

The UN and the IAEA

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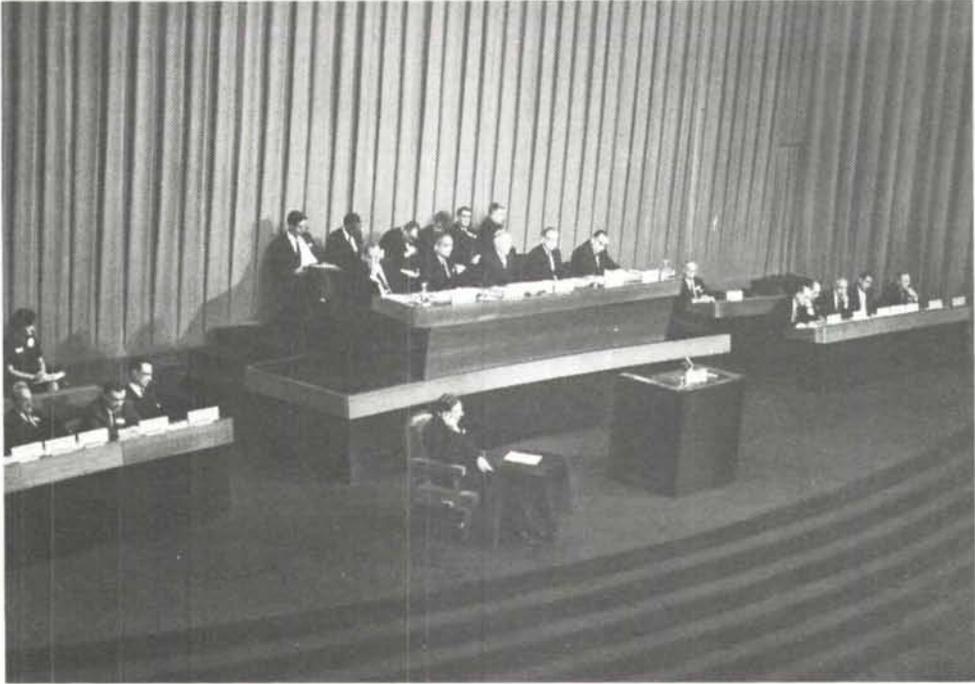
It is with great pleasure that I offer my felicitations and good wishes, through this article, to the IAEA on the occasion of its twentieth anniversary.

The past three decades have witnessed perhaps the most rapid and revolutionary pace of change of any time in modern history. Two of the most significant developments of this period occurred in 1945: the dawn, in violence, of the atomic age, and the founding of the United Nations. While the timing might have been coincidental, the link has been intrinsic and continuous.

Created out of the ashes of the Second World War with a commitment and a mission to rid mankind of the "scourge of war", the United Nations, from the beginning, recognized that the tremendous power of the atom should be controlled and channelled to constructive and peaceful uses for the improvement of the quality of life of humanity. It is quite significant in this connection that atomic energy was the subject of the very first resolution of the General Assembly (Resolution 1 (I) of January 1946), by which the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission was established. Although that Commission was dissolved some six years later, the United Nations continued to be interested and active in the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

In 1954, at its ninth session, the General Assembly took a number of major decisions on nuclear matters. Among other things, the Assembly, in its Resolution 810 A (IX), expressed the hope that an international atomic energy organization would be established without delay and, once established, that a formal agreement with the United Nations would be negotiated; in Resolution 810 B (IX), the Assembly established the Secretary-General's Advisory Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy – later known as the United Nations Scientific Advisory Committee. At the same session, the General Assembly decided to convene what proved to be the first of four international conferences on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy.

At its tenth session in 1955, the General Assembly, *inter alia*, established, in Resolution 913 (X), the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) and requested the Secretary-General to study the question of the relationship of the proposed international atomic energy organization with the United Nations. In September 1956, the Conference on the Statute of the IAEA took place at the United Nations Headquarters and the IAEA Preparatory Committee performed most of its work there. Soon after the entry into force of the Agency's Statute – the event that we are commemorating – a relationship agreement was approved by the IAEA's Board of Governors and General Conference in October 1957 and by the United Nations General Assembly a month later.



Rostrum at the opening of the Third UN International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy in Geneva on 31 August 1964.

In view of the unique nature of the IAEA's functions under the terms of its Statute, the Agency's relationship with the United Nations assumed a position unlike that of the specialized agencies within the United Nations family of organizations. Thus, the IAEA, although it submits reports to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), reports primarily to the General Assembly directly, and may also report to the Security Council whenever necessary.

The IAEA has collaborated effectively with the United Nations in convening the second, third and fourth of the International Conferences on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy mentioned earlier, and the United Nations has supported the convening by the IAEA this year in Salzburg of what was in effect the fifth in that series of international scientific gatherings. The two bodies have also co-operated on such diverse projects as uranium exploration, energy production, agricultural expansion and modernization, food preservation, and health and industrial promotion. In addition, the United Nations is very interested in the Agency's technical assistance activities with regard to the peaceful use of nuclear energy, particularly in the developing countries. Up to now, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has supported more than 200 projects in developing countries in the field of nuclear energy, for which the IAEA is the executing agency. UNDP's support has so far amounted to about 22 million dollars.

Since the entry into force, in 1970, of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which in Article III requires all non-nuclear-weapon States Party to the Treaty to accept IAEA safeguards, the Agency has assumed the critical role of applying these safeguards in order to enhance the confidence of States that nuclear materials are not used for purposes proscribed by the Treaty. This function constitutes a significant recognition of the confidence that States have in the integrity and impartiality of the IAEA and enable the Agency to make a valuable contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security. The IAEA, furthermore, collaborated with the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament in 1975 in the preparation of the *Comprehensive Study of the Question of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones in all Its Aspects* and assisted the United Nations Secretariat in providing secretariat services and preparing documentation for the 1975 NPT Review Conference.

I have myself been closely associated with the Agency's safeguards functions. After the entry into force of the Non-Proliferation Treaty in March 1970, the Agency's Board of Governors established a committee to draw up the safeguards system and I was asked to preside over this Committee's deliberations. This was a unique task. The Committee, in which almost fifty States Members of the Agency participated in just over 80 formal sessions, taking a total of 9 months, agreed unanimously on a document which not only contains all the major elements of the safeguards system to be applied in respect of States Party to the NPT, but also forms the basis of the agreements that have since then been concluded between the IAEA and such States.

In 1978, the United Nations General Assembly will hold a special session on disarmament. I am confident that in keeping with its traditional practice of co-operation in such matters, the IAEA will make a most valuable contribution to the work of the special session. For the IAEA in the twenty years of its existence has proven an essential factor in the maintenance of international peace and security, the first of the purposes defined in the United Nations Charter.