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**COMMUNICATION RECEIVED ON 10 MAY 1999 FROM
THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
TO THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**

Attached is a communication received from the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation which, as requested in the communication, is herewith circulated for the information of Member States.

**TEXT OF COMMUNICATION RECEIVED ON 10 MAY 1999 FROM THE
RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
TO THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**

With regard to the resolution adopted by the 42nd Agency General Conference, entitled "The safety of radiation sources and the security of radioactive materials" (GC(42)/RES/12), and also the consideration of this question at the March session of the Board of Governors (document GOV/1999/16), we should like to draw your attention to the fact that the large-scale bombing of Yugoslavia is considerably increasing the risk of loss of control and loss of radiation sources widely used in the oil and chemical industries and medical institutions in that country. As you know, it is precisely those installations that are being subjected to destructive rocket and bomb attacks by NATO countries.

We would also draw attention to the conclusions and recommendations of the Secretariat's report on this question approved at the March Board of Governors, in particular the fact that the absence or loss of control over radiation sources may pose a risk of significant radiation exposure and have serious health and economic consequences not only in the country in which a given radiation source was used but also in other countries. Moreover, in the above report, attention was drawn to risks associated with orphan sources and the need to exercise strict control of radiation sources.

The Agency, as the organization concerned with strengthening the mechanisms for ensuring international basic safety standards for protection against ionizing radiation and for the safety of radiation sources, should express its serious concern and draw the particular attention of its Member States to the real threat posed by the large number of orphan sources arising on Yugoslav territory. Of course the quickest way of solving this problem would be to call an immediate halt to the bombing of that country.

In future, in order to clean up the consequences of the bombing, great efforts will be required from the Yugoslav authorities, together with assistance from the international community, including the Agency, as provided for in the relevant recommendation of the above report.

As a result of this situation, we would appeal to the Director General of the Agency to take into account the particular need to ensure the safety of radiation sources in Yugoslavia in the requested report to the 43rd Agency General Conference and when drawing up the Agency's action plan in this area.

We should be obliged if you would communicate this letter in the form of an information circular to all Member States.

(signed) V. Loshchinin
Resident Representative of the Russian
Federation to the International
Organizations in Vienna