure utmost interaction and co-operation between the national authorities responsible for establishing and applying radiation safety standards and the Agency as the verifying body helping to enhance operational safety.

8. Referring to the Chernobyl disaster, he recalled that a detailed assessment of all the major aspects (radiation, medical, social, economic, ecological, etc.) was contained in document INFCIRC/383. He only wished to draw attention to one point in the document - that in spite of the enormous efforts made, a reliable system for ensuring the safety of people affected by radiation was still not in place (page 2, second paragraph from top). In that connection, it was essential to utilize world experience in resolving the outstanding problems and to expand international co-operation in that area.

9. Of great relevance to the organization of such assistance was the resolution relating to international co-operation in mitigating and eliminating the after-effects of the Chernobyl accident, adopted by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in the summer of 1990. He wished to express his gratitude to its 63 sponsor States belonging to different systems and groups, levels of development and geographical areas.

10. The main idea behind that resolution was to mobilize the world community's efforts to help the Ukrainian and the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and

the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic in overcoming the after-effects of the Chernobyl disaster. The adoption by consensus of the resolution was indicative of the world community's support for the new international and domestic political and economic policies of the USSR and its constituent republics.

11. The ECOSOC decision on Chernobyl was only an initial step, and there was potentially considerable room for action by the United Nations and its specialized agencies and in particular the Agency.

12. His delegation noted with gratitude that the Agency was undertaking a number of activities in connection with the problems of mitigating the after-effects of Chernobyl. For example, it was providing assistance for a project on assessing the effects of radiation on human health and the environment, with which an international expert group was associated. Agency experts and even the Director General had frequently visited the Ukraine and participated in a number of specific activities connected with the disaster.

13. An agreement concerning the Chernobyl Centre for International Research was expected to be signed during the present session of the Conference, under which the USSR, Ukrainian and Byelorussian Governments would provide other countries and international organizations with facilities for bilateral and multilateral research in the area of nuclear safety and radiological protection.

14. Following the accident a series of large-scale measures had been taken by the Ukrainian Government in order to ensure normal life of the people in the areas contaminated by radiation, to improve medical care and to create the necessary communal and service facilities. The Republic had mobilized its production and scientific potential, manpower and physical resources to implement those measures.

15. The USSR Supreme Soviet had allocated 3600 million roubles for those purposes during 1990-92. Those measures were intended primarily to protect human health and included further resettlement of families in radiation-safe localities, radical improvement in medical care, supply of clean foodstuffs for the people, decontamination of areas, ban on environmental pollution and so on. Much remained to be done, and in a number of cases international co-operation was essential.

16. The Ukraine was interested in joint research on decontamination, processing and use of forest resources under conditions of radioactive contamination and on the biological cycle of strontium-90, caesium-137 and plutonium-290 in forest ecosystems. It was also seeking international co-operation in obtaining the know-how for removal of radioactive silt, binding of radionuclides and prevention of their transfer to water bodies.

17. It was very important to prepare recommendations on agricultural practices in contaminated areas, including procedures for soil reclamation, crop cultivation and harvesting and animal husbandry.

18. A number of extremely complex problems had to be handled, for example, ultimate disposal of the debris of Chernobyl Unit 4, which required extensive research in the areas of radiation materials technology, radiogeochemistry, engineering geology, etc. A highly disturbing problem was posed by the burial sites containing thousands of tons of equipment, household articles, earth and foliage with radiation levels above the permissible limit. In that connection, his country attached great importance to the programme on evaluating the safe dose for residents in contaminated areas, which the Agency and other international organizations were carrying out, and was eagerly awaiting the results of the Agency experts' work.

19. It must be pointed out that the Chernobyl disaster had been a severe psychological shock to the whole world and had undermined confidence in the engineering perfection of nuclear reactors. Despite assurances of scientists that all possible precautionary measures had been taken, the Ukrainian public's mind was set against nuclear power and the Agency experts' conclusions were yet unable to convince them. So a month ago the Supreme Soviet of the Ukraine had declared a five-year moratorium on the construction of new nuclear plants in its territory. It had also imposed a ban on increasing the installed capacity of the operating plants as of 1 April 1990 (14 000 MW). As a result, the construction of nuclear power plants at Chigirin and in the Crimea, and of nuclear district heating plants at Odessa and Kharkov had been stopped, while many other facilities had been mothballed. The decision on decommissioning the Chernobyl power station by 1995 had been taken even earlier.

20. The Republic's entire energy programme was being restructured. It was based on a strict and advanced energy and resource saving policy and structural changes in the strategic economic development plans for the Ukraine.

21. In his opinion, discussion of issues connected with an optimum policy for long-term development of energy resources under Agency auspices might be useful to all countries and help in the solution of the difficult problem facing the world. That topic could be included in the Agency programmes for the following years.

22. The technical assistance programme was an exceptionally important part of the Agency's activities. His country was in favour of extensive development of that form of assistance and was participating in it to the best of its ability. Every year 3-4 groups of specialists from developing countries went there on scientific visits and attended training courses. Such collaboration was expected to expand with the launching of the Chernobyl Research Centre. He wished to recall that the Ukraine regularly made voluntary contributions to the Agency's Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund.

23. In conclusion, his delegation expressed its approval of the annual report for 1989. It was confident that the Agency would continue to carry out its tasks successfully, and his country would do its utmost to help in that process.

24. Mr. USHEWOKUNZE (Zimbabwe) said that the thirty-fourth regular session of the Agency's General Conference was taking place at a turning point in the history of international political relations, and it was essential not to miss the opportunities offered by the easing of East-West tensions which had encumbered inter-State relations for the past four decades. The emergence of a North-South divide should be avoided, as that would impede progress in seeking solutions to serious global problems.

25. He commended the Agency for its role in promoting nuclear safety and the peaceful use of nuclear technology. It was continuing to work successfully towards the fulfilment of its objectives, and Zimbabwe welcomed the increased importance attached to safety-related work, and the greater emphasis being placed on the needs of developing Member States.

26. Zimbabwe, along with many other Member States, had benefited from expert services under the Waste Management Advisory Programme (WAMAP) and the Radiation Protection Advisory Team (RAPAT) missions, particularly with regard to the formulation of regulations to govern the handling, usage and disposal of spent sources. Developing countries, which had inadequate regulations and poor monitoring and enforcement infrastructures were undoubtedly at risk. That fact was often not appreciated, the commonest misconception being that the risks of irradiation related only to the operation of nuclear reactors.

27. Zimbabwe had made substantial regulatory changes in order to take account of radiation sources, and the most recent set of regulations, published in 1990, had been drafted in the light of advice from Agency experts.

28. It was particularly encouraging to note the efforts made to improve operational efficiency as shown by the organizational changes reported by the Board of Governors in its draft report. The reorganization of the former Division of Technical Assistance and Co-operation was of particular interest to developing nations.

29. The establishment and publication of safety standards had proved invaluable, and the achievement of international consensus on exemption criteria for radiation sources and practices had been particularly encouraging, as it was extremely difficult to obtain international agreement on virtually any subject. Current efforts to establish an International Nuclear Event Scale (INES) should be encouraged and should be part of a wider effort at international standardization in other fields.

30. Zimbabwe was indebted to the Agency for assistance in the setting up of the Regional Co-operative Agreement for Africa (AFRA), which should be of great assistance in regional development. African experts from both Member and non-Member States of the Agency had met at the Seminar on Africa's Role in Nuclear Science for Peace and Development, held in Kampala, Uganda, in March 1990 under the auspices of the Organization of African Unity (OAU). The Agency had been one of the sponsors of that seminar.

31. The example of other established regional co-operative agreements, namely the Regional Co-operative Agreement (RCA) for Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Co-operative Arrangements for the Promotion of Nuclear Science

and Technology in Latin America (ARCAL), was encouraging. AFRA would undoubtedly help in the more efficient and better organized handling of regional problems and regional experts should gradually become available to replace extra-regional experts. Such regional self-reliance was the key to properly planned and appropriate development, but manpower development programmes would be needed in developing countries to achieve that end.

32. Public opinion concerning nuclear power remained an important issue. Although in some countries the nuclear option was receiving less emphasis, it would be short-sighted for the world to abandon nuclear power in the absence of a practical alternative. Thermal power stations were not free of problems, in particular atmospheric pollution and the contribution of carbon dioxide to the greenhouse effect and global warming. Those issues had come to the fore as the world began to realize the extent of the environmental degradation that human activities had caused. However, nuclear accidents did tend to produce a sense of panic among the public. Vigorous efforts must continue to simplify and improve further the inherent safety of the present generation of nuclear reactors. Safer and simpler reactors could also make nuclear power more accessible to developing countries which would otherwise find themselves in serious difficulties when fossil fuels were no longer available. A similar cautionary note was also required regarding the issue of food irradiation. Unless the public at large was convinced of the benefits and safety of the process, consumer resistance would hinder the expansion of international trade in irradiated foods.

33. The world appeared to be moving into an era of relative security in view of the considerable easing of superpower tension in recent times. The present opportunity to ensure long-term stability in an atmosphere of trust must not be overlooked. At its ninth summit meeting in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, the Non-Aligned Movement had called for comprehensive disarmament that would also include conventional armaments. The massive amounts of money spent on the defence budgets of the world's most powerful States could be far more usefully employed in alleviating the suffering caused by the present highly inequitable distribution of wealth. The international community had welcomed the signing by the United States of America and the Soviet Union of the treaty

to reduce intermediate nuclear forces and the consensus achieved on the need to start negotiations for the ratification of the treaties of 1974 and 1976, respectively, concerning nuclear tests and peaceful nuclear explosions.

34. Pursuant to General Conference resolution GC(XXXIII)/RES/524, the subject of South Africa's nuclear capabilities was on the agenda once again in 1990. Three years had passed since a statement had been released by the now former president, Mr. P.W. Botha, implying that South Africa would soon like to sign NPT. However, no progress had been made. It was sometimes argued that South Africa needed encouragement in its "efforts" to reform the apartheid system. Zimbabwe rejected that approach on the grounds that it would only assist the racist régime of that country, which continued to refuse to submit its nuclear facilities to Agency safeguards. Apartheid or institutionalized racism in any form could not be reformed and must be totally eliminated. The international community should continue to apply pressure for more profound change in South Africa, a country which had a nuclear-weapon capability by which neighbouring countries naturally felt threatened as long as tension remained high in the region.

35. Vigilance should continue regarding the practice of dumping toxic wastes, a problem which in the recent past had assumed alarming proportions. The practice was most objectionable and showed that the world must urgently consider the environmental effects of most of the industrial processes on which mankind had come to depend. Simply dumping untreated wastes in other countries, in particular the less developed countries, was a short-sighted and selfish measure which failed to address the real problem.

Mr. Mayorsky (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) took the Chair.

36. Mr. RIESENHUBER (Federal Republic of Germany) said that one of the major tasks confronting governments was to assure energy supplies for their countries - and thus for the world community - under ecologically and economically viable conditions. Even before the recent events in the Middle East had once again brought home to everyone the danger of becoming overly dependent on oil as a source of energy, he had believed that the world community would succeed in attaining its ecological goals during the decades ahead only if countries throughout the world united in efforts to restructure their energy supply. The goal must be to use energy sources which released

little or even no carbon dioxide, namely first and foremost natural gas, nuclear fission, solar energy and - in the long term - nuclear fusion. At the same time, those energy sources would have to meet a tremendously increased demand, especially from the developing and threshold countries, in view of an expected explosive growth of the world population to 8 billion by 2020. The Agency deserved credit for having emphasized the vital importance of nuclear energy in meeting global energy requirements and for having spoken in support of a reassessment of that energy source despite all setbacks. The Agency was undoubtedly the most appropriate forum for acknowledging the necessity of nuclear energy while at the same time calling for joint efforts in taking the measures needed to avert the potential hazards arising from the use of that energy source.

37. Although there was no need to panic, swift and radical measures to limit carbon dioxide emissions must be taken to counter the threat of a profound change in the global climate, with unforeseeable consequences. Nuclear energy was no panacea for all environmental problems, but it could not be dispensed with as long as other means equally friendly to the environment were not available to generate the energy needed for the world's population.

38. In the Federal Republic of Germany, nuclear energy had become the most important source of electrical power, accounting in 1989 for almost 40% of public power supply, or approximately 150 billion kW·h.

39. However, since the hazards involved had international dimensions, the development of nuclear energy throughout the world was justifiable only if international efforts to counteract its possible misuse or unsafe use were successful. Fortunately, the community of nations had learnt that national efforts to guarantee the safety of citizens must be supplemented by trans-boundary co-operation. The Agency's Nuclear Safety Standards (NUSS) and nuclear safety codes included minimum requirements for the safety of nuclear installations, and it was a major step forward that many countries had already stated that they fully complied with those requirements or even exceeded them. He renewed his delegation's appeal to all countries to join in that approach, and called upon the Agency to present a comprehensive report on progress in that respect.

40. It was encouraging to note the increasing use being made of the special services offered by the Agency in the field of nuclear safety, such as Operational Safety Review Teams (OSARTs), Assessment of Safety-Significant Events Teams (ASSETs) and Radiation Protection Advisory Teams (RAPATs); together with the relevant reports published by the Agency they provided further examples of the new nuclear safety culture and created an atmosphere of trust. Gratitude was due both to the Agency staff who shouldered major responsibility in tackling those tasks and to all the Member States which provided expert advice to that end. In addition, it was gratifying that several member countries had shown willingness to submit their older nuclear power stations to a new safety assessment based on modern requirements, initially focusing on the older WWER reactors. Accordingly, his country looked forward to the high-level conference which was to be convened in 1991 to take stock internationally of the status of nuclear safety and radiation protection and of safety research and development five years after the Chernobyl disaster.

41. The other threat which must continue to be countered by joint efforts was a possible proliferation of nuclear weapons. Non-proliferation was an essential policy goal of his Government and would continue to be so after the imminent unification of Germany. His country had already renounced the possession of nuclear weapons more than 35 years previously, and had acceded to the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM) with its first comprehensive safeguards system. It was also one of the founder members of the IAEA and a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). In Article III of the treaty signed in Moscow on 12 September 1990, it had confirmed that a united Germany, too, would renounce the manufacture, possession and control of nuclear weapons and that the commitments resulting from NPT would also apply to the united Germany.

42. One outstanding event of the current year had been the Fourth NPT Review Conference, where the discussion had shown the general recognition of NPT and the Agency safeguards system as the central instruments for ensuring peace throughout the world. His Government considered that NPT had been successful and that it should be extended for a long period at the next Review Conference, due to take place in 1995.

43. His Government considered that the acceptance of Agency safeguards on the entire fuel cycle did not constitute an unreasonable limitation of sovereignty. It had therefore decided to make the acceptance of comprehensive safeguards by the receiving State a condition for licensing any new and significant nuclear exports. It also supported the Agency in the improvement of its various instruments for carrying out safeguards. Its support programme, which had been launched in 1978 and had since been constantly strengthened, together with the support programmes of other countries, had produced a number of new techniques and concepts to enhance the efficacy and efficiency of Agency safeguards. However, funds were not everything, and his Government was convinced that, even under so-called "real zero growth", it was possible to improve and expand the Agency safeguards system - for example by concentrating safeguards measures on sensitive parts of the fuel cycle and introducing the possibility of unannounced inspections.

44. The manifold peaceful uses of nuclear energy could not be restricted to some highly developed industrialized countries. The provision of technical assistance to the countries of the Third World was one of the main tasks of the Agency, and his country had not only paid its contributions to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund (TACF), but also supported footnote-a/ projects, made fellowships and training courses available, provided expert services and offered many other voluntary contributions. In 1991, as in previous years, it would again be making one of the biggest contributions to the TACF.

45. Among the Agency's many valuable projects, he wished to mention in particular the work on the concept of an International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) which was being done under the Agency's auspices and in which his country was participating as a member of the European Community. The ITER project was an extraordinarily important endeavour which was developing in a promising manner. In view of the need to secure a long-term global energy supply, the efforts to develop a fusion reactor through worldwide co-operation were both necessary and justified. It did not seem unrealistic to expect that the next step towards building a fusion reactor could be taken as early as 1995 or 1996, and his country would be very pleased if it were decided to build the ITER as a first worldwide major project in Europe.

46. In discussing the possibility of new tasks or increased funding for the Agency, it should not be forgotten that the Agency was already encountering severe problems in collecting the contributions due to it. He appealed to all States to ensure the timely payment of their contributions, not only towards the Regular Budget but also to the TACF. It was unacceptable that, on the one hand, there were calls for additional responsibilities of the Agency, for example in safeguards or in the so-called promotional activities, while, on the other hand, Members failed to meet their obligations.

47. All Germans were at present looking forward to a momentous historical event: after years of separation, the two Germanys would unite on 3 October 1990. The united Germany would continue to recognize and fulfil its responsibility for peace and the welfare of the community of nations.

48. It was worth emphasizing that that unification in the existing situation had been possible only on the basis of increased confidence and trust among all nations, which had been brought about by international confidence-building measures, including those of the Agency; those measures consisted of many small, undramatic steps, and the Agency must be thanked for the objective, long-range, patient and painstaking work which it had invested in building confidence and trust, trying to remain impartial, to convince rather than to persuade, and to bring the world's nations together into a community with shared goals. Through its efforts, then, the Agency had contributed significantly to the developments which had made possible the unification of the two German States. The Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic were examining, together with the Agency and, where safeguards were concerned, also with EURATOM, the question whether additional measures would be required as a result of the unification of Germany. However, he could assure the Conference that there would be no interruption in the implementation of safeguards in Germany and that the united Germany would continue as a single member of the Agency to fulfil all its commitments in the future.

49. The present times were seeing an increasing awareness among nations that the common opportunities and the problems to be solved jointly carried a greater weight than any historical or ideological divisions that might separate the various regions of the Earth from each other. In a limited and

vulnerable world all nations shared in an enormous responsibility which could be met by co-operation, the utilization of new technologies, the careful conservation of an increasingly threatened environment, and the awareness that the limited Earth would be expected not only to sustain a growing number of human beings but to offer them a dignified and prosperous future. If co-operation between nations in those matters came to be increasingly taken for granted, it would be possible even in difficult times to shape the future together to build confidence and peace on the basis of common interests and goals.

50. That was the spirit in which the Agency had been founded and in which it had worked over the past years with resolution and patience, success and competence. He hoped that further work in the areas of nuclear energy, research and technology and the implementation of various kinds of energies would continue in that spirit so as to meet the collective responsibility for a world which was becoming a global village, meaning not only that everyone knew each other, but that everyone must be able to rely on the other's objective judgement, confidence in the future, and shared responsibility for the Earth.

51. Mr. AL-NOWAISER (Saudi Arabia) said that the Agency's excellent reputation for its efficiency within the United Nations system was commendable. By its commitment to serious work the Agency had established a rapport of confidence with its Member States, and it had developed and increased that confidence over the years.

52. At its previous regular session, the General Conference had adopted resolution GC(XXXIII)/RES/515, entitled "Plan for the production of low-cost potable water", in which the Director General had been requested to "assess the technical and economic potential for using nuclear heat reactors in seawater desalination ..." However, the Director General had informed Member States that the time had been too short to achieve those tasks, although two meetings had been held, attended by experts from nine States.

53. The increasing shortage of water was no longer restricted to a few States, as it had been in the past. More than 40% of the world population was now suffering from a shortage of drinking water, a fact which had been

confirmed by several organizations, notably the World Health Organization (WHO). That shortage would become increasingly acute in the future, with the growth of the world population and the rising prices of traditional fuels.

54. The Agency had already demonstrated its efficiency by managing to implement its four major programmes despite budgetary constraints. Since the provision of drinking water was clearly a high priority task worthy of attention from concerned international organizations, the Agency should include work on seawater desalination in one of its programmes. For almost thirty years now, his country had been calling for the pooling of international efforts and resources to search for possibilities of providing drinking water for the world's population at a moderate cost.

55. Turning to the subject of nuclear waste disposal, he commended the International Radioactive Waste Management Advisory Committee (INWAC) on its proposal to publish a new integrated series of radioactive waste safety standards, to be called RADWASS. Member States with advanced programmes for the disposal of nuclear waste could use those standards as an international reference for the promulgation of principles and regulations. States which as yet had no advanced programmes in that field could use them as a basis for their own national principles. In that context, his delegation also fully appreciated the efforts made by the international technical working group of experts in establishing the Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste, which, he hoped, would be further developed and become more binding.

56. He commended the Agency on its promotional activities and its assistance to developing Member States and encouraged it to continue to provide such services as the Operational Safety Review Team (OSART), and Radiation Protection Advisory Team (RAPAT) missions which were of great help to developing countries. He wished to express appreciation also to those Member States which facilitated such missions by making experts available free of charge.

57. The previous session of the General Conference, in its resolution GC(XXXIII)/RES/506, had once again called upon Israel "to comply without delay with Security Council resolution 487/1981 by submitting all its nuclear

installations to Agency safeguards"; it had further requested the Director General "to consult with the States concerned in the Middle East area with a view to applying Agency safeguards to all nuclear installations in the area". Regrettably, Israel had as yet not responded to that resolution, but he hoped the Director General would pursue consultations aimed at persuading Israel to place all its nuclear installations under safeguards.

58. Turning to financial matters, he said that the present method for financing safeguards placed an additional burden on developing countries, particularly those to which safeguards did not apply. His country, for example, contributed a relatively large share towards the safeguards budget, and felt that those States which had major nuclear activities should bear a larger share.

59. His delegation was also very concerned about the Agency's current financial situation, which might lead it to take measures that would affect its reputation. Saudi Arabia had paid its contribution in full and called upon all States which had not yet done so to do the same as soon as possible.

REPLY BY THE DELEGATE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO THE STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

60. Mr. YUN (Democratic People's Republic of Korea), exercising his right of reply, said that his delegation had repeatedly made known its stand on the issue of a safeguards agreement and, at the Fourth NPT Review Conference in Geneva, had once again clearly stated its views on that issue.

61. If favourable circumstances allowing full implementation of NPT were to be created on the Korean peninsula, his country would be ready immediately to conclude a safeguards agreement and implement it. However, South Korea had introduced foreign nuclear weapons into the southern part of the Korean peninsula and, together with the owner of those nuclear weapons, was continually conducting military exercises that included scenarios involving nuclear bombing. That was a crime against the Korean nation, which had also suffered from the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. Koreans today, regardless of whether they lived in the North or the South, therefore opposed nuclear weapons and strove hard for their withdrawal. His

country had put forward proposals for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Korean peninsula, as well as several disarmament proposals, which South Korea had always rejected.

62. If South Korea wished for an early conclusion of a safeguards agreement by his country, it should ask for the withdrawal of foreign nuclear weapons from its own territory and respond positively to his country's proposals regarding a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Korean peninsula. It was an undisputed fact that the establishment of such a nuclear-weapon-free zone would have to be based on appropriate and internationally recognized verification measures.

The meeting rose at 6.5 p.m.

