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**President:** Mr. Stanisław TREPCZYŃSKI (Poland).

*In the absence of the President, Mr. Nkundabagenzi (Rwanda), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

**AGENDA ITEM 15**

**Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency  
(concluded)**

1. Mr. ROSHCHIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (*translation from Russian*): In connexion with our consideration of the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]<sup>1</sup> covering its activities for the period 1971/1972,<sup>1</sup> the Soviet delegation would like to make the following comments.

2. The work of the IAEA at the present time, when atomic energy is coming to be used on a significant scale, is becoming more and more closely related to the problems of international security, the limitation of the arms race and disarmament. The easing of international tension and the strengthening of world peace are creating better conditions for the expansion of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of the atom. Realizing the significance of an improvement in the international situation for the comprehensive development of international co-operation in various spheres, including the sphere of activity of the IAEA, the Soviet Union is making considerable efforts to strengthen peace and security. We have drawn attention to the tremendous significance in this connexion of the strategic arms limitation agreements concluded between the Soviet Union and the United States. A positive factor in this regard is the initiative taken by the Soviet Union in concluding a number of other agreements relating to the limitation of the arms race. At the present session of the General Assembly, the Soviet Union has put forward a proposal concerning the non-use of force in international relations and the permanent prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons [A/L.676]. The achievement of this goal would also considerably expand the opportunities for international co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

<sup>1</sup> International Atomic Energy Agency, *Annual Report, 1 July 1971-30 June 1972* (Vienna, July 1972); transmitted to the members of the General Assembly by a note of the Secretary-General (A/8774).

3. In this connexion the Soviet delegation is pleased to note the growing desire of the States of the world to co-operate in solving controversial international problems by peaceful means and thereby create favourable conditions for the further strengthening of world peace and international security. Such a turn of events will unquestionably promote further fruitful work by the IAEA, whose mission is to utilize the achievements of atomic science and technology to maintain peace, health and well-being throughout the world.

4. In the past year the international authority of the IAEA and its role as an organizer of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy have been enhanced. The volume of activities carried out by the Agency for these purposes has increased. In recent years also the number of States participating in its work has expanded, primarily through the admission of new developing States to membership in the Agency. We note with satisfaction that at the recently held sixteenth session of the General Conference of IAEA in Mexico City, the People's Republic of Bangladesh was admitted to membership.

5. The growth of the international authority of IAEA is undoubtedly due to the tremendous amount of important work which the Agency is carrying out in exercising supervisory functions under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons [*resolution 2373 (XXII), annex*].

6. The Soviet Union attaches great importance to that Treaty, the conclusion of which marks an important step towards the creation of favourable conditions for the solution of other disarmament problems. The Treaty also makes it possible for the non-nuclear States which are Parties to it to reap the benefits of the peaceful uses of atomic energy. As is well known, the Treaty has received broad international recognition. At present some 100 States throughout the world have signed the Treaty and 71 have ratified it. This is an indication of the vitality and importance of this major international agreement.

7. The Soviet delegation has more than once had occasion to note that the conclusion of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the consequent exercise of supervisory functions by IAEA have enhanced the international responsibility of the Agency. At present more than 30 non-nuclear States have completed negotiations with IAEA and nearly as many again are engaged in active negotiations with the Agency concerning the conclusion of safeguards agreements. It should be noted that a good example has been set by the socialist countries parties to the non-proliferation Treaty, which have already concluded their negotiations with the Agency in full conform-

ity with the model text and have concluded safeguards agreements. These agreements have been approved by the Board of Governors.

8. It is also gratifying to note that, in September 1972, the Board of Governors approved safeguards agreements with five non-nuclear States which are members of the European Atomic Energy Community [EURATOM]: the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg. The conclusion of this kind of agreement and the speedy ratification by these States of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons will be seen as an encouraging step in the right direction. It is important that those countries which have not yet acceded to the Treaty should do so.

9. The Agency could pursue the task entrusted to it much more successfully if the principle of universality, which is one of the most important principles underlying the activities of any international organization, was consistently observed. In this connexion, we cannot fail to bring up the matter of the participation of the German Democratic Republic in the work of IAEA. This sovereign State, as is well known, is a highly industrialized country which is actively involved in work on the peaceful uses of atomic energy. The German Democratic Republic was one of the first countries to conclude a safeguards agreement in connexion with the non-proliferation Treaty, and it is playing an active part in the effective implementation of the Treaty. A decision on the question of the admission of the German Democratic Republic to membership in IAEA is overdue and requires positive action.

10. At the sixteenth session of the General Conference of IAEA, the Soviet delegation expressed itself in favour of approving the programme of the Agency for 1973-1978 prepared by the IAEA secretariat. Under this programme, which is designed to cover the next six-year period, work will be carried out on the most important and urgent scientific and technical developments in the field of the peaceful uses of atomic energy, which are of interest to all countries, both developed and developing. The programme as a whole is quite well balanced and meets the interests of the States members of IAEA. It should be pointed out, in particular, that the programme encompasses problems of exceptional current interest, namely, the preservation of the environment; the development of nuclear energy, including questions relating to the technology of nuclear reactors and atomic power plants; studies of the feasibility of setting up thermonuclear reactors; the perfection of technical safeguards methods; and so on.

11. The programme provides for the further expansion and improvement of work relating to the International Nuclear Information System. This information system has been functioning successfully for several years. Practice has shown that the principles employed in setting it up were correct. The system contributes to the development of international co-operation in the exchange of scientific information.

12. It is essential for the Agency to participate more actively in solving problems relating to the protection of man and the environment from the harmful effects of nuclear radiation and the various kinds of releases and

wastes from nuclear facilities. Much attention is being given to this problem in the Soviet Union. Recently, at a session of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, a special resolution was adopted concerning measures for further improvements in the protection of nature and for the rational exploitation of natural resources. The Soviet delegation believes that international co-operation is of great importance for the solution of many environmental problems. In this connexion, we take the view that IAEA should be the body responsible for such international co-operation on matters relating to the protection of the environment from radioactive contamination.

13. Furthermore, it is particularly desirable to expand co-operation between IAEA and other bodies in the United Nations system which can make a useful contribution towards the solution of this problem. One such body is the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation. That Committee, which evaluates possible radio-active contamination of the environment, including contamination resulting from the peaceful uses of atomic energy, should in its work make use of the vast experience accumulated by IAEA in this field.

14. In recent years rapid progress has been made in many countries in the uses of atomic energy. The atomic power industry is making great strides in the Soviet Union, too. This year the fourth block of the Novovoronezh atomic power plant became operational with a capacity of 440,000 kilowatt hours, and the total capacity of the plant is now 1.5 million kilowatts. In a few years the Leningrad atomic power plant will become operational with two channel-type reactors and a total generating capacity of 2 million kilowatts. A number of other atomic power plants are being built, including the Kola, Kursk, Smolensk and other plants. Construction is in progress on the world's first dual-purpose atomic installation for the generation of electricity and the desalination of sea water, in the town of Shevchenko in the Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic.

15. Peaceful applications of atomic science and technology have been widely developed in a number of Union Republics, of which there are in the Soviet Union, as everyone knows, 15. In the Republics there is a broad industrial base for the production of atomic equipment, instruments and plant.

16. Major atomic science centres have been established in virtually all the Republics. These centres are equipped with modern nuclear installations: research reactors, accelerators, powerful radio-isotope irradiators and modern nuclear physics equipment. Scientific personnel and training institutes have proliferated in the Republics.

17. Steps are also being taken to develop co-operation and bring about further integration in the activities of the socialist countries in the field of science and technology. The USSR provides technical assistance in setting up atomic power plants in the socialist countries which are members of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance. The Soviet Union also provides assistance to a number of developing countries both bilaterally and through international organizations, including IAEA. Regular Soviet contributions are made to the Agency's technical assistance programme.

18. The voluntary contribution of the Soviet Union for 1972 will consist in supplying equipment, instruments and materials for developing countries which are members of the Agency and also in organizing scientific information tours of the Soviet Union for representatives of various countries members of the Agency. In 1972 two such tours were organized in which more than 60 scientists and specialists from the developing countries took part.

19. At the sixteenth session of the General Conference of IAEA in Mexico City the USSR delegation stated that the Soviet Government had decided to increase the voluntary contribution of the Soviet Union to the IAEA technical assistance fund to the sum of 350,000 roubles in national currency. That money can be utilized for assistance to the developing countries under the IAEA programme, including also such measures as the holding of conferences, study tours, seminars and courses organized by the Agency in the Soviet Union.

20. In conclusion, the Soviet delegation wishes to state that it endorses the report submitted by IAEA. The work of the Agency, as we have already observed, is of great scientific and practical importance and is related to the problem of safeguarding international peace and security.

21. May I voice the hope that IAEA will continue to develop international co-operation in the field of the peaceful uses of atomic energy for the benefit of all mankind?

22. Mr. BUSH (United States of America): First I wish to commend the Director-General, Mr. Eklund, and his staff for the annual report of the IAEA which we have before us. It is clear that the scope and the significance of their work is expanding rapidly. We look to the future with confidence in the ability of the Agency to deal with the issues and the problems which it must face.

23. The IAEA safeguards programme has our continued strong support. The implementation under the non-proliferation Treaty of efficient, effective, and acceptable procedures for safeguarding nuclear material and preventing its diversion from peaceful uses is of the highest importance for world peace and stability. The Agency has now concluded safeguards agreements with 31 countries and with EURATOM. We urge those countries which have not done so to become parties to the non-proliferation Treaty and to initiate safeguards negotiations with the Agency at the earliest possible date.

24. The provision of technical assistance is also an important Agency programme. We believe the Agency's promotional activities play a key role in many member countries in the development and in the utilization of atomic energy for peaceful purposes, and these activities continue to have our full and our enthusiastic support. As part of this programme I was pleased to hear Director-General Eklund's reference in his statement [2076th meeting] to the Agency's role in encouraging developing countries to find and develop new uranium resources. The location and exploitation of adequate energy resources is a concern which faces us and future generations, and the Agency is to be commended for its activities in this area.

25. We fully endorse the emphasis which the IAEA is placing on research in the related fields of environmental protection and waste management. To meet the growing needs for the production of electric power, nuclear energy must play an increasingly important role throughout the world. The environmental aspects of the use of nuclear power require careful and forthright attention, both nationally and internationally. Effective means of solving problems, real and potential, must be developed if the world is to realize the benefits of the use of nuclear energy. Within the United Nations family, the IAEA is particularly competent to address itself to questions relating to the impact of nuclear energy on the environment.

26. Director-General Eklund has outlined an expanded and strengthened environmental programme for the IAEA. In the carrying out of this programme, we look forward to close co-operation between the Agency and other United Nations agencies and organizations. In particular, co-operation and co-ordination with the new environmental organization will be necessary.

27. An important area to which the Agency is now addressing itself is the management of high-level radioactive wastes. Radio-active waste must be isolated from the environment, but the volume of waste and the potential for environmental damage is certain to grow as the use of nuclear energy expands. The Agency now has the opportunity to define the scope of the international waste-management task, and to develop proposals for co-operation in the handling and storing of these radio-active wastes.

28. The work of the IAEA in the implementation of the non-proliferation Treaty, in the environment, and in the promotion of the peaceful uses of atomic energy is an important contribution to the progress of mankind. The IAEA deserves the whole-hearted support of the General Assembly and its member States.

29. Mr. FIEDLER (Austria): The report of the IAEA covering its activities during the period from 1 July 1971 to 30 June 1972, which was introduced this morning by the Director-General of the Agency, Mr. Sigvard Eklund, in a most clear and concise manner, is a comprehensive and thorough assessment of the Agency's activities over the past year and a welcome indication of the vigorous role which the Agency continues to play in extending the benefits of the peaceful use of atomic energy to mankind.

30. The debate also gives us an opportunity to express to the organization, its Board of Governors and its Director-General, Mr. Eklund, our sincere appreciation for the manner in which the Agency has discharged its important task. The Austrian Government continues strongly to support the evolution of the Agency's programmes as they have been adopted to meet the changing requirements of member States.

31. I shall confine my remarks on the report to general observations on three main issues: questions relating to the implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; the recommendations of the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States, held at Geneva from 21

August to 29 September 1968;<sup>2</sup> and the effects of nuclear energy on the environment.

32. It is appropriate that the Agency in its report has given great prominence to the problems connected with the implementation of the non-proliferation Treaty. We are pleased to note that of the 74 States which had ratified the Treaty by July 1972, 30 have already fulfilled their obligations under article III, while negotiations with other States are in progress at the moment. In the same context Austria particularly welcomes the agreement concluded between the Agency, EURATOM and the five member States of EURATOM signatories to the non-proliferation Treaty; this agreement will put the IAEA in a position henceforth to verify safeguards in the territories of those States. We hope that this remarkable progress towards the implementation of the non-proliferation Treaty on a universal scale will give new momentum to countries which for one reason or another have not ratified this Treaty, or have not yet entered into negotiations with the Agency on its implementation, to reconsider their position and eventually to join in fully accepting the provisions of the Treaty. It is a well-known fact that from the very beginning Austria has considered the non-proliferation Treaty as an important instrument on the road to disarmament and greater international security and—once implemented—as a substantial contribution to the easing of international tension and to eventual détente. For that reason Austria was among the first States to sign and ratify the non-proliferation Treaty and to conclude a safeguards agreement with the Agency.

33. In stating the unique significance of the universal implementation of article III of the non-proliferation Treaty for the future of humanity we should, however, not hesitate to examine whether the assurance of the free exchange of technical information with due consideration for the needs of the developing countries, as provided for in article IV, paragraph 2, of the non-proliferation Treaty, has been reflected in the Agency's work during the last 12 months. While there have been efforts by the leading member States in the field of nuclear science and technology to supply valuable information to smaller countries, the report before us shows the Agency's increasing difficulties in meeting the demands for technical assistance. We are of the opinion that, in order to fulfil the expectations raised in article IV of the non-proliferation Treaty, a substantial increase in funds will be necessary in the future. Austria will continue to support the Agency's programme of technical assistance and will therefore contribute to the general fund in accordance with its base rate of assessment, subject to parliamentary approval.

34. I turn now to some aspects of the recommendations of the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States. It is gratifying to note that further progress has been made with respect to the International Nuclear Information System which is emerging from the experimental to the fully operational stage. This is a most welcome fact and will lead to a co-operative world-wide system for collecting and processing new information on nuclear science and tech-

nology for the benefit of all Member States and participating international organizations.

35. As far as the enlargement of the Board of Governors is concerned, my delegation expresses the hope that the amendment to article VI of the Agency's statute, which will provide for more ample representation of the developing member States, will come into force at an early date. Austria is initiating the necessary parliamentary procedure to ratify this amendment in the near future.

36. My delegation has always taken an active interest in the Agency's work on problems in connexion with nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes and, together with other countries, introduced at the twenty-sixth session of the General Assembly a draft resolution requesting the Agency to "study ways and means of establishing, within its framework, an international service for nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes under appropriate international control" [*resolution 2829 (XXVI)*]. We are pleased to note that the Agency has made further progress also in this field and that panels on the technology relating to nuclear energy for peaceful purposes are continuously being organized.

37. Here I wish to add a few words on nuclear technology with particular reference to nuclear materials. My delegation welcomes the energetic programme of the Agency for prospecting for and developing new uranium resources, particularly in the developing countries, thus enabling them to benefit from the growth of nuclear power. Despite the present slack market we need to discover another million tons of uranium before 1980 to ensure a capacity to meet all the world's energy requirements in the 1980s. The Agency has, in our opinion, the legal and technical competence within the United Nations family to ensure that the prospecting is aggressively promoted.

38. Turning now to a field which will be of rapidly increasing significance for the Agency's work in the years to come—the effect of nuclear energy on the environment—I should like to make an observation of a general nature. It will undoubtedly be one of the Agency's most important and urgent tasks in the coming years considerably to extend its activities connected with the study of the behaviour, fate and consequences to the environment of radio-active releases for all kinds of peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to assume a leading role in close collaboration or consultation with other United Nations agencies and organs, including the organizational arrangement that will result from the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held at Stockholm in June. Not without good reason has the quality of life and its improvement become one of the most discussed issues in the last few years. Questions concerning the reduction of pollution, the protection of the human environment, and measures to avoid the inadequacies and oversights of the past have been of deep concern not only to Governments and experts but also, increasingly, to the public. In our opinion the Agency is the appropriate organ within the United Nations family to deal with all the problems I have mentioned.

39. In conclusion, let me say a few words with regard to the progress made since last year in the planning and construction of the Agency's permanent headquarters.

<sup>2</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Session*, agenda item 96, document A/7277 and Corr.1 and 2, para. 17.



These facts were already mentioned by my delegation at the sixteenth session of the General Conference of the Agency, as well as in the Fifth Committee of this Assembly a short time ago.<sup>3</sup> Nevertheless it seems to be particularly appropriate to repeat them here in connexion with the Agency's report, and before a broader forum.

40. On 21 October 1971 the Agency and the International Organizations Headquarters and Conference Centre Vienna Inc., established by the Austrian Federal Government and the city of Vienna, reached an agreement as to the Agency's needs for net space in the headquarters building, in the common institutions and in the autonomous conference area.

41. In December 1971 and February 1972 preliminary draft concepts for the headquarters building were presented to the Agency. Soon thereafter several meetings with the Agency on the subject, at the working and planning levels, took place. These discussions resulted in the completion in May 1972 of a draft that could be submitted to the competent Austrian authorities, as required by Austrian legislation on building and construction.

42. At the same time an adequate solution to the traffic problems has been found: the headquarters area is to be connected with an automobile expressway system, thus securing an efficient connexion with the Schwechat airport.

43. The number and kind of essential technical installations with which the headquarters building should be provided were also determined, to a large extent, by the end of May of this year.

44. So far as the construction of common services and of the conference rooms is concerned, discussions at the working and planning levels started at the beginning of June 1972 and led to the completion of the necessary draft on 3 August 1972. All the further planning will also be done in close co-operation with the Agency. Actual construction at the Donaupark site is scheduled to start at the beginning of 1973.

45. Concerning the construction of the safeguards laboratories and the transfer to Seibersdorf of the three laboratories at present located at the headquarters of the IAEA, negotiations between the Austrian authorities and the Agency are proceeding favourably.

46. In concluding I wish to express again on behalf of my delegation and the Austrian Government our gratitude and appreciation to the Agency and to its Director-General, Mr. Eklund, for his able leadership and his staff for the dedication and competence with which they have served our common goal in a field so vital for the further progress of mankind.

47. Mr. VEJVODA (Czechoslovakia): Permit me at the outset to express on behalf of the Czechoslovak delegation our satisfaction with the entire work done by the IAEA and with the positive trends which have become apparent in its work, particularly during recent years. The IAEA, thanks to

those positive trends, is gradually fulfilling its mission, which is to employ in the service of peace and the well-being of mankind the results attained in the research of nuclear physics and atomic energy.

48. At the sixteenth session of the General Conference of the IAEA, held recently in Mexico City, the Czechoslovak delegation assessed positively the activities of the IAEA during the preceding year, particularly with regard to the assumption of obligations resulting from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. On the other side of the Agency's balance-sheet, however, we have to state that the safeguards agreements have so far been concluded by less than 40 States. However we appreciate that of those countries which have already signed the Treaty many have achieved a high level in their research into and exploitation of atomic energy.

49. Our country concluded a safeguards agreement with the IAEA on 3 March this year and additional provisions entered into force in July this year. A number of measures have been taken since that time to implement the agreement.

50. I wish to state on behalf of the Czechoslovak delegation that the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic is fully prepared to co-operate further with the IAEA in the field of safeguards with respect to the exchange of experience in solving problems of a special nature, the participation of experts in the deliberations, and last but not least, the analysis of those samples of nuclear material which fall within the safeguards of the IAEA.

51. In the future also we shall promote the efforts made by the IAEA in the field of safeguards, and we note with satisfaction the fact that those efforts are being extended.

52. In this connexion I should like to join those preceding speakers in this debate who have pointed out that a safeguards agreement has also been signed between the Agency and the German Democratic Republic. It is well known that in the German Democratic Republic both research into and the peaceful exploitation of atomic energy are on a high level. It is evident that a country with so advanced and important a nuclear potential should have become a member of the IAEA a long time ago. We believe that this error of the past, caused by discrimination against the German Democratic Republic on the part of certain members of the IAEA, will be corrected as soon as possible and that the German Democratic Republic will rightfully become a member of that organization.

53. At the sixteenth session of the General Conference of the IAEA, the Czechoslovak delegation also assessed positively the programme of activities of the Agency for the period 1973-1978. We particularly appreciate the detailed elaboration of those parts of the text which relate to the questions of safeguards, the sphere of nuclear energetics, nuclear safety and especially radio-ecology, to which the Agency has recently devoted particular attention. We fully support the programme of activities aimed at developing an international nuclear information system in the sphere of nuclear physics and technology.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, Twenty-seventh Session, Fifth Committee, 1513th meeting, paras. 57 and 58.

54. It is evident from the report of the Director-General of the IAEA, Mr. Sigvard Eklund—whose activities my Government holds in very high esteem—that the Agency is carrying out a number of programmes and projects concerning assistance to developing countries and that at the same time it is also promoting international co-operation in the field of the peaceful exploitation of nuclear energy. The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic is taking an active part in this activity and, through significant successes attained in research into and the peaceful exploitation of nuclear energy, it is contributing to the implementation of the IAEA programme.

55. I should like to take this opportunity to mention that the Czechoslovak delegation proposed at the sixteenth session of the General Conference that one of the symposia of the Agency should be convened in 1973 in Czechoslovakia and that study trips to the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic should be organized for experts from developing countries. The Czechoslovak Government has offered to grant five long-term scholarships for study in Czechoslovak institutions of higher education, as well as four-year scholarships for post-graduates to study in the research institutes and establishments of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. The Czechoslovak Government has devoted particular attention to the possibilities of expanding technical assistance to developing countries that are members of the IAEA and has decided to increase by 30 per cent in 1973 its voluntary contribution to the Agency's technical assistance fund.

56. In conclusion, I should like to speak about a matter relating to the budget of the IAEA. We appreciate the efforts exerted by the Agency to fix its budget as rationally as possible. We evaluate positively the fact that the rate of increase in the budget for 1973 is lower than it was in 1972. Nevertheless, we have to consider whether this has been caused by a true enhancement of the effectiveness of the Agency's work. If the rate of growth of the budget were to be decreased at the cost of certain important programmes of the Agency we would have to object. The Agency has to enhance the effectiveness of its activities and to decrease the rate of its budgetary growth—but not at the cost of those programmes which create the very basis of its work.

57. In our opinion it would be very useful to hear more comments on this matter during our regular consideration of the activities of the IAEA at the sessions of the General Assembly. We have to do our utmost to prevent this yearly consideration becoming a mere formality. That would only harm the whole cause. The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, which has been a member of the Agency throughout its existence and which is trying continuously to develop its co-operation with this organization, is particularly interested in all the comments made on the activities of the IAEA, particularly in those voiced by developing countries, and is ready to take those comments into consideration in its future activities in this important international organization.

58. Mr. HENNINGSEN (Norway): I should like to thank the Director-General of the IAEA, Mr. Sigvard Eklund, for the detailed statement he made in introducing the Agency's annual report.

59. Norway attaches great importance to the activities of the IAEA since we are convinced of the increasingly important role that the Agency will be called upon to play in the promotion of international co-operation in the field of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

60. During the past year Norway has had the privilege of serving on the Board of Governors and we are grateful to have had that opportunity to take an active part in finding solutions to a number of important problems before the Board.

61. It is encouraging to see that the Agency's programmes are continuing to respond to the needs of the member States, and Mr. Eklund personally is to be commended for his success in managing the diverse and important programmes of the Agency on such a broad scale within the relatively modest resources available to him.

62. The main themes of the Agency's work during the period covered by the report have been, first, the negotiation of safeguards agreements with States in connexion with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; second, assistance to developing countries, particularly for the introduction of nuclear power and the use of nuclear techniques in agriculture; and third, the effect of nuclear energy on the environment.

63. Norway, which was among the first countries to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, has from the beginning supported the concept of an agreement to halt the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The entry into force of that agreement meant, of course, the practical implementation of all the provisions of the Treaty, including the establishment of a safeguards system under the IAEA as envisaged in article III of the Treaty. Thanks to the efficiency of the Safeguards Committee the Agency could quickly enter into negotiations with non-nuclear-weapon States.

64. The Norwegian Government entered into negotiations with the Agency at an early stage and has signed a safeguards agreement in accordance with the non-proliferation Treaty. The agreement went into force on 1 March 1972.

65. We also note with satisfaction that as of 30 June 1972 the Board of Governors of the Agency had approved agreements with 25 of the 68 non-nuclear-weapon States that had become parties to the non-proliferation Treaty by that date.

66. We listened with interest this morning to what Mr. Eklund had to say about the development of the peaceful applications of nuclear explosives, a process which contains within itself the seeds of great benefits to mankind. It is clear, however, that if these benefits are to be realized the greatest possible measure of international co-operation will be essential.

67. We are particularly impressed by the Agency's ever-increasing activities in the field of soil fertility, plant breeding, animal production and health, food preservation, insect eradication and pest control.

68. The question of nuclear power for developing countries is a subject which in future years must become more and more important in the work of the Agency. Nuclear energy will be of considerable importance to these countries in solving their energy problems, and the solution of these problems concerns us all.

69. The problem of the disposal of nuclear wastes, particularly in the marine environment, is one of increasing world concern today. There is an urgent need for internationally accepted standards for the disposal of radio-active waste, and an equal need for accepted limits on the amount of nuclear effluents in the sea and in the atmosphere. It is indeed encouraging to note that the Board has decided that one of the Agency's most important and urgent tasks, in which it should take the leading role in close collaboration with the other international organizations concerned, is the elaboration of recommended standards of safety concerning the dispersion into the environment of radio-active waste resulting from the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

70. In conclusion, I want to express again the Norwegian Government's gratitude and appreciation to the IAEA and its Director General, Mr. Eklund, who has contributed so much to further progress in this vast project.

71. Mr. VON HIRSCHBERG (South Africa): We are glad once again to welcome Mr. Eklund in our midst. We have listened with interest to his statement this morning. That statement was informative and instructive and, taken together with his report to the General Assembly, constitutes a valuable contribution to our knowledge and understanding of the role which the IAEA is playing in making the benefits of the peaceful uses of atomic energy available to all nations of the world.

72. In perusing the Agency's report, we note that the main themes of the Agency's work in the period covered by the report were the negotiation of safeguards agreements, assistance to developing countries and the effect of nuclear energy on the environment.

73. With regard to safeguards, may we use this opportunity to congratulate the Agency and EURATOM on the successful outcome of their negotiations, which led to the conclusion of a safeguards agreement under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Apart from that development, we have noted with interest the further developments relating to the wider application of the Agency's safeguards system and its more effective implementation which have taken place in the past year. These developments will automatically facilitate that exchange of nuclear materials, equipment and information among all nations of the world which is essential for the evolution of the nuclear energy programmes of the developing countries.

74. Although the IAEA exists to promote the benefits of the peaceful uses of atomic energy throughout the world, it is primarily the developing countries which, in their struggle for economic and social advancement, have the greatest claim on modern nuclear technologies. It is with some regret, therefore, that we note that the technical assistance programme—in the eyes of many member States the most important component of the Agency's overall programme—continues to be balked by inadequate financial

support. Many technically deserving requests cannot be met for lack of funds. Yet the importance of the Agency's technical assistance programme is today as great as ever. The problem of the world population explosion is at this time reaching emergency proportions. Experts have warned us of the implications of this situation and of the untold miseries which will accompany it. We are in agreement with those scientists who believe that in nuclear energy we have the key to the solution of many of the problems inherent in this situation. However, without adequate funds and other resources, the Agency is powerless to play its rightful role in assisting the world to meet the challenges posed by this problem. We would therefore once again appeal to all member States which are in a financial position to do so to support the Agency's technical assistance programme by contributing to the general fund at least on the basis of their assessed percentages. We would also hope that an increasing number of member States might consider providing assistance on a bilateral basis in respect of projects which the technical assistance programme is unable to finance. My country, for its part, will continue to make voluntary contributions to the general fund on the basis of its percentage contribution to the regular budget and will also assist in other ways to the best of its ability.

75. While on the subject of finance, we note with some concern that for the first time in the history of the Agency, as Mr. Eklund told us this morning, a small programme decrease has become necessary in order to keep regular budget increases within acceptable limits. This is a far from satisfactory situation and, as Mr. Eklund has pointed out, it is a trend which must be reversed if the Agency is to maintain a dynamic programme in keeping with the needs of member States. For the most part, this state of affairs has been brought about by the ravages of inflation and by currency fluctuations which bedevil even the most conscientious budgetary planning. The Director-General and the Agency can take considerable pride in the fact that savings and economies have nevertheless been affected. We see, for instance, that no provisional staff increases have been proposed for 1973—indeed, there is a reduction in the over-all number of posts—and that a conscientious effort is being made to phase out or conclude projects which have served their purpose and to allocate priorities corresponding to the needs of the day. Nevertheless, here we see another example of the impact on the Agency's operational activities of financial and budgetary factors.

76. The year under review has been essentially a period of consolidation in preparation for the many new and challenging tasks which lie ahead. One such task concerns environmental pollution. The rapid development of nuclear power has resulted in increasing international concern regarding nuclear safety and environmental protection. This is a field of growing activity for the IAEA and we welcome the emphasis which the Agency's programme places on the problem of environmental pollution in the context of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy generally and the disposal of radio-active waste in particular. As the Director-General has himself pointed out, the Agency's interest in this field is pre-eminent. It is therefore logical that the Agency should be charged with the task of dealing with problems that may arise in this respect and with the responsibility of co-ordinating international efforts directed to these problems.

77. So the picture we have of the IAEA today is that of an organization prudently and realistically administered and keen to meet the real needs of the international community but to some extent lacking in the resources necessary for it to achieve much of its potential for good. In view of its capacity to make a significant contribution to a solution of many of the world's pressing problems, it should be the concerted aim of all nations to give it the support it deserves.

78. Mr. CHAKRAVARTY (India): We have before us the annual report of the IAEA for the period 1 July 1971 to 30 June 1972. That report was considered at the sixteenth session of the General Conference of the Agency, which was held in Mexico City on 26 September 1972, and has now been forwarded to this General Assembly for consideration. My delegation would like to make some observations regarding this annual report.

79. At the outset I should like to congratulate the IAEA and particularly its distinguished Director-General, Mr. Sigvard Eklund, for bringing out an interesting report. The introduction to the report highlights the main activities of the Agency during the last year. It is clear from what has been stated in the introduction that, under the able leadership of Mr. Eklund, the Agency has made substantial progress in fulfilling a number of its objectives as envisaged in its statute.

80. The Fourth International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy was held at Geneva in September 1971 and that indeed was a significant event as it indicated the extent to which nuclear power has become an ordinary commercial enterprise since the Third International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy was held in 1964. The fact that about 4,000 participants were attracted to the Fourth Conference was an indication of the interest taken in nuclear energy and its peaceful uses by many countries. My delegation notes with appreciation that one of the goals of the Conference was to inform planners, economists and government officials of the role of atomic energy and the applications of isotopes in medicine, technology, food production and other spheres. The emphasis was rightly placed on the practical problems of integrating nuclear power in national plans and economies.

81. My delegation is happy to note that the IAEA has been assuming increasing responsibilities in the discharge of its functions. The Agency has appropriately taken considerable interest in the question of the effects of nuclear energy on the environment. We also note that there has been noteworthy progress in the negotiation and implementation of safeguards agreements, whether they are project agreements, transfer agreements or agreements under the non-proliferation Treaty.

82. My delegation is, however, concerned to note that the gap between the requests received by the Agency for technical assistance and the programmes approved has been widening every year. The percentage of requests for technical assistance that could be met dropped considerably between 1971 and 1972, in spite of the increase in the resources of the Agency. The increase in the real value of the resources available is in fact substantially less than the monetary increase, as pointed out in paragraph 8 of the

report, because of inflation and changing exchange rates. We have expressed concern time and again that the already inadequate funds available to the Agency for the technical assistance programme might be further depleted as a result of the Agency's having to assume additional responsibilities in the field of safeguards as a result of the non-proliferation Treaty.

83. The target of voluntary contributions to finance the technical assistance programme for 1973 remains at only \$3 million. India contributed \$42,500 in 1972 against its percentage assessment of \$42,300. In keeping with our policy of supporting the technical assistance programme, we have decided to make a contribution of \$45,000 in 1973, as against our percentage assessment of \$44,700. India has continued to make available five training fellowships to nominees of the Agency. We have also agreed to make available the services of an expert in connexion with the market survey for nuclear power in certain selected developing countries now being undertaken by the Agency in collaboration with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development [IBRD].

84. The untimely death of Vikram A. Sarabhai on 30 December 1971 was a great loss for my country in the field of its nuclear development. Mr. Sarabhai's contribution to the development of nuclear energy and its peaceful uses in various fields in India will long be remembered in my country. In spite of this loss, India has continued to develop the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and fundamental research. It may not be out of place to mention that on 11 August 1972 our second nuclear power plant at the Rajasthan atomic power station became critical. The collaboration between the Atomic Energy of Canada Limited and the Canadian industry, on the one hand, and the Indian Atomic Energy Commission and the Indian industry on the other, is a noteworthy example of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy. The power reactors at Madras Atomic Power Projects have reached an advanced stage of construction, and the construction of the fourth atomic power station at Narora near Delhi was recently announced.

85. My delegation is happy to note that the IAEA programme on food and agriculture will be given priority in order to increase the yields of important plant crops, to close the "protein gap" and to prevent waste of food. All the developing countries have great interest in these three programmes, and my delegation looks forward to the achievements of the IAEA in those fields with very keen interest.

86. Water resources development is of vital interest to the developing countries. My delegation is, therefore, glad to note from paragraphs 59, 60 and 61 of the report that technical assistance programmes in isotope hydrology were carried out in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Greece, India, Mexico, Poland, Turkey, Uruguay and Yugoslavia. I hope it will be possible to extend programmes in isotope hydrology to other developing countries also.

87. The report, in paragraph 75, indicates that there was a sharp increase in orders for nuclear power plants in 1971. The 52 power reactors ordered represented about half of all orders for electrical power station capacity. Previous



forecasts that the share of nuclear power in the total electric production would rise from 2 per cent in 1970 to about 50 per cent by the year 2000 still seem valid. The developing nations cannot, therefore, afford to ignore these forecasts. They would do well to take note of them in drawing up their national plans for meeting their long-term energy requirements in future.

88. Before I conclude I should like to state that the IAEA has been doing excellent work in various fields relating to the peaceful uses of atomic energy and in making information and assistance regarding peaceful uses of nuclear energy available to the member States. Indeed, under its statute, the Agency is charged with the major responsibility for promoting the spread of knowledge about nuclear energy and its application to peaceful uses by providing information and assistance to all member States on a non-discriminatory basis. It is a matter of some concern to my delegation that the development of a new framework for the implementation of safeguards relating to the non-proliferation Treaty has been accompanied by a steady erosion of the Agency's activities in promoting the peaceful uses of atomic energy, particularly in meeting requests for technical assistance and fellowships. My delegation hopes that the IAEA will give urgent thought to this disturbing trend and take remedial action as soon as possible. The IAEA will, I hope, continue to promote actively the peaceful uses of atomic energy for the benefit of all mankind.

89. Mr. CALERO-RODRIGUEZ (Brazil): Let me begin by thanking the Director-General of the IAEA, Mr. Sigvard Eklund, for his very informative and useful statement this morning concerning the activities of the Agency since the twenty-sixth session of the General Assembly. The Director-General and his associates deserve our appreciation for the efforts which the IAEA has made to make available the benefits of nuclear energy to the developing countries; in particular, they deserve our appreciation for their endeavours to increase the flow of financial resources to the Agency's technical assistance programmes.

90. Only recently the Agency held the sixteenth regular session of its General Conference in Mexico City. At that session, delegations had the opportunity of reviewing the work of the Agency and of assessing its most pressing problems.

91. From the debates at the General Conference, it was quite apparent that two of the main functions of the Agency, namely development and control, are increasingly competing for scarce budgetary resources. This matter gives rise to some concern on our part regarding the future of the Agency itself. It is undeniable that some States seem to attribute far more importance to safeguards than to technical assistance and that, in so doing, they are maximizing the role of the Agency in the field of security agreements to the detriment of its crucial function of spreading the benefits of nuclear energy to the developing countries.

92. For the developing countries the technical assistance programmes have paramount importance. Nevertheless, in the successive regular budgets of the Agency the share of such programmes has been consistently below 20 per cent.

In addition, it should be stressed that, once the effects of inflation are accounted for, voluntary contributions to the Agency's budget are now—that is to say, only one year after the Agency initiated its activities in this field—at approximately the same level they had reached in 1959. Thus it is fairly safe to state that the highly industrialized countries, in particular the major nuclear-weapon States, have not given as much evidence as would be desirable of their announced intention to place at the disposal of all States of the world, through the IAEA, the benefits resulting from the peaceful use of nuclear energy. The net result of this attitude is that, because of the lack of funds, the Agency will not be in a position to meet a large share of the requests for experts and equipment in the coming year.

93. That disquieting situation is allowed to exist despite the fact that, in accordance with the statute, the first and perhaps the foremost function of the Agency is precisely the dissemination of the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy.

94. One bright spot in a related field is, however, the new emphasis given by the United Nations Development Programme [UNDP] to technical co-operation in the nuclear field. With resources provided in part by the UNDP, Brazil is currently engaged in a large-scale five-year project for the development of agriculture through the application of nuclear energy. The Agency has been appointed the executive body for this project.

95. I also wish to refer with appreciation to paragraph 10 of the Agency's annual report, which states that its secretariat has begun an intensive survey of the market for nuclear power in selected developing countries. We believe that such a survey will be extremely useful since it will provide basic data that will help the developing countries to plan their programmes, the nuclear manufacturing industry to gauge and adapt itself to the market, and financial institutions to estimate investment needs.

96. My delegation has no substantial objections to the revised form of the draft resolution introduced on this item [A/L.681/Rev.1]. Yet we would be happier if the draft were to reflect the concern of the developing countries as regards the scarcity of resources available for technical assistance purposes. We fear that operative paragraph 2 might paint too rosy a picture, one which does not correspond to the situation in this field as we understand it.

97. Mr. Eklund told us today that additional resources have been made available lately for technical assistance. But how can we be optimistic when he reminded us that for the first time in the Agency's history a new budget has been approved which represents an over-all programme decrease, although a small one? I shall not press that point, but I leave it to be considered by the delegations which are the sponsors of draft resolution A/L.681/Rev.1.

98. Mr. CHEN CHU (China) (*translation from Chinese*): The Chinese delegation deems it necessary to make the following statement in connexion with the report of the IAEA and the related draft resolution which will be put to the vote.

99. First, on 25 October 1971 the United Nations General Assembly adopted at its twenty-sixth session resolution 2758 (XXVI), restoring all the rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations and expelling forthwith the representatives of Chiang Kai-shek from the place they unlawfully occupied at the United Nations and in all the organizations related to it. The United Nations Secretary-General also informed the Chinese Mission on 31 May 1972 that instructions were being issued to the United Nations Secretariat and all the related organizations to the effect that, when it was necessary to mention the Chiang Kai-shek clique and its unlawful representatives in the preparation of reports and documentation, a footnote should be added referring to General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI).

100. The Chinese delegation has noted the clarification made by the Director-General of the IAEA in his statement today concerning the word "China" used in several places of the report of the IAEA. However, such a presentation is still unclear. We say that the Secretary-General's instruction on this question must be implemented in the documents prepared by the United Nations and all its related organizations in the future.

101. Second, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), the IAEA decided on 9 December 1971 to expel the representatives of the Chiang Kai-shek clique. The Chinese delegation has noted that the report states, in paragraph 139, that the IAEA had already discontinued or was winding up all technical co-operation and research support activities with the Chiang Kai-shek clique in the course of 1972. The Chinese delegation maintains that the IAEA must implement General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) and the relevant decision it made on 9 December 1971 and must immediately wind up all its contacts with the Chiang Kai-shek clique in the course of 1972.

102. Third, the report of the IAEA refers to the question of the so-called "Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons". In this connexion the Chinese delegation reiterated that the so-called "Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons" is a big fraud concocted jointly by the United States and the Soviet Union for the purpose of maintaining their nuclear monopoly, nuclear hegemony and nuclear blackmail. The Chinese Government and people firmly oppose that Treaty. For this reason the Chinese delegation expresses its firm opposition to the draft resolution related to this subject; still less can it participate in the voting on this draft.

103. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): The observations just made by the representative of China will of course appear in the verbatim record of this meeting and will be drawn to the attention of the IAEA.

104. Mr. ZAHRAN (Egypt): On behalf of my delegation I should like to express our appreciation for the annual report of the IAEA. I wish also to pay a tribute to the Director-General of the IAEA, Mr. Sigvard Eklund, for the comprehensive statement he delivered this morning before this august Assembly.

105. The annual report of the Agency has already been the subject of debate at the sixteenth session of the General

Conference of the IAEA, held in Mexico City in September 1972. However, we have some remarks on the activities of the Agency.

106. Nuclear energy for peace has become most interesting in the development era, particularly for the developing countries. After the significant contribution the Agency has made in various fields of nuclear applications, it became appropriate for it to concentrate on a number of selected fields rather than allocating its scarce resources to a wide range of fields.

107. In our view, there are some fields on which the Agency should focus more efforts and to which it should allocate increasing budgetary funds in its future programmes, such as nuclear power to generate electricity and to desalinate sea water, the use of nuclear explosive devices for peaceful applications, and the large-scale exploration and exploitation of nuclear raw materials. Such fields are of great importance to the progress of developing countries. The field of nuclear power is expected to become an important source of energy supply by the end of this century. Estimates given at the Fourth International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy held in Geneva in September 1971 show that by 1980 about 15 per cent of the total world electrical energy will be generated by nuclear power. Such estimates will gradually grow reaching 50 per cent by the year 2000.

108. In our view, a more positive role should be played by the Agency also in financing nuclear projects in the developing countries.

109. Another area of interest to the developing countries is the exploration and exploitation of nuclear raw materials such as uranium and thorium, to which the Agency is invited to direct more attention and financing. Surveying the world resources of nuclear raw materials is an area of great interest to all countries, developed as well as developing, an area in which it is hoped the Agency will exert more efforts, besides those at present deployed in co-operation with the IBRD and the UNDP.

110. The IAEA should start preparing a well-defined programme regarding the feasibility of the utilization of nuclear explosions for the execution of projects in the developing countries in such fields as civil engineering and in the mining and oil industries. Such a programme could be accommodated in the Agency's coming six-year programme.

111. The extent of the fulfilment of the Agency's technical assistance activities depends largely on the increase and consolidation of the voluntary fund. According to the figures given in the annual report of the Agency, there has been a gradual decline in the Agency's response to requests submitted by member States—from a 50 per cent response in 1962 to a 25 per cent response in 1972.

112. This is a matter of concern to developing countries. Hence we urge the need for substantially increasing the voluntary fund, and we congratulate France and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for their declaration at the Agency's General Conference in September 1972 that they would increase their voluntary contributions. As far as

Egypt is concerned, it has been decided to maintain Egypt's contribution to the voluntary fund for 1973 at the same level as its contribution in 1972. Such contributions represent more than double Egypt's assessed contribution. However, it is noted with disappointment that the budgetary expenditure of the Agency will be cut by 1.1 per cent in the fiscal year 1973.

113. We should like also to note with appreciation the unfailing co-operation of the IAEA with the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, which provides the General Assembly with information and advice on questions relating to the effects of atomic radiation from nuclear weapon testing and also on radioactive contamination of the environment from the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Such data help, and would always help greatly, in the control and protection of the human environment from the potential harmful effects of radioactive contamination. In this respect we recommend close co-operation between the IAEA and the future United Nations body on the human environment.

114. Finally, my delegation would like to support the draft resolution on the report of the IAEA sponsored by Canada, Japan and Romania, as revised in document A/L.681/Rev.1.

115. Mr. PLAKA (Albania) (*interpretation from French*): The Albanian delegation has asked to be permitted to speak to express its firm reservations concerning certain references having to do with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons which are contained in the report of the IAEA to the General Assembly for the year 1971/1972 and in paragraph 3 of draft resolution A/L.681/Rev.1.

116. Because of our resolute opposition to that Treaty of sad repute, our delegation will not participate in the vote on the draft resolution.

117. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): Since the list of speakers has been exhausted, and since no representative wishes to explain his delegation's vote before the vote, we shall now take a decision on the draft resolution submitted by Canada, Japan and Romania [A/L.681/Rev.1]. May I take it that the General Assembly adopts this draft resolution?

*The draft resolution was adopted [resolution 2907 (XXVII)].*

*The meeting rose at 4.55 p.m.*