

# treaty of tlatelolco

In February 1967 twenty-one States meeting in Tlatelolco, Mexico, adopted a Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America. The Treaty is now in force for thirteen of the countries following their ratification of it. As a result, an Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America has been established, with Ambassador Carlos Peon del Valle (Mexico) as Secretary General ad interim, and held the first session of its General Conference in Mexico City at the beginning of September. Special invitations were extended to the Secretary General of the United Nations (U Thant) and the Director General of IAEA (Dr. Sigvard Eklund) to attend and address the session.

Dr. Eklund took as his subject the co-operation which is called for between the IAEA and the new Agency in implementing the Treaty of Tlatelolco; the relationship to the United Nations Non-Proliferation Treaty; and the beneficial impact he expects to be reflected in the development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in Latin America. His address is given on the following pages.

## Realizing an ideal

I am honoured to be invited to be present on this important occasion, when for the first time an international body has been created specifically to ensure compliance with a Treaty the parties to which solemnly pledge to use nuclear energy exclusively for peaceful purposes, and to keep an entire sub-continent free from nuclear weapons. It is also the first meeting of a regional grouping that has accepted the application of safeguards by another organization on their nuclear activities.

Although the concept of establishing a nuclear weapon free zone is not new, the creation of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America is the first tangible realisation of such an ideal. With it the aspirations of the people of Latin America for security and the prospect of wider and more productive applications of atomic energy for peaceful purposes has come nearer to fulfilment.

This is an important occasion for the International Atomic Energy Agency since under the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America it is given significant recognition. The Treaty envisages that the International Atomic Energy Agency will co-operate in various ways with the Agency you have established. It is therefore a particular pleasure for me to be here today. I congratulate the Governments concerned upon their courage and their imagination in this enterprise in establishing the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America, and recognize that credit is due to the five Heads of States in Latin America whose initiative in 1963 was the first step on the path that has culminated in today's Conference. Recognition of the efforts made by the Government of Mexico towards the conclusion of the Treaty is given by the decision to establish the Agency in this magnificent city, and in this connection a special tribute should be paid to Dr. Garcia Robles, who might justly be described as the architect of the Tlatelolco Treaty. His vision, his tenacity and his energy devoted to the cause of peace are embodied in the Treaty which will serve as a monument to his services to the countries of Latin America.

I can assure him that the International Atomic Energy Agency, within its statutory powers, will do its best to fulfil the tasks which may be allocated to it under the Treaty and to assist your Agency, its various organs and its Member States, singly and in concert, to meet the high goals that they have set for themselves.

## Functions of IAEA

Under the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America, the International Atomic Energy Agency is mentioned in connection with two broad categories of activities:

- firstly, the functions arising out of safeguards agreements concluded by it, with a Contracting Party, or Parties; and

- secondly, other functions such as those stemming from the establishment of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America, in particular those arising within the framework of an agreement which may be concluded between our two Agencies. The Treaty also makes reference to possible complementary safeguards functions for the IAEA, such as the receipt of particular reports or the observation of peaceful nuclear explosions.

About one year after the Tlatelolco Treaty was signed, a draft Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) was tabled within

the Eighteen-Nations Disarmament Committee in Geneva. Apart from the close similarity in a number of provisions of the treaties, Article VII of NPT recognizes specifically the right of any group of States to conclude regional treaties in order to assure the total absence of nuclear weapons in their territories. The Tlatelolco Treaty might thus be regarded as the first multilateral treaty in the field of nuclear disarmament which provides for the application of an institutionalized and international control system and as such represents a decisive step forward in the recognition and acceptance of international safeguards. Both treaties call upon the IAEA to perform one of its main statutory functions, that is, to apply safeguards at the request of the parties to a multilateral arrangement. It is desirable that we should co-ordinate our functions under both treaties by applying a single control system and using a single yardstick. It is equally desirable that the safeguards to be applied by the IAEA under both treaties should be similar and as identical as possible in the things they cover, the extent and the manner of coverage and in other relevant aspects.

#### Agreement in force

The IAEA must also take account of existing safeguards obligations in Latin America. The IAEA is at present a party to nine agreements providing for the applications of safeguards in six Latin American countries. In four of these it applies safeguards provided for in bilateral agreements, namely with Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Venezuela. Safeguards are also applied under four agreements for the provision of various items of equipment and material; of which two have been concluded with Argentina and one each with Mexico and Uruguay. A further agreement of this type is now under discussion with Chile. Argentina has recently announced that it will submit its new power reactor to IAEA safeguards, and Mexico has already concluded with the International Atomic Energy Agency an agreement under Article 13 of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America.

Each of the thirteen Latin American States for whom the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America has gone into effect has also signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty and of these two have also ratified it. Six further Latin American countries, which have signed, but not yet ratified, the Treaty of Tlatelolco have also signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty. It is therefore likely that many of the signatories of the Latin American Treaty will also eventually become parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

As a basis for the safeguards functions which your Treaty foresees for the IAEA, each State concerned will first of all need to conclude with the Agency the safeguards agreement mentioned in Article 13 of the Treaty. This should enable the terms of reference for the IAEA's safeguards operation to be established, and serve as the instrument by which the States accept the obligations, the compliance with which the Agency is required to supervise. The conclusion of such agreements, whilst creating for the IAEA the obligation to carry out its tasks, will also give the States concerned the appropriate rights and obligations towards the IAEA. As I have already said it would be highly desirable for the agreements concluded between the Contracting Parties and the IAEA to be basically similar, and leave room for the observance of further obligations which these States and the IAEA may have incurred or will incur in the future.

## Hope for beneficial impact

The functions of the IAEA for the prevention of improper uses of nuclear energy are of course only the counterpart to the promotion of nuclear energy. I hope that the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America will not only increase security in the area but that in so doing will impose a positive beneficial impact on the development of nuclear energy in Latin America. Although the control functions of the IAEA are so much in the spotlight of public interest, we never forget that it is our primary objective "to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world". In Latin America the International Atomic Energy Agency has already found a fruitful field for these promotional aspects of its work.

The assistance given by the IAEA to its Member States in fostering the application of atomic energy for peaceful purposes embrace a wide range of activities. Within the limits of its available funds it focuses on problems of high priority in which minimum expenditure can achieve the maximum results. It sends out experts to advise Governments on matters concerning nuclear power and advises them on the basic legislation needed. It organises seminars and sends advisory missions to assist in planning power programmes and dealing with safety problems. Member States are assisted in making the best use of existing research reactors. On the fuel side, technical advice is given to help Member States in locating resources of nuclear materials and in developing cheaper methods for recovering uranium. The IAEA awards fellowships to help train the scientists and technical personnel necessary in any country which wishes to embark on the use of nuclear energy.

Among other subjects which the IAEA is active in promoting are the various applications of radioisotopes and radiation in agriculture, medicine and industry. A further interesting example of the work done is the studies on the use of nuclear power for the dual purpose of desalting and electricity production in which the IAEA has been a partner with Mexico and the USA in preliminary studies of the possibilities for nuclear desalination in the Gulf of California.

## Assistance in Latin America

Much of the programme which I have described has benefited directly and indirectly the countries of Latin America. In the ten years between 1958 and 1968, total expenditures on technical assistance in Latin America, for experts, equipment and fellowships, was about \$5 million, which was 21% of the total technical assistance provided by the Agency. About 300 experts have been provided in fields ranging from general atomic energy development to the application of radioisotopes. During the same period 440 fellowships have been awarded to Latin American countries and 14 regional training courses have been held in seven different States. A number of special missions have been organized to advise governments on a variety of subjects and nuclear power studies have been made in Argentina and Brazil. Research contracts of a value exceeding \$600,000 have been awarded to 13 countries in the region. I mention these figures to illustrate the effort of the IAEA to advance the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the countries signatories of the Tlatelolco Treaty and to indicate those other Agency activities which are the counterpart of safeguards.

## Peaceful uses of nuclear explosives

The possibilities for the use of nuclear explosives for peaceful purposes has excited public interest particularly in relation to NPT and this is a field in which Latin American countries have shown great awareness. In 1968, the General Conference of the IAEA adopted a resolution on this subject following which the Board of Governors has made a study of the role the Agency could play in providing the necessary services. In the report resulting from these studies the Board has stressed that the technology of nuclear explosives for peaceful purposes is still in an early stage of development, that much research and experimenting is needed before nuclear explosives can usefully serve in projects for which conventional explosives have been used hitherto, and that the Agency's role in bringing the benefits of this technology to its Member States is likely to evolve gradually in the years ahead. Initially, the chief task will be to ensure the fullest possible exchange and dissemination of information on nuclear explosives techniques and applications, the convening of panels and the provision to Member States of advice on the status of the technology, the feasibility of possible applications of nuclear explosives, etc. At some later stage, the Agency would, if invited, be prepared to participate in actual projects.

The establishment of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America has been a long and difficult task. The tasks it now faces are no less formidable. The new Agency has to ensure that the aims of the Treaty are met, so that Latin America indeed is and will remain an area free from nuclear weapons. I am convinced that if it succeeds in this task it will establish an atmosphere of security among its Member States — with the help of the Nuclear Weapon States acting in accordance with Additional Protocol II. It will thereby do much to further international exchange and national and regional development in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, in which objective the International Atomic Energy Agency is prepared to assist the Latin American States. I am looking forward to fruitful co-operation between the Agency in Mexico and the IAEA in Vienna.