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REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Peaceful use of nuclear energy for
economic and social development

Report of the Secretary-General

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INTRODUCTION

1. By its resolution 32/50 of 8 December 1977 concerning the peaceful use of nuclear energy for economic and social development, the General Assembly, inter alia, invited all States to consider convening, at an appropriate stage, an international conference or conferences, under the auspices of the United Nations system, aimed at promoting international co-operation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy in accordance with the objectives of that resolution. Moreover, it requested the Secretary-General to invite all States to communicate to him their views, observations and suggestions on such a conference and to report thereon to the Assembly at its thirty-third session.
2. In pursuance of the General Assembly's request, the Secretary-General forwarded on 15 June 1978 a note verbale to all Member States inviting them to present their views, observations and suggestions on the convening of such a conference. As at 12 October 1978, the Secretary-General had received 32 replies. It should be noted that these responses reflect only a limited proportion of the membership of the United Nations, and that not all replies received deal specifically with the question of convening such a conference. The responses are reproduced in section II of this document. It should also be noted that a number of references have been made in the replies to the continuing and planned activities of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.
3. The Secretary-General is of the view that, on the basis of the replies received, it is difficult to draw any definite conclusions. The information included in section II of this document is herewith submitted to the General Assembly for its consideration and for any further action it may deem necessary.

II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

ARGENTINA

/9 August 1978

/Original: Spanish

1. The Argentine Government considers that the principles set out in operative paragraph 1 of resolution 32/50 should be reaffirmed, and suggests, with regard to paragraph 4 of the same resolution that a preliminary conference might be convened under the auspices of the United Nations, the date of which should be established.
2. Recalling the statement by Mr. Eklund, Director-General of IAEA, on 1 June 1978 at the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament that the conference to be held in Salzburg in 1981 on nuclear energy and the fuel cycle could serve the purposes of resolution 32/50, the Government of Argentina believes that the goals set forth in resolution 32/50 should be kept separate from the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation programme (INFCE). Consequently, in the circumstances, the Argentine Government does not consider the suggestion of the Director-General of IAEA appropriate, in view of the fact that at present it is not possible to predict the results of the above-mentioned programme for 1981 and that, furthermore, there is a risk that the programme might be institutionalized in close relation with resolution 32/50.

AUSTRALIA

/26 July 1978

/Original: English

1. Australia fully recognizes the importance of nuclear power programmes in meeting the energy requirements of many countries. It would like to see the widest possible international agreement on an appropriate framework for the management and operation of nuclear industries. The international climate of confidence which such agreement would establish would encourage stability in the further development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.
2. International co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy has been the subject of considerable international discussion in recent years. This has taken place in the United Nations General Assembly and, on a continuing basis, in the International Atomic Energy Agency. It was international concern to make nuclear energy for peaceful purposes widely available, consistent with effective measures to minimize the danger of the proliferation of nuclear weapons, which led to the inauguration in October 1977 of the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation (INFCE). The INFCE study is currently in progress. Australia considers that the international community should have the opportunity to evaluate and assess fully the outcome of INFCE before determining whether a further conference to promote

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international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy is required. It is also pertinent that the Second Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is due to be held in 1980.

3. Australia, therefore, does not favour the convening of a conference to promote international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy at this time. Such a conference would be an unnecessary duplication of current and planned international efforts in this field.

AUSTRIA

/21 July 1978

/Original: English

1. Austria, on a basis of principle, welcomes all steps aimed at establishing international consensus and co-operation in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, in accordance with the objectives of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and therefore recommends the convening of conferences or congresses, open to all interested Member States, under the aegis of the United Nations.

2. In this regard, Austria has followed with interest and appreciation the progress achieved in preparing such a consensus by the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation and feels that the work of INFCE could serve as a fruitful basis for decision on the further development of the peaceful use of nuclear energy at such a United Nations Conference.

BARBADOS

/28 July 1978

/Original: English

The Government of Barbados supports the convening of an international conference or conferences to promote international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in accordance with the objectives of General Assembly resolution 32/50.

BELGIUM

/3 August 1978

/Original: French

1. Belgium has always shown the greatest interest in close international co-operation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy for the economic and social development of all countries.

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2. However, the Belgian Government considers it important that such co-operation should be envisaged, with due consideration for the work and efforts already under way in both the multilateral and the bilateral fields, but that an unwarranted increase in the number of international conferences on such a broad and complex subject as nuclear energy should be avoided.
3. In this connexion, it would like to state that it considers IAEA the most appropriate framework for the discussion of these topics. This international specialized organization already convenes each year several technical colloquiums or symposia which are open to all States members of the Agency. Moreover, it held a large international conference in Salzburg in 1977 and is planning a similar meeting in the same city in 1981.
4. In addition, it should be noted that since the autumn of 1977 studies have been in progress on the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation (INFCE); these studies deal with questions raised in resolution 32/50 and all States wishing to participate in them may do so.
5. The Belgian Government believes that it is advisable to await the outcome of this exercise in order to examine its results and, in the light of those results, to consider the advisability of perhaps convening an international conference of interest to all participants.

BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

/5 September 1978

/Original: Russian

1. The Byelorussian SSR, as is known, is taking an active part, within the framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency, in the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy and is sharing its experience and knowledge in this field with other countries.
2. Advocating the strengthening of the régime for preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons, the Byelorussian SSR is prepared to continue to co-operate in the peaceful application of atomic energy for the economic and social development of peoples, for the maintenance of peace, health and well-being throughout the world.
3. The Byelorussian SSR believes that in the consideration of the question of convening an international conference on the peaceful use of nuclear energy for economic and social development in order to promote international co-operation in this field, it would be logical and desirable to entrust all of the practical work involved in the preparation for and the conduct of a conference of that kind to such a competent authoritative specialized agency of the United Nations system as the International Atomic Energy Agency. IAEA possesses an appropriate organizational apparatus for this purpose and has a wealth of experience in the conduct of similar international conferences.

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4. In considering the question of the desirability of convening at a particular stage a conference on international co-operation for the peaceful use of atomic energy, account should also be taken of the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation now in progress, the results and conclusions of which will have to be studied carefully in order to find optimal ways for co-operation in the nuclear field.

DENMARK

/16 August 1978

/Original: English

1. The Danish Government is of the opinion that there is an urgent need to do whatever possible to avoid energy shortages impeding the economic and social development which is now taking place in industrialized as well as developing countries.
2. For this reason great importance must be attached to the United Nations conference on new and renewable energy sources which may be convened in 1981.
3. As far as nuclear power is concerned this energy source could, in the Danish Government's view, play an important role in alleviating the energy shortages which are foreseen. This energy source cannot, however, be looked upon independently from other sources and as stated in General Assembly resolution 32/50 the use of this energy source must also be seen in context with the need to ensure that it does not lead to the proliferation of nuclear weapons.
4. As important international conferences on this last issue, the INFCE and the Review Conference on the Treaty for Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, are now going on or are to be held, it is felt that the convening of an international conference aimed at promoting international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy should await the outcome of these conferences.
5. The Danish Government is of the opinion that the matters dealt with in resolution 32/50 must be taken up in the IAEA, and the question of holding an international conference must therefore await the outcome of the above-mentioned two conferences as well as the IAEA conference planned for 1981.

EGYPT

/27 September 1978

/Original: English

The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt wishes to emphasize the necessity to postpone the convening of an international conference aimed at promoting international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy until the year 1980. Postponement of the conference would give ample time for adequate preparation and extensive studies for such a conference, as well as to cover the numerous activity aspects of the IAEA.

FINLAND

16 August 1978

Original: English

1. According to current estimates of existing and potential energy sources in the world, the share of nuclear technology in energy production is likely to grow markedly in the near future. In an increased number of countries, there is a rising demand for nuclear technology, facilities and material. Among the suppliers, the growth of the market is leading to increased commercial competition. As the acquisition of peaceful nuclear technology may contribute, regardless of the intentions of the recipient, to the capability of manufacturing nuclear explosives, the spread of nuclear technologies brings about, in the absence of effective restraints, a risk of nuclear proliferation. The development and spread of technologies relating to particularly sensitive parts of the nuclear-fuel cycle, e.g. enrichment and reprocessing, add a qualitatively new dimension to this risk.
2. Therefore, the problem of proliferation of nuclear weapons and the question of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy should be viewed and discussed as closely interrelated issues.
3. In the view of the Finnish Government, the basic reason for the lack of consensus that has in some cases been hampering international nuclear co-operation is not the restraints exercised but, rather, the fear of the impending danger posed by the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The best way to eliminate this fear would be the adherence by all States to the non-proliferation treaty or, at a minimum, acceptance by all States not party to the Treaty of other arrangements involving the application of nuclear safeguards to their complete nuclear fuel cycle. The international community would thus be given satisfactory assurances against the dangers of proliferation, and all States could be guaranteed unhindered and non-discriminatory access to the peaceful benefits of nuclear energy.
4. Viewing non-proliferation and a wider use of nuclear energy as complementary rather than contradictory aims, Finland has initiated a number of proposals aimed at strengthening the non-proliferation régime and emphasizing the access to the peaceful benefits of nuclear technology. In particular, Finland has consistently supported the non-proliferation treaty. In a memorandum submitted to the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency in June 1976, Finland outlined a possible scheme to strengthen the Agency's safeguards on a comprehensive basis (A/C.1/31/6). This proposal was reiterated in resolution 31/189 D adopted on 21 December 1976 by the General Assembly at its thirty-first session. Sponsored by Finland, the resolution requested the IAEA, i.e., to consider all relevant suggestions presented to it for strengthening the safeguards régime. During the thirty-second session of the General Assembly, Finland initiated resolution 32/87 F, which in a comprehensive way dealt with the issues of non-proliferation and supply of nuclear technology, materials and facilities to meet the energy needs of the world in keeping with the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The overwhelming support to this resolution clearly indicates, in the view of the Finnish Government, that international consensus on these issues can and should be sought around the non-proliferation treaty.

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5. The Government of Finland welcomed the proposal for an International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation Programme as a measure aimed at ensuring an intensified peaceful use of nuclear energy without risks of proliferation. Specifically, the Finnish Government sees the programme aimed at meeting the challenges created by the development of reprocessing technology and by the prospects of plutonium economy as well as surveying the possibilities of finding alternative technologies and fuel cycles that would be more resistant to proliferation than the existing ones. Finland looks forward to results from the programme.

6. The Second Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to be held in 1980, will provide a forum for a comprehensive assessment of the state of non-proliferation and international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear technology as provided for by the Treaty. In the view of the Finnish Government, the Review Conference should be carefully prepared in order to assure a further strengthening of the non-proliferation régime.

7. In the field of nuclear power and nuclear fuel cycle, the International Conference on Nuclear Power and its Fuel Cycle organized by the International Atomic Energy Agency in May 1977 in Salzburg contributed to a helpful review of the prospects of nuclear energy. In the light of the experiences of the Salzburg Conference, the Agency has foreseen the possibility of a similar conference in the early 1980s.

8. In the opinion of the Finnish Government, the question concerning the convening of an international conference as proposed in paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 32/50 should be considered against the background of the observations presented above. In particular, for the proposed conference to be meaningful, its correct timing and appropriate preparation would be crucially important. The decision on the convening of the proposed conference could be made when results from the aforementioned forums are available. Should the decision to convene the proposed conference be made, it would be important to co-ordinate the work of the conference with the activities of the International Atomic Energy Agency and involve the Agency in its preparations.

FRANCE

[27 July 1978]

[Original: French]

1. The French Government endorses the principles set forth in resolution 32/50, namely, the importance of the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, the right of all States to develop their programme for the peaceful use of nuclear technology, access for all States, without discrimination, to technology, equipment and materials for the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and the need for international co-operation in the field to be subject to a system of international safeguards. The French Government wishes to draw attention, however, to the statutory responsibility of the International Atomic Energy Agency in matters concerning the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Moreover, since this world body was established, it has convened numerous meetings devoted specifically to this topic; the most recent was held in Salzburg in 1977 and the next will be held in the same city in 1981.

2. In addition, since the autumn of 1977, studies have been under way on the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation (INFCE); these deal with questions raised in resolution 32/50 and all interested States have been invited to take part.

3. It appears, therefore, that many bodies are familiar with or are called upon to familiarize themselves with the problems of the peaceful use of nuclear energy. In the circumstances, the French Government does not believe that, for the time being, there is any need to envisage the convening of a conference on the same topic under the auspices of the United Nations. Such a conference would not make any truly new contribution towards solving the questions raised in resolution 32/50 and would only prejudge the outcome of the studies already undertaken elsewhere.

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

[22 September 1978]

[Original: English]

1. The German Democratic Republic holds the view that the peaceful harnessing of nuclear energy is of importance for the economic, scientific and technological development and for the improvement of the peoples' welfare.

2. International exchanges in the area of nuclear energy have already done a lot to facilitate its peaceful uses. Of special significance, in this context, is the protection of the peoples' security. Just as other nations, the German Democratic Republic advocates the strengthening of the régime of nuclear arms non-proliferation. This is the only way to make sure that international co-operation will not be abused for the development and proliferation of nuclear arms, thus gravely harming the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy.

3. These are the views that determine the German Democratic Republic's position concerning the convening of a United Nations conference on international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.
4. It should be borne in mind that the system of the United Nations does already have a suitable international organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which possesses extensive experience in the practical application of nuclear energy for the benefit of peoples and in the convening of appropriate international conferences.
5. It would seem to be logical if said international conference were held within the framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Agency were charged with the preparation and convening of such conference.

GERMANY, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF

/31 July 1978/

/Original: English/

1. The Federal Republic of Germany is in favour of close international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy for economic and social development in accordance with the objectives of resolution 32/50. Furthermore the Federal Republic of Germany is of the opinion that it is important that such co-operation is undertaken with due consideration for the work that has already been done multilaterally and bilaterally in this field. Without such due consideration there would be a possibility of confusion, delay or wasteful duplication. In this respect the Federal Republic of Germany considers that:
 - (a) The IAEA is the proper forum for discussions of this subject, particularly in view of the IAEA conference in Salzburg planned for 1981. The Federal Government supports in this respect the arguments brought forward by Dr. Eklund, Director-General of IAEA, on 1 June 1978 in his statement during the tenth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament;
 - (b) The current International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation (INFCE) also covers much of the subject matter of resolution 32/50 and there would therefore be merit in considering the state of international co-operation in the context of the conclusions of the evaluation;
 - (c) A further review conference of the non-proliferation treaty would also consider much of resolution 32/50 in its examination of article IV of the Treaty.
2. In view of these considerations the Federal Republic of Germany considers it preferable not to hold a conference as referred to in resolution 32/50.

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INDIA

/1 September 1978/
/Original: English/

1. India has consistently attached great importance to the peaceful use of nuclear energy for economic and social development and to the further promotion of international co-operation in this regard.
2. Guided by these considerations, India has lent strong support to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and has also continuously sought to correct any undue stress on its regulatory functions while further strengthening its role in promoting international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, particularly provision of technical assistance to developing countries. India is firmly convinced that the objectives of General Assembly resolution 32/50 can best be achieved in this manner, since the IAEA remains the most effective international instrument in the peaceful nuclear energy field. The question of convening any international conference or conferences for promoting international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy should, therefore, best be considered within the framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

IRELAND

/28 August 1978/
/Original: English/

1. Ireland supports close international co-operation in the provision of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in accordance with the terms of General Assembly resolution 32/50. As a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Ireland has been actively involved in such co-operation. Ireland agrees that further co-operation on the provision of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes is necessary. It is desirable, however, that future co-operation should take into account work that has already been done both multilaterally and bilaterally in this field, and Ireland is of the opinion that the holding of a United Nations conference, as proposed in resolution 32/50 would duplicate work at present being carried out in other forums.
2. Ireland considers that international co-operation on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy should take place within the International Atomic Energy Agency.
3. The IAEA conference scheduled to take place in Salzburg in 1981 will provide adequate opportunity for full consideration of this question. The International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation (INFCE) currently in progress will allow for an international exchange of views on all aspects of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

4. The second review conference of the non-proliferation treaty, scheduled for 1980, will also consider much of resolution 32/50 in its review of article IV of the Treaty.

5. On the basis of the above considerations Ireland is not convinced that it is necessary or opportune to hold a special conference within the United Nations system as proposed in resolution 32/50.

ITALY

/2 August 1978/

/Original: English/

1. The Italian Government is in favour of the broad objective of General Assembly resolution 32/50; namely, a closer international co-operation on matters related to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. It believes, however, that the problems related to such co-operation are already being dealt with in appropriate international forums, in particular, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation (INFCE).

2. In the light of this and in the interest of avoiding confusion and unnecessary duplication, the Italian Government believes that a new international conference such as that envisaged in resolution 32/50 should not be considered at least until the INFCE studies, and the subsequent evaluation of their results, have been completed, nor until the IAEA conference, scheduled to take place in Salzburg in 1981, has been concluded.

3. Furthermore, it is the opinion of the Italian Government that the additional efforts aimed at ensuring a more harmonious and safer development of the peaceful use of atomic energy in non-nuclear-weapon States should also be concentrated on a careful preparation of the review conference of the non-proliferation Treaty, scheduled for 1980, during which much of the subject-matter of the conference called for in paragraph 4 of resolution 32/50 will in fact be examined.

JAPAN

/4 August 1978/

/Original: English/

1. The Government of Japan recognizes the importance of international co-operation in promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and has actively participated in the studies which are now under way at relevant forums such as IAEA and INFCE, aimed at the further development of such international co-operation.

2. Under the circumstances, the Japanese Government is of the view that all interested States should continue to concentrate their efforts on carrying out the foregoing studies. To convene an international conference, under the auspices of the United Nations, for the same purpose before the full results of these studies are obtained might lead to an unnecessary duplication of international efforts. The Japanese Government is not favourably disposed toward the convening of such a conference, however commendable may be the intention of proposing such a conference itself.

LUXEMBOURG

/19 September 1978/

/Original: French/

The Government of Luxembourg has no comment to make with regard to General Assembly resolution 32/50 entitled "Peaceful use of nuclear energy for economic and social development".

MEXICO

/31 August 1978/

/Original: Spanish/

1. The Government of Mexico supports the convening of one or several international conferences, under the auspices of the United Nations, aimed at promoting international co-operation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy in accordance with the objectives of General Assembly resolution 32/50.

2. In particular, the Government of Mexico believes that, prior to convening such a conference, a working group should be formed, comprising a fixed number of representatives of States members of the International Atomic Energy Agency, chosen on the basis of equitable geographical distribution. The working group should be asked to prepare, inter alia, a draft convention on the peaceful use of nuclear energy for economic and social development which could subsequently be submitted to the international conference in question for consideration and approval.

NETHERLANDS

/27 July 1978/

/Original: English/

1. The Netherlands is in favour of close international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. As a party to the non-proliferation treaty and as a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency the Netherlands has subscribed to that principle. The Netherlands agrees that this co-operation should be further developed and will actively support new forms of international co-operation and control in this field in order to achieve a new international consensus on the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

2. International co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy for economic and social development should take place within the framework of the IAEA safeguards system.

3. The Netherlands has considered whether the convening in the near future of an international conference or conferences, under the auspices of the United Nations, as referred to in resolution 32/50, would be needed. The Netherlands considers that at this stage such a conference would duplicate ongoing multilateral activities in this field. In this respect the Netherlands is of the opinion that:

- (a) The appropriate forum for discussions on this subject is the IAEA. The IAEA conference scheduled to take place in Salzburg in 1981 offers every opportunity for in-depth consideration of the subject matter, quite apart from other meetings held under IAEA auspices;
- (b) The International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation (INFCE) which is being held at present offers a good opportunity for a systematic exchange of views with regard to all aspects of the peaceful application of nuclear energy;
- (c) A large part of the discussions during the second review conference of the non-proliferation treaty, taking place in 1980, will undoubtedly be devoted to international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

4. On the basis of these considerations the Netherlands has come to the conclusion that there is no need for a conference as referred to in resolution 32/50 and that it is preferable not to hold such a conference within the United Nations system.

NORWAY

24 August 1978

Original: English

1. The Norwegian Government is of the opinion that one should await the outcome of the INFCE and the Review Conference of the non-proliferation treaty as well as the United Nations conference on new and renewable energy resources and the IAEA conference planned for 1981 before any decision is taken on the question of convening a United Nations conference on peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

2. It is further the opinion of the Norwegian Government that such a conference should, in case it is decided upon, be held under the auspices of the IAEA.

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POLAND

/24 July 1978/

/Original: English/

1. In the opinion of the Government of the Polish People's Republic the convening under the auspices of the United Nations of a conference aimed at promoting international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy might contribute to the broadening and intensification of international co-operation in this field. Such a conference adequately prepared on its substance, could constitute a broad international forum for a comprehensive review of new possibilities and initiatives and would also provide for an over-all analysis of the existing difficulties and obstacles in the field, with a view to finding means of overcoming them.
2. This is warranted by the ever-growing significance of nuclear power as a source of energy, already important today and even more basic in the near future. Such a conference could also map out directions to channel world efforts towards further intensification of international co-operation.
3. In the view of the Polish Government it would be premature though to prejudge at the very outset the need for holding a series of conferences, since the success of the undertaking would primarily depend on the goodwill of those participating. Short of the required goodwill, costly meetings and conferences, be them even repeated time and again, are bound to fail to bring about expected results.

PORTUGAL

/29 August 1978/

/Original: English/

The Portuguese Government favours the convening at an appropriate stage of an international conference or conferences, under the auspices of the United Nations system, aimed at promoting international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in accordance with the objectives of paragraph 4 of resolution 32/50 on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy for economic and social development.

ROMANIA

/22 September 1978/

/Original: French/

A. General considerations

1. The economic and social development of all countries is at the present time a fundamental prerequisite for the establishment of a new international economic and political order which demands broad access for all States, without discrimination or hindrance, to scientific and technological achievements as a whole, including developments in the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

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2. General Assembly resolution 32/50 on the peaceful use of nuclear energy for economic and social development, which was proposed and supported by a group of developing countries, including Romania, meets an urgent need: the acceleration of the economic and social development of the developing countries, a process to which the strengthening of co-operation in the field of the use of nuclear energy and nuclear technology for peaceful purposes can make an important contribution.

3. The Socialist Republic of Romania supports the idea of the convening and organization, under the auspices of the United Nations, of an international conference aimed at promoting international co-operation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and considers that international co-operation is one of the essential conditions for the development of each nation.

4. The consistent promotion and constant development of relations with all States, without distinction as to social system, on the basis of the principles of respect for independence and national sovereignty, complete equality of rights, non-interference in internal affairs and mutual advantage, as well as active participation in the exchange of intellectual and material values - these are the constant features of the foreign policy of socialist Romania.

5. As a developing socialist country resolved to make use of nuclear energy in carrying out its economic and social development programmes, Romania is firmly in favour of measures guaranteeing access, without hindrance and in advantageous conditions, for all States to up-to-date technology concerned with the peaceful applications of nuclear energy. It is Romania's view that the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes constitutes an inalienable right, inseparably linked to the right of nations to develop, as an expression of their sovereignty and independence.

6. Romania believes that the United Nations conference for the promotion of international co-operation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy should contribute to the reaffirmation and encouragement of the political will of States to take such action as to ensure that the peaceful applications of nuclear energy become essential components of programmes designed to raise the economic and social levels of peoples and gradually reduce and progressively eliminate gaps and underdevelopment.

7. Such a conference is all the more necessary in that there is an increasing trend to limit the transfer of nuclear equipment, materials and technology on the pretext of preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

B. Provisional agenda

8. Romania considers that the conference should focus its attention on problems relating to:

- (a) Measures to facilitate access to the peaceful application of nuclear energy;

- (b) A substantial increase in the aid granted to developing countries;
- (c) The provision of nuclear equipment and materials needed for the implementation and normal operation of the economic objectives of non-nuclear-weapon countries;
- (d) The full and unimpeded transfer of nuclear technology.

9. The agenda of the conference, which should be worked out during the process of preparing for the conference through consultations between all the interested countries, should be drawn up in such a way as to provide an opportunity to debate, negotiate and devise appropriate measures designed to achieve the above-mentioned objectives.

C. Date and duration of the conference

10. The Romanian Government considers that a decision should be taken at the thirty-third session of the General Assembly regarding the date for the convening of the conference and the setting in motion of preliminary organizational measures so that the practical preparations may begin and the conference may start as soon as possible.

11. The optimum duration for the conference should be agreed either at the preparatory stage or within the actual framework of the conference, bearing in mind the time it will need to carry out the mandate which has been entrusted to it.

D. Procedure to be adopted for carrying out the preparatory work

12. The specific procedures to be followed in preparing for the world conference, the forum to be designated for the purpose and its methods of work shall be agreed during broad consultations between all States.

13. The Government of the Socialist Republic of Romania considers it essential to ensure the appropriate groundwork so that all States may participate effectively at all stages in the preparations for the world conference aimed at promoting international co-operation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

14. The Romanian Government expresses its conviction that still more States will support the convening and organization of this important meeting which should extend the peaceful applications of nuclear energy, in the current international situation, and become a catalyst for co-operation among States in the nuclear field.

SEYCHELLES

/12 July 1978/

/Original: English/

While the Seychelles Government supports in principle the convening of international conferences, under the auspices of the United Nations, aimed at promoting international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in accordance with resolution 32/50, unfortunately it cannot offer to convene such a conference in Seychelles, which is completely non-nuclear and does not have any nuclear expertise at all.

SPAIN

/14 July 1978/

/Original: Spanish/

The Government of Spain has communicated its favourable position with respect to the convening of an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations for the purpose of promoting international co-operation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

SWEDEN

/5 September 1978/

/Original: English/

Questions relating to nuclear energy for peaceful purposes must be considered in relation to other sources of energy and in the context of risks for proliferation on nuclear weapons. Consequently, the proposal to convene a United Nations conference on the peaceful use of nuclear energy for economic and social development should be discussed in the light of the proposed convening of a second review conference on the non-proliferation treaty in 1980 as well as that of a possible United Nations conference on new and renewable energy sources in 1981 or 1982. Further consideration of the question raised in paragraph 4 of Assembly resolution 32/50 should usefully await further decisions regarding these two conferences.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

/15 September 1978/

/Original: English/

Trinidad and Tobago supports the convening at an appropriate stage of an international conference or conferences, under the auspices of the United Nations system, aimed at promoting international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in accordance with the objectives set forth in the aforementioned resolution.

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UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

5 September 1978
Original: Russian

1. The Ukrainian SSR actively supports broad international co-operation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy and the exchange of experience and scientific and technological knowledge in this field, in order that the results of such co-operation may serve the cause of the economic and social development of peoples, and the cause of strengthening peace and security throughout the world. An important contribution to this process would be the further strengthening of the international régime for preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons, the improvement of the system of guarantees of the peaceful use of nuclear materials in accordance with the functions entrusted to the International Atomic Energy Agency under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.
2. It is also in this context that the Ukrainian SSR considers the question of convening an international conference to promote international co-operation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy.
3. As is known, these matters are within the competence of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which has the appropriate organizational apparatus and has a great deal of experience in the conduct of international forums on the peaceful use of atomic energy. Accordingly, we consider it desirable to entrust all of the practical work involved in the preparation for and the conduct of such a conference to that Agency.
4. At the same time, it must be taken into account that for the successful conduct, at an appropriate stage, of an international conference on questions relating to the peaceful use of atomic energy, it would be very important to complete the current work of the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation. The conclusions and recommendations of that Evaluation will help to find optimal ways for co-operation in the nuclear field.

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

10 August 1978
Original: Russian

1. The Soviet Union, as is widely known, is actively and fruitfully co-operating with many countries in the peaceful use of nuclear energy. The Soviet Government has repeatedly declared its readiness to continue to develop such co-operation, in order that the benefits of the peaceful use of atomic energy may advance the cause of the economic and social development of peoples and the cause of the maintenance of peace, health and well-being throughout the world.
2. In this connexion, we wish to point out that L. I. Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, President of

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the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, in his message to the delegates to the twenty-first session of the General Conference on the International Atomic Energy Agency, emphasized:

"Our country, extensively utilizing the energy of the atom for creative purposes, is prepared to share its wealth of experience and scientific and technological knowledge in this field to promote the further progress of mankind. In advocating the development of the peaceful utilization of atomic energy, the Soviet Union is firmly resolved, together with other States, to strengthen in every way the international régime for preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Everything possible must be done to ensure that the international exchange of nuclear technology, resulting in the establishment of scientific, technical and industrial nuclear potential in many countries, does not become a channel for the proliferation of nuclear weapons."

3. The aforementioned principles also guide the USSR in its approach to the consideration of the question of convening an international conference to promote international co-operation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy.
4. We proceed from the fact that in the United Nations system all aspects of the problems relating to the peaceful use of nuclear energy are dealt with, in accordance with its Statute, by such a competent and authoritative specialized agency as the International Atomic Energy Agency. Therefore, in our view, it would be logical and highly desirable that that Agency should also be entrusted with all of the practical work involved in the preparation for and the conduct of such a conference. IAEA has the appropriate organizational apparatus for the purpose and also has a wealth of experience in the holding of international conferences on the peaceful use of atomic energy. It is sufficient in this connexion to recall the successful holding by the Agency in May 1977 of a conference at Salzburg, Austria, on Nuclear Power and its Fuel Cycle, which aroused the most widespread interest among many countries, both countries which are advanced in the atomic field and developing countries.
5. At the same time, in considering the question of the desirability of convening at some particular stage a conference devoted to international co-operation in the peaceful use of atomic energy, account should also be taken of the fact that work is currently being done on an International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation and many specialists in the nuclear field are involved in this work. Naturally, the recommendations and conclusions that might be formulated upon the completion of that Evaluation should be analysed and carefully studied with a view to finding optimal ways for co-operation in the nuclear field.

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

/1 August 1978/

/Original: English/

Her Majesty's Government is in favour of close international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy for economic and social development in

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accordance with the objectives of General Assembly resolution 32/50. Furthermore, the United Kingdom is of the opinion that it is important that such co-operation is undertaken with due consideration for the work that has already been done multilaterally and bilaterally in this field. Without such due consideration there would be a possibility of confusion, delay or wasteful duplication. In this respect the United Kingdom considers that:

(a) The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is the proper forum for discussions of this subject, particularly in view of the IAEA conference in Salzburg planned for 1981;

(b) The current International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation (INFCE) also covers much of the subject-matter of resolution 32/50 and there would therefore be merit in considering the state of international co-operation in the context of the conclusions of the Evaluation;

(c) A further Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference would also consider much of resolution 32/50 in its examination of article IV of the Treaty.

In view of these considerations the United Kingdom concludes that close co-operation in this field does not require the holding of a special conference within the United Nations system as envisaged in General Assembly resolution 32/50.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

4 August 1978

Original: English

1. The United States continues to favour the strengthening of co-operation in the peaceful use of atomic energy. This was reaffirmed most recently by Ambassador Young on 9 June during a statement to the Ad Hoc Committee of the United Nations Special Session on Disarmament. We believe that peaceful nuclear co-operation must take the primacy of non-proliferation concerns into account and that such considerations need not be in conflict with, and indeed will enhance, the contribution that nuclear energy makes to economic and social development.
2. While the United States joined the consensus on resolution 32/50 during the thirty-second session of the General Assembly, we were nevertheless concerned about the lack of balance in the relevant documents concerning the dangers of non-proliferation associated with continued peaceful nuclear development. However, such a future can only be assured through universal co-operation in establishing conditions for its safe use.
3. With regard to paragraphs 4 and 5, at the present time the United States could not support the convening of such a conference. We do not believe that any time in the near future could represent - in the language of the resolution - "an appropriate stage". In 1979 preparations must begin for the review conference of the non-proliferation treaty to be held in 1980.

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4. Discussions involving this very important meeting will offer ample opportunity to carry on a dialogue "aimed at promoting international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy".
5. The International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation (INFCE) is currently underway and will extend into late 1979. This provides another forum for exchanging views on the subject of the resolution.
6. The 1979 United Nations Conference on Science and Technology will offer an opportunity for discussing the general problem of technology transfer to the developing world - which is the general framework within which the subject of resolution 32/50 falls.
7. The United States believes that the IAEA and any existing regional organizations are the best multilateral mechanisms for promoting peaceful nuclear co-operation. The IAEA continues to offer a variety of programmes, meetings and conferences aimed at fostering peaceful uses of the atom, with particular focus on the developing world. The annual IAEA General Conference which is held each fall offers a forum for discussion of this subject. The Board of Governors has significant developing country representation and provides an opportunity to exercise considerable influence over programmes aimed at contributing to the legitimate nuclear energy needs of the developing countries. We believe that the objectives of the resolution could be more easily promoted by utilizing the only existing international institution within the United Nations system established for this purpose - the IAEA.
8. In that connexion, the IAEA is proceeding with plans to hold another Salzburg conference in 1981 for the purpose of discussing fuel cycle options. Such a conference would serve as yet another forum for the consideration of issues similar to those raised in resolution 32/50.
9. Frankly, it is difficult for us to see how the objectives of resolution 32/50 could be served by any international conference that takes place without a major role for the IAEA. Accordingly, it is the United States view that should any conference ever take place pursuant to this resolution, it should be held under the auspices of the IAEA.
10. The foregoing recitation of meetings and conferences related to peaceful nuclear co-operation is extensive and these conferences are likely to strain the time and resources of even the larger States. For this reason alone we are persuaded that there is no need for the conference suggested in the resolution.
11. In conclusion, while supporting the objectives such a conference would promote, the United States believes there are adequate opportunities to promote discussion of this subject in the near future and that another such meeting would be an unnecessary duplication of work.

YUGOSLAVIA

13 July 1978

Original: English

1. The world has noted, more recently, with grave concern that the present conventional sources of energy are rapidly drying up and that it has therefore become indispensable to develop new sources of energy. A large number of developed countries, as well as a certain number of developing ones, have practically used up their present sources of energy and have been compelled to proceed to the use of new ones. The only new and explored source already widely used, is nuclear energy. The other sources of energy are still in the phase of research.
2. Consequently, under the conditions of the energy crisis and the paucity of conventional sources of energy, nuclear energy has become an essential factor in the further development of energy. Without the use of nuclear energy, economic and social development as a whole is unthinkable. The nuclear Powers and other developed countries have already developed, or are rapidly developing, their nuclear potentials. They have gained, in this way, a great economic advantage over all the other countries and, in particular over the developing countries. With regard to the question of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the developing countries depend, to a great extent, on the developed countries, especially on the leading nuclear Powers.
3. At the same time, the developed countries, which are the main producers and exporters of nuclear technology and fuels, have actually manifested a tendency towards institutionalizing their privileged position in the field of nuclear energy, through the establishment of narrower groupings such as, for instance, the London Club. Such a policy is unavoidably meeting with the resistance of countries which see in the use of nuclear energy a way of resolving their energy problems. This is particularly the case of developing countries.
4. Such approaches amount to a serious attempt to restrict the right to the independent development of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, to the free use of one's own resources and to association and co-operation with other countries in this area, etc. All this can, and actually does, have a negative impact on international relations in general.
5. Such a policy is very often justified by the alleged necessity to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Yugoslavia, as well as many other countries, has been constantly drawing attention to the crucial importance of this question and to the imperative need to resolve it. However, it is generally agreed that what is involved is not a technological problem, but a political one. Therefore, this problem can be solved effectively and on a lasting basis by political means only.
6. The Government of Yugoslavia sees a solution to this problem in the agreement of all countries, on the basis of equality, not to disseminate and develop nuclear weapons and in renunciation of the nuclear weapon States to accumulate atomic

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weapons. No policy against proliferation should have the effect of restricting the transfer of nuclear technology and thus deepening relations of inequality in the field of nuclear energy. Such a policy would inevitably produce effects contrary to the proclaimed objectives of the international community.

7. Any restriction of the transfer of nuclear techniques and technology would widen the gap between the developed and the developing countries still further; it would hamper the normal development of contemporary production forces and utilization of the achievements of science by the broad international community, on the basis of the equal rights of all States, and would, furthermore, infringe their right to comprehensive development of natural resources.

8. On the other hand, the countries which have signed the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and accepted the control of the International Atomic Energy Agency cannot but note with regret that no important results have been achieved with regard to the implementation of this Treaty. Under the said Treaty, the nuclear Powers are committed to take effective measures to halt the arms race, as well as in the field of nuclear armaments in general. At the same time, they assumed concrete obligations with respect to the transfer of nuclear technology, particularly to developing countries.

9. The Government of Yugoslavia considers this to be a very complex problem comprising many military, economic, political, legal, ecological, moral and other aspects. Precisely for this reason, nuclear problems should be considered with due attention. There should be a constant search for new solutions, with the participation of the entire international community. Therefore, imposing, by individual countries or by groups of countries, any additional measures, primarily measures hampering the independent development of nuclear energy and its application in development plans, is wholly unacceptable.

10. The Government of Yugoslavia views this problem from the aspect of economic development as well. Free and non-discriminatory transfer of nuclear technology is of tremendous and decisive importance for the development of production forces in the world in general and in each individual country in particular. It is especially of crucial importance for bridging the gap between the developed and the developing countries and for establishing the new international economic order.

11. Proceeding from this, Yugoslavia has been endeavouring, independently and together with other non-aligned countries, to ensure wide acceptance of the need for free access to nuclear technology, accompanied by a constant study of requirements and of the possibility of adoption by the international community of even more effective measures against the proliferation of nuclear weapons. These countries are opposed to any one-sided imposing of new restrictions and additional conditions for the transfer of nuclear technology, as this could jeopardize their programmes in this field. As the development of forces of production can be hardly envisaged today without the use of nuclear technology, the developing countries - in order to ensure their independent development - are compelled, owing to restricted access to nuclear technology, to speed up the development of their own potentialities, although such a development has the effect, at the present moment, of straining their already limited material resources.

12. In view of the importance attached to this problem by the developing and non-aligned countries, these countries have devoted particular attention to this problem at the Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries at Colombo, at the Ministerial Meeting of Non-Aligned Countries at New Delhi and at the recently-held meeting of the Co-ordinating Bureau of Non-Aligned Countries at Havana, particularly from the aspect of the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Stress was laid on the importance of the use of nuclear energy for the economic development of developing countries and on the need for greater international co-operation in this area with a view to securing the application of nuclear energy for meeting developmental needs in developing countries. The obligation of developed countries to offer technical and other forms of assistance in this field to developing countries was emphasized and the hope was expressed that the developed countries would show greater appreciation and understanding of the energy requirements of developing countries. At the same time, the developing countries are exerting efforts with a view to gaining access to the achievements of technology and science, which would accelerate the process of their independent economic development and expand their mutual economic co-operation.

13. Yugoslavia will maintain the same position at the forthcoming Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Non-Aligned Countries in Belgrade. The non-aligned and developing countries also welcome the decision of the United Nations to convene the Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries in Buenos Aires. They expect that this Conference will contribute towards technical co-operation among developing countries being accepted as an important factor in the field of technical co-operation. The developing countries expect that the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology in Vienna will also produce significant results.

14. The question of the peaceful use of nuclear energy has been examined by several international scientific gatherings recently (Persepolis and Salzburg, while the study of INFCE is under way). The results of these gatherings have also confirmed the importance of this question and of the solution to the problem of use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. A conference aimed at promoting international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, proposed at last year's session of the General Assembly, could make use of these results.

15. The activity and role of the International Atomic Energy Agency should be reviewed within the framework of such a conference. The Government of Yugoslavia believes that the Agency could play an important role, in the first place, by promoting the development and transfer of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes to all countries and, in particular, to developing countries which do not have such technology and energy at their disposal.

16. In this connexion the International Atomic Energy Agency should resist all tendencies contrary to its objectives and Statute. It is also expected to contribute towards lessening the danger of proliferation of nuclear weapons by initiating adequate measures against any possible abuse. The Agency should adapt itself to the new complex situation. The developing countries should obtain in the Agency the place and role that belongs to them. This would create pre-conditions for a genuine democratization of relations within its framework. In implementing

their nuclear programmes, the developing countries expect the Agency to lend them assistance in qualitatively new forms. They count upon the Agency to resist the imposition of any measures liable to impede or to limit their activities in the field of nuclear science and technology and fully to support actions aimed at enabling these countries to become as independent as possible including, inter alia, the area of peaceful use of nuclear energy.

17. Yugoslavia feels that the last session of the General Assembly of the United Nations has proved that the problems of peaceful use of nuclear energy are of first-rate importance and that the accumulated problems make an urgent solution of these problems imperative. (The problem was dealt with in Assembly resolutions 32/6, 32/49, 32/50, 32/8 and 32/87.)

18. This was also confirmed by the adoption by consensus of resolution 32/50 inviting all States to consider convening, at an appropriate stage, an international conference or conferences, under the auspices of the United Nations system, aimed at promoting international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in accordance with the objectives of the aforesaid resolution.

19. The Government of Yugoslavia endorses the idea of convening, at an appropriate stage, an international conference on the level of governments and under the auspices of the United Nations system, with a view to promoting international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy for economic and social development. The conference would consider all aspects of the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and would deal with the following topics:

(a) Economic and political aspects of nuclear energy in the world (conditions and possibilities of co-operation in this field; global, regional and national projections of development; possibilities, terms and problems of financing; availability of and need for raw materials);

(b) Nuclear technology and possibility of transferring it (problem of transfer; industrial co-operation - possibilities and conditions; problems of association of countries for implementing programmes of nuclear technology; use of nuclear technology for the economic development of developing countries);

(c) Nuclear raw materials and their use (projection of nuclear raw materials in the world; assistance in connexion with prospecting for nuclear raw materials in developing countries; conditions for a free and secure transfer of nuclear fuels; possibility of association of countries for the purpose of securing fuel and fuel cycle);

(d) Problems of possible abuse of nuclear energy (over-all security in this area; national safety systems; collective safety systems; international obligations of users of nuclear energy);

(e) Legal aspects in the development of nuclear technology and use of nuclear energy (legal regulations concerning the safety of nuclear installations; national and international systems of legal regulations and safeguards);

(f) Problems of the human environment in connexion with the transfer of nuclear technology;

(g) Scientific and technical co-operation (possibilities and conditions of joint research, exchange of information, training of personnel);

(h) Role of international organizations (IAEA - transfer of technology and safeguards; UNIDO - technical assistance; UNEP - problems of human environment; as well as activity of other international agencies in this area);

(i) Contributions by international gatherings to the development of nuclear technology (Persepolis, Salzburg, INFCE, United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries in Buenos Aires, United Nations Conference on Science and Technology in Vienna).

20. Finally, the Government of Yugoslavia wishes to stress that the United Nations and its specialized agencies, and the IAEA in particular, are expected to contribute for their part to the convening and to the success of the aforementioned international conference.
