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President: Mr. Rüdiger von WECHMAR
(Federal Republic of Germany).

AGENDA ITEM 14

Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency

1. The PRESIDENT: I now invite the Director General of IAEA, Mr. Sigvard Eklund, to present the report of the Agency for the year 1979.¹

2. Mr. EKLUND (Director General, International Atomic Energy Agency): This is a welcome opportunity for me to address the General Assembly, to review some recent developments in the nuclear field and to touch upon some particular issues which may be of interest to members.

3. Let me start with a brief examination of the prospects and outlook for nuclear power.

4. Within the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development [OECD], Belgium, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States either have a significant nuclear power programme or have already achieved a fairly high percentage of electricity generation by nuclear power. Also Spain, which I recently had the privilege of visiting, has a significant nuclear power programme. Within that group, France represents an outstanding example. By 1985 France expects to produce 50 per cent of its electricity by nuclear power.

5. The East European socialist countries have recently embarked on a major nuclear programme and they plan to install no less than 120,000 megawatts of nuclear capacity by the end of this decade, compared with 16,000 megawatts today. This is thus one broad area of the world in which there is no doubt about the need and prospects for nuclear energy.

6. In the developing countries the prospects for nuclear power are spotty. One of the major technical difficulties faced by many of those countries is that the present economically optimal standard nuclear power unit available on the market has an electricity production capacity many times that which may be

carried by existing electricity grid systems in most developing countries. Gradually, this situation will, I am sure, be remedied as work on economically feasible smaller plants progresses and electricity grids expand. As far as can be forecast at this time, however, it seems that no more than 10 developing countries will be operating nuclear power plants by 1990 and that, at the most, about 20 countries may be in that position by the turn of the century.

7. Having painted that picture, I should note that nuclear power plants now in operation or under construction should generate some 15 per cent of the world's electricity by 1985. That is by no means an insignificant contribution to the world's energy needs. It will represent the equivalent of the entire oil production of Saudi Arabia in 1979.

8. However, in recent years a declining trend has become discernible in orders for nuclear power plants. For example, during the first six months of this year, while 9 new plants were ordered in Western Europe, 10 plants of a considerably larger capacity were cancelled in the United States. I could go even further and say that a state of stagnation exists in some countries.

9. It may be asked: at a time when we are consuming oil so quickly that we run the risk of exhausting the world's reserves within a few decades, when the rising price of oil is causing grave imbalances in the world economy, when the cost of steam coal has gone up by 40 per cent, when the environmental impact of burning coal and oil is steadily causing more concern, how is it possible that there should be any reluctance to accept an energy source, nuclear energy, that is demonstrably cheaper, safer and cleaner than alternatives that are available today or likely to become available on a substantial scale only in the first decades of the next century?

10. This paradox becomes all the more difficult to understand when we consider statements made at three recent major Conferences: the 11th World Energy Conference, held at Munich from 8 to 12 September last, the second Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held at Geneva from 11 August to 7 September and the Agency's General Conference, held at Vienna from 22 to 26 September. At those Conferences there was overwhelming agreement on the need to use nuclear energy. There were stern reminders of the environmental consequences of burning large quantities of coal and oil. There was even a sense of urgency expressed at the World Energy Conference in reference to the transition from fossil fuel to nuclear fuel: "We have energy; what we lack is time".

11. To mention another important example, at their economic summit meeting, held at Venice on 22 and

¹ International Atomic Energy Agency, *The Annual Report for 1979* (Austria, July 1980); transmitted to the members of the General Assembly by a note of the Secretary-General (A/35/365).

23 June this year, the seven leading statesmen of the OECD stated

“We underline the vital contribution of nuclear power to a more secure energy supply. The role of nuclear energy has to be increased if world energy needs are to be met. We shall therefore have to expand our nuclear generating capacity.”²

12. In reality, however, the OECD group has scaled down its nuclear projections by almost one third. In the United States, which pioneered nuclear energy and maintained leadership in the field for three decades, there is talk in some quarters of retiring nuclear power plants in an orderly manner.

13. This situation may have serious consequences for the nuclear manufacturing industry. Already the ability of the nuclear industry to survive without new orders is becoming doubtful in several Western countries. In the United States, the Federal Republic of Germany and my own country, Sweden, there are also signs of a perceptible decline in the availability of the professional manpower needed to service nuclear plants as students and faculties begin to sense a declining market for nuclear skills.

14. Let me conclude this part of my statement by expressing my personal conviction that now and in the future we shall need contributions from all available sources of energy, including nuclear energy, to survive in a world which within a couple of decades will have to support 50 per cent more people than today and at the same time will be faced with steadily diminishing natural resources and raw materials.

15. The harsh realities of the energy supply crisis are fortunately beginning to have an impact on the public consciousness, which was perhaps lulled into a false sense of security when oil was cheap and plentiful and when solar energy and other so-called soft paths seemed to many to offer quick and easy solutions.

16. We now see, at least in many countries, a growing momentum towards energy conservation and perhaps the beginning of the realization that each form of energy production has its advantages and drawbacks, and that all should be used wherever and whenever appropriate. Let us all do what we can to foster this perception.

17. For its part, IAEA is contributing to this effort by disseminating information, by expanding its work to ensure the highest standards of reactor safety, by its contribution to non-proliferation and by helping to stabilize and clarify the world-wide nuclear supply system. In the final analysis, however, it is up to Governments to make decisions and in doing so to take the necessary political responsibilities. We in IAEA can only serve as instruments of their wishes and decisions.

18. This is not the place for a detailed analysis of the reasons why the once-bright prospects for nuclear power have faded in so many countries despite the fact that nuclear power is needed more than ever before. Recession, inflation, high interest rates and a slow-down in the growth of electricity demand may have played a part. In my opinion, however, the main factor has been the problem of public acceptance

and its impact on political decision-makers. Here we face an extraordinary situation.

19. Despite the accident at Three Mile Island on 28 March 1979 in this country, no other energy industry has a safety record that can compare with that of nuclear power. I repeat what I have said on many occasions: in nearly 2000 reactor years of operating experience at 235 commercial nuclear power plants, there has not been a single fatal accident caused by radiation.

20. The extremely strict safety standards which have been followed in regard to peaceful nuclear technology in fact provide a model not only for other energy technologies, but also for other industries, none of which have comparable standard setting or national and international watchdog committees like the International Commission on Radiological Protection or the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation.

21. The Agency's work in this regard is growing. We are at an advanced stage in the preparation of an up-to-date set of internationally agreed safety standards for nuclear power plants. Fourteen member States have already asked for visits of Agency experts to help them to apply these standards. For several years, we have been sponsoring major nuclear safety training courses.

22. The Agency's safe transport regulations have recently been comprehensively reviewed. They are now being applied in almost all countries and under all relevant international conventions. We are also working with UNEP, the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation and WHO on a comparison of the health and environmental impacts on various types of energy, oil and coal, for instance, as well as nuclear.

23. I am happy to report that the Agency convened a major International Conference on Current Nuclear Power Plant Safety Issues, held at Stockholm from 20 to 24 October 1980, at the invitation of the Government of Sweden. Over 500 experts from 44 member States and 10 international bodies dealing with aspects of nuclear safety participated in this Conference. They reviewed the safety standards which the nuclear industry is applying in their countries and freely exchanged their experiences. It was the general view that the information on safety-regulated operating experiences and abnormal occurrences should be collected and should be discussed periodically in international meetings. IAEA is expected to play a significant role in organizing such co-operation, which is supported both by the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance and OECD countries. Problems connected with plants which are located in border areas were also discussed, and suggestions for close collaboration between neighbouring States were made. The Conference was marked by a keen desire to collaborate and exchange information on safety matters, without any reservation.

24. The Conference emphasized the importance of nuclear power and ended with a consensus that nuclear safety issues do not require any new radical approach. The Conference identified areas of work where higher priority or greater emphasis should be given and was of

² See *Department of State Bulletin*, vol. 80, No. 2041, August 1980, p. 10.

the view that there are no factors related to safety which limit the use and development of nuclear power.

25. In my opinion, this is a very important outcome of this Conference, coming after the Three Mile Island accident, and it clearly conveys a message to the public that, compared with other industries, the safety standards of nuclear power plants are very high.

26. Turning now to another topic, technical assistance is one of the most important activities of the Agency, and in the past several years there have been discussions at our General Conference on the question of assuring a more adequate and predictable flow of resources for the Agency's programme. I am happy to report that, based largely on this concern, the General Conference at its session two months ago agreed for the first time in the history of the Agency to set indicative planning figures for the Agency's own technical assistance programme which, as you know, is financed out of voluntary contributions. Thus, the 1980 target for voluntary contributions was \$10.5 million. The last General Conference increased this target to \$13 million for 1981 and also approved indicative planning figures of \$16 million for 1982 and \$19 million for 1983. Although this shows progress, I regret to say that there are indications that the gap between the Agency's resources and the needs of developing member States still shows a tendency to widen.

27. While, as I have said, nuclear power probably will not play a major role in most developing countries before the turn of the century, there are numerous other benefits to be derived from the applications of nuclear science and technology. Such applications in the field of agriculture, health and industry, for example, are proving of great value in assisting developing countries to achieve their development goals. An example of this is the Regional Co-operation Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology which the Agency established eight years ago to promote co-operative joint projects between nuclear institutions in Asian developing countries. Several Latin American countries have expressed interest in undertaking similar projects in their region, where many promising opportunities for regional co-operation exist.

28. The developing countries in particular are severely affected by the rising costs of energy. Thus, it is, unfortunately, imperative for them to limit consumption of some of those products that made possible the "green revolution", the production of which—nitrogen, fertilizers and pesticides, for instance—requires large energy inputs.

29. I should now like to turn to the second Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. In addressing that Conference, I pointed out that:

"Since the first Review Conference in 1975, there have been a number of significant developments which are noteworthy. Briefly, these can be summarized as follows:

"First, a number of additional States have joined the NPT—among them are several countries with extensive nuclear facilities and programmes;

"Secondly, a considerable number of additional safeguards agreements have been concluded with the non-nuclear-weapon States;

"Thirdly, there has been substantial progress in the implementation of safeguards agreements, in particular in the agreement with EURATOM non-nuclear-weapon States, and in organizing the first safeguards field offices;

"Fourthly, there have been significant improvements in safeguards techniques, implementation and instrumentation, and safeguards procedures. The possibility of introducing a system of international plutonium storage to give practical effect to the safeguards measures foreseen in the Agency's statute has also been under study since December 1978. Another study is presently engaged in examining the potential for international management of spent fuel and problems created by growing accumulations of spent fuel;

"Fifthly, an international Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material has been successfully negotiated and already signed by some 26 Member States;

"Sixthly, considerable advance has been made towards the realization of the full potential of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America, known as the Treaty of Tlatelolco. With the ratification of the additional Protocol II to that Treaty by the Soviet Union, all five nuclear-weapon States now adhere to that Protocol;

"Seventhly, the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation, a technical study completed in February of this year, has examined a range of options on how nuclear power could be made widely available while minimizing the risk of nuclear weapons proliferation. By identifying some useful concepts for strengthening international co-operation, this study may lead to better mutual understanding among supplier and consumer countries of their respective concerns in regard both to proliferation and to assurance of supply.

"The five years that have elapsed since the first NPT Review Conference are thus marked by a number of achievements, and it is of fundamental importance that the NPT continue to serve as the essential framework for international non-proliferation. However, one must not forget that the Treaty not only prohibits the acquisition of nuclear weapons by non-nuclear-weapon parties, but also places an obligation on the parties to the Treaty to facilitate and to promote peaceful nuclear activities and to work towards reducing nuclear arsenals. This twofold objective represents an indivisible goal of the Treaty to which all parties, both nuclear and non-nuclear-weapon States, are pledged and stand equally committed. It is my considered opinion that upon the success or failure to realize this goal may ultimately depend the very fate of the Treaty and its consequential effect on the fabric of international security and human survival."³

³ For the summary record of this statement, see *Final Document of the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT/CONF/II/22/II)*, 1st meeting, paras. 10-11.

30. It is now almost universally recognized that the IAEA's safeguards system has proved effective and is making an important contribution to international security. This was certainly the sense of references to safeguards at the second Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The thrust of the comments made was that we should consolidate and further strengthen the system.

31. It must be borne in mind that the safeguards system represents only a part, although an essential and important part, of the non-proliferation régime. Recent trends indicate, however, that we may be entering a critical phase in the efforts of the international community to prevent the further spread of nuclear weapons. As we know, not all nuclear activities are covered by safeguards in some countries. Lately there have been increasingly disturbing indications that certain countries may be preparing to carry out nuclear explosions or at least produce unsafeguarded nuclear explosive material. In these circumstances, it seems to me all the more essential that in the years before the next review conference of the non-proliferation Treaty every effort should be directed to making the non-proliferation régime universal.

32. In this respect, let me turn to the so-called threshold countries—those non-nuclear-weapon States that are operating or constructing unsafeguarded nuclear facilities.

33. As I said before the twenty-fourth regular session of the IAEA General Conference:

“However respectable its intentions may be, one cannot escape the political fact that the operation of an unsafeguarded reprocessing or enrichment plant automatically engenders fears that the operating country plans to acquire nuclear explosives. The destabilizing effects of such fears in the regions concerned are abundantly clear. It would perhaps be naive to expect in these cases that the nuclear problem could be resolved in isolation from the broader political problem in which it is embedded. I can only point out again that adding a nuclear dimension to these political problems, far from enhancing national security, is likely in the long run to present it with the gravest possible threat, and could lead to the unravelling of the whole fabric of non-proliferation which has been put together with such effort, patience and statesmanship during the past two decades. On the other hand, the acceptance of ‘full-scope’ safeguards by these countries would make a major contribution to the security of the regions to which they belong and to the establishment of additional nuclear-weapon-free zones.”⁴

34. It is on the policy and decisions of these threshold countries that the future of the non-proliferation régime most immediately depends. In other words, it is their actions which will do most to determine whether, by the end of this decade the number of nuclear-weapon States will remain what it is today or will increase, with all the consequences that such an increase would have for the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear

Weapons [*resolution 2373 (XXII), annex*], the present term of which expires in 1995. Those threshold countries carry a heavy responsibility.

35. The early conclusion of a comprehensive test ban treaty depends in the first place on the actions of nuclear-weapon States. Such a treaty would be a major step towards making the non-proliferation régime universally acceptable. Unlike the non-proliferation Treaty, a comprehensive test-ban treaty would apply equally to nuclear and non-nuclear States and would thus be secure against charges of discrimination. It might, therefore, be acceptable to those important threshold countries that now refuse to accede to the non-proliferation Treaty on the stated grounds that it is discriminatory.

36. Recent events have reminded us of the insecurity of the world's oil supplies and of the need for this and for many other reasons, to enhance assurances of the supply of nuclear materials and fuels. This matter is also linked to the acceptance of adequate safeguards against proliferation and will have a bearing on the viability of the non-proliferation Treaty.

37. Against this background, I suggested to our General Conference last year that the Agency should establish a committee on supply assurances. Following detailed informal consultations, the Board of Governors, on 20 June this year, took a unanimous decision to establish a committee, open to all Member States, to consider ways and means in which supplies of nuclear material, equipment and technology and fuel cycle services could be assured on a more predictable and long-term basis in accordance with mutually acceptable considerations of non-proliferation and to advise on the Agency's role and responsibilities in this regard. The Committee on Assurances of Supply, as it became known, met to organize its work at the end of September. It decided to begin to examine substantive questions at its meeting in March next year. I need hardly stress how important the Committee's work will be during the next year.

38. The wisdom and timeliness of establishing this Committee is self-evident. Discussions at the non-proliferation Treaty Review Conference at Geneva underlined how important it is to work toward greater security in the supply of nuclear materials, equipment and technology, simultaneously with efforts to strengthen assurances against proliferation.

39. I believe that the matters with which the Committee on Assurances of Supply will deal are of crucial importance. Assurance of the supply of nuclear fuels is particularly important in view of the increasing insecurities that beset the supply of other energy sources. There are a number of countries with little or no access to other energy sources and the introduction of nuclear power in their energy programmes could play a vital role. It is in the interests of all that no impediments be placed in the path of the development of their peaceful nuclear programmes.

40. If we fail at the international level to restore confidence in the security of nuclear supplies, we shall inevitably run the risk of facing a situation where some countries might be driven to seek to establish their own facilities so as to become independent of external fuel cycle services. Apart from placing an unduly heavy financial burden on many countries,

⁴ For the summary record of this statement, see GC (XXIV)/OR.219, para. 61.

such a result would hardly serve the need to foster international co-operation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy, nor would it be in the best interests of the cause of non-proliferation.

41. From time to time the argument is heard that construction of nuclear reactors for the production of electricity may lead to proliferation of nuclear weapons, since a by-product of operating these reactors is plutonium. In this respect I should like to refer to the "Comprehensive study on nuclear weapons" completed this summer by a Group of Experts under the chairmanship of Ambassador Thunborg, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 33/91 D. That impressive study states:

"It is easier to construct and operate a dedicated plutonium production reactor than an electrical power producing reactor. Investment costs for the simplest type of graphite moderated reactor giving enough plutonium-239 for one or two weapons annually... are estimated to be in the range of \$13 to 26 million (1976 dollars). The capital cost of a reprocessing plant to extract plutonium from the irradiated fuel would amount to an additional \$25 million (1976 dollars)." [A/35/392, annex, para. 60.]

42. Even ignoring the fact that the construction of a reprocessing plant would be needed in either case, the fact is that utilization of this method for producing plutonium for weapons purposes would require an expenditure of not more than \$50 million in 1976 dollars, or approximately \$75 million today. By contrast, one should note that the construction of a commercial-size nuclear power reactor would today cost no less than \$1 billion. To this must be added the fact that the complexity of a nuclear power reactor is many times greater than the relatively simple graphite moderated reactor to which the study refers, and that the lead time for constructing a commercial plant is almost twice as long. Finally, one must bear in mind that in all probability new commercial nuclear power plants built in non-nuclear-weapon States will be submitted to international safeguards. This of course places additional and very strong limitations on possible diversion of nuclear materials to non-peaceful purposes.

43. All this can lead to only one conclusion, namely, that acquiring plutonium by the construction and operation of a nuclear power station constitutes an uneconomical and unreasonable way when compared to other generally available methods.

44. It is now a year since IAEA and some organizations of the United Nations, including UNIDO, moved to the Vienna International Centre. As members know, this modern, large complex constructed by our host Government and host city has been placed at the disposal of the United Nations and IAEA at a nominal rent for 99 years. This has been a further demonstration of the generosity and hospitality of the Austrian Government and its capital city of which IAEA has been a recipient since its establishment. The Centre, designed more than 10 years ago when heating and cooling were cheap, has also borne the impact of a fifteenfold increase in oil prices. The costs of operation and maintenance for the Agency's half share of the Centre—which constitutes about

twice the space we previously occupied—are running about one tenth of our annual budget. The costs for the United Nations are, of course, much the same. I mention this matter to members since we now share a common interest in keeping these costs as low as possible so that our annual budgets may be used for activities of direct benefit to our member States, and also in view of our common interest in limiting our potential liability for the repairs and replacements in a complex which represents an investment of hundreds of millions of dollars. IAEA and the United Nations are now engaged in the final round of negotiations with our host Government in regard to these matters, and I am hopeful of an early and mutually satisfactory solution.

45. In concluding may I say that we are at the start of a decade in which the future of mankind seems beset with complex and far-reaching issues—the seemingly unavoidable increase of population; the degradation of the environment leading, for example, to the destruction of forests and the spread of deserts; the exhaustion of our natural resources; the threat to peace itself. At such a time, the future of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy may seem to be a relatively minor issue. It is, nevertheless, an important facet of one of the major problems that will cast their shadows over this decade—the energy supply crisis. Nuclear energy will undoubtedly be used more and more for economic development in spite of the potential for its possible misuse. It is for these reasons that the affairs of the Agency are of interest to all nations, and the General Assembly spends some time each year in considering the work of IAEA.

46. The PRESIDENT: On behalf of the General Assembly I should like to thank Mr. Eklund for his introduction of the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

47. I now call on the representative of Canada to introduce draft resolution A/35/L.10.

48. Mr. MENZIES (Canada): It is a privilege for Canada, as this year's Chairman of the Board of Governors of IAEA, to submit draft resolution A/35/L.10 on the report of the Agency. I also submit this text on behalf of the co-Chairmen, Egypt and Poland.

49. The statement of the Director General was most useful in bringing us up to date on the wide range of activities described in the Agency's report. In this regard, the Director General and secretariat of IAEA are to be congratulated for their continuing commitment to maintain the effectiveness of the Agency and its programmes.

50. The draft resolution on the report of IAEA that I am now presenting recognizes the central role of IAEA, under its statute, in promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and underlines the importance of the responsibilities that have been assigned to it. My colleagues and I have sought to simplify the wording of the draft resolution, while maintaining intact the spirit and purposes of its mandate. We have also sought to reflect the decisions of the most recent General Conference. The draft resolution in particular notes the establishment this year by the Board of Governors of the Committee on Assurances of Supply,

open to all States members of the Agency, which held its first session in September this year.

51. I would hope that, given the broad support that this draft resolution enjoys, it will be possible to adopt it by consensus and without amendment, as, indeed, has been past practice. Such a procedure would, in our view, underline the over-all support that the international community affords to the purposes and activities of IAEA.

52. The PRESIDENT: I now call on the representative of Yugoslavia to introduce draft resolution A/35/L.11.

53. Mr. VUKOVIĆ (Yugoslavia): We have read carefully the report of IAEA for 1979 and have listened with great interest and attention to the statement made by the Director General of the Agency, Mr. Eklund. The report and Mr. Eklund's statement have provided us with a clear picture of the activities of the Agency in the reporting period. During the same time, the international community has been involved in a number of actions aimed at solving some outstanding problems in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The role played by the Agency and, especially, by Mr. Eklund in those activities deserves our full support. Yugoslavia, as a member of the Agency and of its present Board of Governors, has done everything in its power to contribute towards the solving of these problems. As in the past, we shall continue to cooperate actively with the Agency and to assist Mr. Eklund and his associates in the fulfilment of their complex tasks.

54. Developments in the field of the use of nuclear energy, both for peaceful and military purposes, are becoming ever more topical and attracting great attention from world public opinion. This is due, on the one hand, to the fact that a number of accidents at nuclear installations have resulted in a re-examination and the slowing down or cancellation of the construction of a number of projected nuclear power plants. On the other hand, it is the result of the ever greater stockpiling of nuclear weapons and the increased danger of nuclear war. This interest has, of course, also been increased by the acute problem of the energy crisis. It is not fortuitous, therefore, that the report of the Agency begins by dealing with this question and with the role that nuclear energy is likely to play during the next 10 years in the economic development of all countries. This problem is gaining in urgency every day. It is affecting in particular countries deficient in domestic resources of conventional energy. Therefore we attach exceptional interest and significance to this issue.

55. Before I turn my attention to some of the aforementioned problems, let me deal briefly with the report of IAEA. Taken as a whole, the report presents a graphic picture of the policy and activities pursued by the Agency, it emphasizes the increasing importance of atomic energy in various fields of activity and it draws attention to the difficulties arising therefrom but also to the possibilities of overcoming them. We welcome the Agency's approach to these problems and express the wish that it will continue to highlight the positive aspects of the use of the atom for the benefit of mankind.

56. It appears that the Agency has devoted considerable attention to the growth of the nuclear activities of member States and to its ability to provide assistance to countries that are introducing or are at the early stage of development of national nuclear power programmes. In view of the accidents which have occurred at nuclear installations and the ever growing number of developing countries that have initiated or are planning the development of their own nuclear programmes, that orientation of the Agency is to be commended.

57. The Agency has also stepped up its activities in the field of safeguards, which we also welcome. The increased activity in this field results from the expanded number of facilities covered by the system of safeguards of the Agency. We support, in principle, the idea that all the nuclear installations of all countries, without discrimination, should be placed under the IAEA control system. Only thus will it be possible, in our view, to eliminate dangers and the justified or unjustified suspicions that are gaining with regard to the development of military nuclear programmes by a certain number of non-nuclear-weapon States. The importance of reaching general agreement on this question is even further enhanced by reports of the possible explosion of a nuclear device in the south Atlantic, which reflect the fears of further proliferation of nuclear weapons that are engendered by the operation of unsafeguarded sensitive nuclear facilities by South Africa.

58. We have again noted with particular interest that the Agency, in carrying out its safeguards programme,

“... did not detect any anomaly which would indicate the diversion of a significant amount of safeguarded nuclear material for the manufacture of any nuclear weapon, or to further any other military purpose, or for the manufacture of any other nuclear explosive device”⁵

as well as its conclusion that

“... nuclear material under Agency safeguards remained in peaceful nuclear activities or was otherwise adequately accounted for.”⁵

59. The report also points to the difficulties arising in regard to the implementation of safeguards, particularly with respect to the recruiting of experts. We feel that the Agency should be assisted in solving this problem. It should be taken into account, however, that the principle of equitable geographical representation in the recruitment of inspectors should be observed so that developing countries may be adequately represented. It seems to us that a much more difficult problem is posed by the diversity and multiplicity of systems of safeguards implemented by IAEA. The international community should strive towards eliminating this mosaic by elaborating a single universal system of safeguards. The achievement of a new international consensus on this question constitutes an important task facing us in the future.

60. We have noted with interest the increase of funds for technical assistance and promotion of the use of nuclear techniques. With the same interest we are following the efforts designed to ensure, through

⁵ See International Atomic Energy Agency, *The Annual Report for 1979*, GC (XXIV) 627, para. 16.

long-term planning of such a system, a higher degree of predictability and, in consequence, long-term planning of such assistance in receiving countries. We support this orientation of the Agency and believe that it should persevere along this course in the future. In this connexion, it is necessary to ensure that the rate of increase of funds for such assistance is brought into harmony with the needs of the developing countries which are actually the most seriously affected by the present energy crisis.

61. The report points to the Agency's involvement in the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation. Without intending to appraise this activity, we believe that due attention should be devoted to the part of the report contained in paragraph 20, in which we read that the Board has established a Committee open to all member States to consider and advise it on ways and means by which supplies of nuclear material, equipment and technology and fuel cycle services can be assured on a more predictable and long-term basis in accordance with mutually acceptable considerations of non-proliferation.

62. In view of the widespread conviction that it is indispensable to secure additional sources of energy in order to achieve normal economic growth, the decision of the Board, which as we understand it was confirmed by the annual conference of IAEA, represents an encouraging step. The securing of nuclear material, equipment and technology is of great importance to both developed and developing countries, because what is actually involved is massive investment in the development of national nuclear programmes and important export earnings that hardly any country could relinquish. Fuel cycle services are also of great importance to the developing countries, for obvious reasons. Even before the initiation of the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation, we had advocated, together with other non-aligned and developing countries, the establishment of such an organ. Consequently we fully support this decision, in the hope that all members of the Agency will actively participate in its work and contribute to the successful accomplishment of its task.

63. The question of co-operation among States in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy has been debated at a number of international gatherings in recent years. Here I have in mind primarily the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation and the second review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

64. The International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation, in which my country also participated, useful as it was, could not, regrettably, find new methods of use of nuclear energy which would reduce the danger of nuclear proliferation. Thus, in spite of the prevailing risks, we must reconcile ourselves to the further development and spread of existing technology.

65. At the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons problems of unimpeded supplies of nuclear material as well as of transfer of equipment and nuclear technology were examined in some detail. Although, for well-known reasons, the Conference was not in a position to reach a consensus on a final document that would have reflected important progress towards

reconciliation of the positions of the parties to the non-proliferation Treaty in the field of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, we believe that the results achieved should not be ignored. Actually, they could represent a solid input at the projected international conference in 1983, which will consider the problems that have emerged in the field of co-operation by States in peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

66. All this shows that the problems confronting us in the field of the use of nuclear energy are urgent and that the failure to resolve them, or attempts to solve them by introducing new restrictions and limiting the sovereignty of countries, are bound to give rise to new and even more difficult international problems whose harmful implications are well known to all of us.

67. Conscious of the extreme seriousness of these problems and of the burden they add to the already tense and complex international situation, the non-aligned countries initiated three years ago an action aimed at convening an international conference to examine, at the governmental level, problems that have arisen with regard to the development of national nuclear programmes, the establishment of national nuclear fuel cycles and, in general, the use of nuclear energy for economic and social development. We note with satisfaction that the proposal of the non-aligned countries⁶ has met with general support and that we are therefore in a position to speak today of definite dates for the holding of such a conference.

68. The report of the Secretary-General [A/35/487 and Add.1], which includes the replies of Governments concerning the agenda, date and duration of the international conference for the promotion of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, shows that there exists broad agreement with regard to these questions. There is general consensus that the conference should be held in the first half of 1983 and that it should last between two and three weeks. As regards its agenda, there is general agreement that it should cover all political and economic issues relevant to the peaceful use of nuclear energy. At last year's session of the General Assembly⁷, as well as in its reply to the Secretary-General made in pursuance of resolution 32/50,⁸ my delegation elaborated the position of the Yugoslav Government regarding the agenda of the said conference. That position is in harmony with the introduction to the Secretary-General's report, in which we read that frequently suggested items included:

“... promotion of international co-operation in the field; transfer of material, equipment, technology and know-how; questions relating to safeguards, safety, and to the legal and regulatory aspects of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy; and the role of international organizations in the field” [A/35/487, para. 6].

69. Taking into account the positive attitude of States Members of the United Nations towards the initiative of the non-aligned countries and the fact that the

⁶ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Plenary Meetings*, 58th meeting, paras. 73-75.

⁷ *Ibid.*, *Thirty-fourth Session, Plenary Meetings*, 52nd meeting, paras. 86-98.

⁸ See document A/33/332.

conferences on the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation and the nuclear non-proliferation Treaty are already behind us and that their results are likely to contribute to some extent to the examination of the aforementioned problems at the conference with the participation of all Member States, as well as the fact that some important steps have already been taken by IAEA which may represent a significant input to preparations for the conference, a group of non-aligned countries, including Yugoslavia, has submitted draft resolution A/35/L.11 on the convening of the conference in the first half of 1983, and I now have the honour to introduce that draft resolution on their behalf.

70. In this connexion, the group of sponsors had in mind the following: that the General Assembly had endorsed by consensus the proposal to hold the conference, in principle, by 1983; that objections raised against fixing a date for the conference before taking cognizance of the results of the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation and the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons have been resolved; that there is a heavy schedule of conferences in 1982, in which large numbers of Member States, or all of them, will be involved; and, particularly, the fact that the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament will be held in 1982 and will also deal partly with this problem.

71. The group is also of the opinion that, owing to the complex nature of the technical and scientific problems to be dealt with by the conference, it is necessary to start preparations in time. In this regard, we have in mind the need for active contributions by IAEA, UNIDO, UNDP, FAO and other agencies. Therefore, it is proposed in the draft that a Preparatory Committee should be set up at the current session of the Assembly and that it should hold a session in the course of 1981, possible on the eve of the annual IAEA conference in Vienna, where it could take appropriate decisions concerning the agenda, date and duration of the conference, adopt its programme of work and make recommendations regarding the role of IAEA and other United Nations bodies in the preparation and holding of the conference.

72. In the draft resolution the General Assembly invites all States to communicate to the Secretary-General, by 30 June 1981 at the latest, their views on the date, duration and venue of the conference and on the role of IAEA and other United Nations bodies, so that the preparatory committee may have at its disposal as great a number of views as possible.

73. The group of non-aligned countries considers that such an approach can greatly improve the prospects for a successful preparation for and holding of the conference. We expect, therefore, that this draft resolution will be adopted by consensus, as has been the case with previous resolutions on this subject. Otherwise there is a risk of the conference not being held at all or of its being postponed, which would certainly not be in the interests of the international community and would affect adversely the development of nuclear programmes in developing countries.

74. We agree that a decision on the draft resolutions submitted under this item be taken at an appropriate time during this session. In the meantime, we are ready to consult with other groups and States in order to reach agreement on the composition of the preparatory committee and on other questions relating to this conference.

75. The PRESIDENT: Representatives will have noted that in his statement the representative of Yugoslavia indicated that action on draft resolution A/35/L.11 is not necessarily expected today, but at a suitable time after consultations by the sponsors.

76. Mr. PETREE (United States of America): My delegation would like at the outset to express its appreciation for the Director General's fine report on the activities of IAEA over the past year. On the eve of his nineteenth anniversary of service and courageous leadership, Mr. Eklund has provided us with much to ponder over the coming year.

77. Mr. Eklund presents a sombre report on the present status of nuclear power. He is right to do so, for these are uneasy years for nuclear power. We believe this uneasiness derives from the very benign promise of a technology whose potential destructiveness is only too well known to the world. It is crucial that a world which realizes the full potential of the peaceful atom does not also become a world in which the materials and the technology for its destructive use are uncontrolled. In this dilemma, a reassessment at some stage was bound to take place. For our part, we believe the concept of a peaceful atom will emerge all the more healthy and vigorous as a result.

78. The first phase of this reassessment was concluded early in the past year with the final plenary session of the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation. Time will demonstrate that this exercise, in which IAEA has played a critical role, was a milestone in progress towards the day when nuclear power will be making its proper contribution to the world's energy requirements and doing so with full regard to a safe environment for all and to the world's security needs. The Evaluation will provide the information base for future progress in this area.

79. We are pleased that the Agency will play a leading role in the follow-up to the Fuel Cycle Evaluation and strongly support the important first step already taken with the creation of the Committee on Assurances of Supply. As we made clear during the General Conference, we would like to see this Committee focus on practical steps to improve security of supply in the near term, thus clearing the way for an international consensus on conditions for supply over the longer term. To this end, my country looks forward to active participation in the Committee's labours, as well as in the Agency's work on international plutonium and spent fuel storage.

80. In the United States, scientists, engineers and public policy-makers are grappling with the implications for nuclear power of the Three Mile Island accident. We were exceedingly fortunate that Three Mile Island took no lives and caused no injuries, but we take small comfort from that fact. We have learned from that accident and we hope to learn more about how to avoid such accidents in the future.

81. President Carter did not lightly join in the conclusion recorded in the declaration at the Venice meeting that "the role of nuclear energy has to be increased if world energy needs are to be met". My Government is determined, however, that legitimate environmental concerns be responsibly answered and the future growth of this technology proceed with safety for the health and welfare of all. We have responded to Three Mile Island with renewed efforts, therefore, and we are pleased to see the added emphasis which the agency is now giving to its own health and safety programme. Throughout the past year, we have responded to the Director General's appeal for voluntary support and we will continue to do so through the coming year. We hope that other States able to do so will similarly contribute.

82. The Agency's safeguards programme remains the corner-stone of the world's non-proliferation efforts and of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. There was a broad consensus in the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation that support for and improvement of IAEA safeguards are indispensable. At the recently concluded second Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, we were gratified that, even though full agreement was not possible on all issues, almost universal support was voiced for the Agency's role under the non-proliferation Treaty. We were also gratified to see during the past year that the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials was opened for signature on 3 March 1980 and has now been signed by 25 States. The United States is moving to ratify this instrument and we hope that other nations will do the same.

83. An important debate has taken place in the Agency's Board of Governors and General Conference over the course of the past year on the Agency's technical assistance programme. We believe that this debate will result in the strengthening of the Agency's technical assistance activities. The endorsement by the General Conference of the indicative planning targets of \$16.5 million and \$19 million for voluntary contributions in 1982 and 1983, respectively, will provide a better base for developing this vital programme, both by the Agency and the Member States. Our delegation was pleased to announce in Vienna that the United States, subject to the completion of its appropriation procedures, will contribute \$3.25 million towards the Agency's target figure for voluntary contributions of \$13 million, which has been established for 1981.

84. Under Mr. Eklund's superb leadership and through the devoted energies of his staff, IAEA has over the past year continued its contribution towards a better world. The Agency has once again added to its record of solid accomplishment, a record which we believe derives in large measure from a traditional determination to realize the full scope of its statutory mission, without excursions into areas which, however important, are not relevant to these central purposes. We are confident that IAEA will continue in this tradition.

85. Mr. RANGA (India): I should like to express my delegation's appreciation of the annual report for 1979 of IAEA, presented so ably by Mr. Sigvard

Eklund, the Director General of the Agency. I should also like to thank Mr. Eklund for his excellent introductory statement, which contained additional information relating to the Agency's activities during the past year and the important tasks that lie before us. Mr. Eklund has been at the helm of IAEA for about two decades now and has guided the Agency's functioning in a very commendable manner. My delegation is confident that under his direction IAEA will continue to function in an effective and useful manner for the fulfilment of the tasks assigned to the Agency by the statute of IAEA. Strict adherence to this statute is essential for the world community's continued confidence in the Agency.

86. I should like to convey my delegation's gratitude to the Agency for the assistance extended by it in the past to my country for the development of atomic energy for peaceful purposes. It was in recognition of the important role that IAEA is performing in promoting international co-operation in the peaceful utilization of atomic energy that my country hosted the twenty-third regular session of the General Conference of IAEA at New Delhi in December 1979. Mr. H. N. Sethna, the Chairman of the Indian Atomic Energy Commission, presided over that Conference and made an important statement on the occasion. I do not wish to take the time of this Assembly by repeating the issues to which he drew our attention.

87. The Agency has recently introduced new guidelines for the administration of the provision of technical assistance to member countries. From the very beginning, India has objected to the new guidelines, as they not only are discriminatory but are derived from extraneous considerations. Moreover, they are contrary to the statute of the IAEA. The technical assistance programme of the Agency should be free of restrictive and preferential pre-conditions.

88. My delegation is of the view that the new guidelines should be reviewed in order to make them conform to the statute of the Agency. In view of the discriminatory nature of the new rules, my country has been forced to forgo technical assistance from the Agency. My country is not against the technical assistance programme of the Agency. In fact, India continues to participate in that programme of the Agency in the capacity of a donor. The Government of India continues to make its assessed voluntary contribution towards that programme. It is the hope of my delegation that the objectionable portion of the new guidelines will soon be removed with a view to ensuring that the role of the Agency in promoting the development of atomic energy for peace is not impaired.

89. My delegation is of the view that it is necessary to work out a predictable and assured source of financing in order to ensure that the technical assistance programme of the Agency is capable of effective implementation. My delegation therefore welcomes the fact that studies have been undertaken to find a solution to the problem of financing.

90. My delegation supports the Agency's role and programme in the field of nuclear safety. The Government of India, in recognition of the importance of that role, made a supplementary voluntary con-

tribution to the Agency for 1979 so that the Agency could expand its activities in that area.

91. My delegation has noted with regret the continuing imbalance between the regulatory and the promotional aspects of the Agency's functioning. Mankind has to be protected from the misuse of nuclear energy for military purposes. Our objective should be nuclear disarmament, but the Agency is financing only limited non-proliferation activities.

92. The imbalance between regulatory and promotional activities continues to be reflected in the relative expenditure on safeguards and on promotional programmes. That imbalance not only should be prevented from increasing but should be rectified. The Agency should not give preference to one part of the statute over another part and should not be exploited for the furtherance of the nuclear objectives of certain countries or groups of countries. My delegation hopes that serious efforts will be made in this direction.

93. At this point I should like to make a comment on the chapter of the Agency's annual report for 1979 that deals with safeguards. Paragraph 164 of that chapter contains an exclusive reference to unsafeguarded nuclear facilities in some non-nuclear-weapon States. There is no reference to the unsafeguarded nuclear facilities and materials in nuclear-weapon States. In the view of the Government of India, that omission has led to a serious misrepresentation of facts and has created the distorted and erroneous picture that some errant non-nuclear-weapon States are indulging in unsafeguarded activities when the fact is that the world is actually threatened by nuclear peril as a result of the misuse of nuclear power for military purposes. The next annual report should report on all unsafeguarded nuclear facilities, those of nuclear States as well as those of non-nuclear States. We should not delude ourselves by shutting our eyes to the fact that the real threat that is being posed to the world community is the proliferation of nuclear weapons by nuclear-weapon States.

94. A similar distorted picture is being created by paragraphs 12 to 17 appearing under the heading "Safeguards and NPT" in the introduction to the annual report. My delegation should like this distortion also to be removed in the next report.

95. Draft resolution A/35/L.10 includes a reference to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. The Government of India has already pointed out the weaknesses from which that Convention suffers. It has not taken into account the large amount of nuclear material stockpiled for military use. It has ignored the objections to the inclusion of transport within a State in the concept of international transport. While it contains such weaknesses, it is clear that the Convention cannot help us to achieve the objective of the physical protection of nuclear materials.

96. My delegation would support the adoption of draft resolution A/35/L.10 by consensus. Our support is without prejudice to our well-established position in relation to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Our support should also be seen in the context of the views that I have expressed on some aspects of the draft resolution that is before us.

97. As regards draft resolution A/35/L.11 dealing with the peaceful use of nuclear energy for economic and social development the Government of India has already conveyed its views to the Secretary-General. Those views are contained in the report of the Secretary-General [A/35/487]. My delegation supports that resolution accordingly.

98. Mr. ISSRAELIAN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (*interpretation from Russian*): The Soviet delegation, having studied the report of IAEA and having heard the statement of the Director General of IAEA, Mr. Eklund, notes with satisfaction that both the content of the report of the IAEA and the statement by Mr. Eklund are evidence of the extensive work accomplished by the Agency during this past year.

99. The Soviet Union places a high value upon the important role of the Agency in the strengthening of the régime of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, the implementation of effective international control over the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy and technology and the development of co-operation among States in the field of nuclear energy. During the years of its existence the Agency has demonstrated its ability as an important instrument in the struggle to maintain peace and strengthen international co-operation.

100. One of the most important tasks facing the Agency, under the terms of its statute and in pursuance of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, is the strengthening of the non-proliferation régime. The importance of that task may be explained, in particular, by the fact that genuinely successful and fruitful co-operation in the sphere of nuclear energy in the interests of all countries can be secured only when the international community is guaranteed against such co-operation becoming a channel for the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

101. The second Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons has become an important landmark in the strengthening of the non-proliferation régime.

102. The General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, L. I. Brezhnev, in his message to the participants in that Conference pointed out that:

"Ten years have passed since the Treaty entered into force, and it may now be said with full justification that the conclusion of the Treaty was an important step towards halting the nuclear arms race in the interests of peace on earth.

"The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons effectively serves the interests of countries, both large and small, nuclear and non-nuclear, industrially developed and developing...

"The Treaty also laid a solid foundation for the development of fruitful international co-operation in the peaceful application of atomic energy, and created favourable conditions for the wide use of such energy for constructive purposes.

"..

"The Soviet Union considers it essential—particularly in the present circumstances—to implement

the provisions of the Treaty concerning the adoption of effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race and to disarmament. Our proposals on the cessation of production of nuclear weapons and on the destruction of such weapons and the complete prohibition of nuclear-weapon testing and on other issues are well known. We shall continue to strive with the utmost determination for the speedy implementation of these proposals.”⁹

103. The Soviet Union views positively the sincere and fruitful discussions during the second Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which brought out a community of views among the participants on a whole series of questions relating to the consideration of the effect of the non-proliferation Treaty. The main conclusion that can be drawn, taking into account also the results of the first Review Conference, is that experience has confirmed the exclusive importance, the high international authority and, indeed, the effectiveness of the Treaty. The Conference again emphasized that the non-proliferation régime established by the Treaty provides optimum conditions for co-operation among States in the international arena in ensuring prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the extensive utilization of nuclear energy for peaceful and creative development.

104. All those who took part in the discussions at the Conference unanimously declared themselves in favour of the idea that those countries not yet parties to the Treaty should accede to it at the earliest opportunity.

105. Together with the problem of the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons, questions of the limitation and the cessation of the arms race, especially the nuclear arms race, occupied an important place at the Conference. Serious concern was voiced with respect to the current situation in this sphere. We are convinced of the need to maintain détente as the principal trend in world policy, to prevent a new upward spiralling of the arms race and to adopt effective measures aimed at limiting the arms race and bringing about disarmament.

106. Curbing the arms race and bringing about disarmament form the common task of all countries, and an early solution to these problems will unquestionably open up broad new possibilities for the development of co-operation in the field of the peaceful use of atomic energy.

107. The Conference also provided a very favourable appraisal of the work of IAEA in all spheres of its activities. An important positive conclusion by the participants was that the activities of IAEA on controls were being carried out with respect for the sovereign rights of States, did not hamper the economic and technological development of the States parties to the non-proliferation Treaty and created no barriers whatsoever to international co-operation in the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes.

108. In the discussions at the Conference statements were made on questions closely related to the activities of IAEA and in particular with regard to the principles

of nuclear exports. It is necessary to give special emphasis to the fact that few of the participants at the Conference cast any doubt on the usefulness of an agreement in principle concerning a general policy in the field of nuclear exports and the transfer of nuclear technology. In this respect an important role is to be played by the Committee established by the session of the Board of Governors in June 1980 for the consideration of problems of the assured supply of nuclear fuels, the transfer of technology and equipment and the provision of nuclear fuel cycle services.

109. Much of the time of the Conference was assigned to questions closely connected with the development of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and its participants came to the conclusion that such co-operation can develop successfully and fruitfully only through the over-all strengthening of the non-proliferation régime in strict compliance with all the provisions of the non-proliferation Treaty.

110. Hence, in appraising the results of the Conference held at Geneva, it is possible to conclude that that Conference represented a further step on the way to strengthening the non-proliferation régime and ensuring access by all States, without any discrimination whatsoever, to nuclear energy and technology for peaceful purposes under effective international control and in accordance with the rules of IAEA.

111. In examining the annual report for 1979 of IAEA at the current session of the General Assembly and looking into the future, it is necessary to lay special emphasis on the fact that the most urgent and important task continues to be the strengthening of the non-proliferation régime. Many States members of IAEA are alarmed by news that there is an ever growing number of countries where there are installations for the production of enriched uranium which are not under the control of the Agency. There have been frequent warnings in IAEA concerning danger signals on this score coming from various regions of the world. Attention has been directed to the danger of the emergence of nuclear weapons in the hands of States located in regions of tension and conflict. In particular, there have been direct references to plans to produce nuclear weapons in the Republic of South Africa and in Israel.

112. It is our profound conviction that accession to the non-proliferation Treaty by all States without exception would contribute to the establishment of reliable barriers to the proliferation of nuclear weapons and to the establishment of conditions for the harmonious development of nuclear energy and the introduction of large-scale co-operation in this important sphere.

113. In addition to the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons throughout our planet, under its statute the Agency has, as is known, taken upon itself the task of developing international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. At this time of world famine in fossil fuels, a large number of both economically developed and developing countries are interested in and aspire to acquiring accelerated development of peaceful nuclear technology. As is very appropriately pointed out in the Agency's report,

⁹ See *Final Document of the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT/CONF/II/22/II)*, 1st meeting, para. 44.

it is possible to accelerate measures to save energy. It is possible to turn larger capital investments into alternative technologies, but it is not very likely that within the next two or three decades such measures would have any real effect upon the fulfilment of the peaceable requirements of the world for electrical power. As a result, one of the important sources of electric power remains nuclear energy. In these circumstances it is natural that the role and significance of the Agency should continue to grow.

114. The Soviet Union, which has achieved substantive results in the utilization of atomic energy for creative purposes, is taking an active part in international multilateral co-operation in this regard and is sharing its achievements with interested countries, both through IAEA and on a bilateral basis through the transfer of knowledge, the provision of technical assistance, participation in the exchange of nuclear materials and the exchange of scientific and technical information. The Soviet Union offers its services to a number of countries in the enrichment of nuclear fuel. Nuclear energy is becoming an important factor in the economic and social development of many countries. For a number of objective and subjective reasons, that process is proceeding unevenly, but it is already irreversible. Therefore, at the present stage of scientific and technical development, co-operation between countries in the solution of energy problems is assuming increasing significance. In this connexion it should be pointed out how important is the role played by the Agency in organizing such co-operation. The Soviet Union has supported, now supports and will continue to support scientific and technical programmes of the Agency. We note with satisfaction that in carrying out that work the Agency takes due account of the needs of the developing countries, and that that is expressed concretely in virtually all the scientific and technical programmes of the departments of the IAEA secretariat. From year to year the voluntary contributions of member countries of IAEA to the Technical Assistance Fund are growing. In accordance with our policy of providing technical co-operation to developing countries members of IAEA, the Soviet Government has decided to increase its voluntary contribution to the Technical Assistance Fund to 1,050,000 roubles in national currency, which is higher than the estimated figures used by the secretariat. As in past years, those funds may be used by the Agency to acquire in the Soviet Union equipment, nuclear materials for research purposes, and heat-releasing elements for research reactors with low enrichment in uranium-235, and also to conduct in the Soviet Union introductory study programmes for specialists from developing countries. Under the programme of personnel training, the Soviet Union is spending 100,000 roubles—in addition to the above figure—measures of technical organization.

115. At the twenty-second regular session of the General Conference of the IAEA, in 1977, the Soviet Union announced that it would contribute to the IAEA Fund, on a non-reimbursable basis, for a five-year period, 50 kilograms of uranium-235 to assist the activities of the Agency in the peaceful utilization of atomic energy.

116. In trying to meet the wishes of a number of developing countries, the Soviet Union has decided

not to object to the establishment of an indicative magnitude for the voluntary Technical Assistance Fund for 1982 and 1983 respectively in the amounts of \$16 million and \$19 million, bearing in mind that the principles involved in the formation of the Fund on a voluntary basis and in national currencies by member countries will remain unchanged. The Soviet Union is ready to provide economic and technical co-operation to interested countries of the third world.

117. It is from the point of view of the maximum utilization of the resources of IAEA in regard to co-operation for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy that the Soviet Union is analysing and appraising any proposals relating to any particular measures of international magnitude. In other words, we proceed from the idea that questions of co-operation in the sphere of nuclear energy that are truly of great significance for both the developed and the developing countries must be examined within the framework of IAEA. This approach of ours applies also to the holding of conferences, consultations and symposia on assistance for international co-operation in the sphere of the utilization of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

118. The large-scale use of nuclear energy for the welfare of mankind throughout the world depends largely on successes in this field on a national level. The experience of an individual country becomes the heritage of many, and we are witnesses to the increasing contribution of many countries to the achievements of modern atomic science and technology. A good example of this could be the results of the programme of the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation.

119. In the elaboration and in the solution of problems involved in the development of nuclear energy and its fuel cycle, primary significance is given in our country to ensuring the safety of operation of power stations and industrial nuclear facilities. We appraise highly the activities of the Agency in the elaboration of codes and rules for the security of nuclear power stations. In developing nuclear energy, the Soviet Union is engaged at the same time in wide international co-operation in this sphere both on a bilateral basis and within the framework of IAEA. The achievements of Soviet atomic science and technology become available to all countries through publications and reports of Soviet scientists at various international conferences and symposia as well as through the participation of Soviet specialists in undertakings of IAEA.

120. Together with the development of classic atomic energy based on the splitting of heavy nuclei, in the Soviet Union we are continuing extensive research and development in setting up power plants of the next generation—synthesis thermonuclear reactors.

121. For many countries, long-term nuclear power development programmes are connected with the problem of reliable fuel supply for nuclear power stations. As we indicated earlier, the concern of countries with regard to nuclear fuel has been reflected in the decision of the IAEA Board of Governors at its June 1980 session to establish a committee to consider problems related to assured nuclear supplies in compliance with effective measures for the non-

proliferation of nuclear weapons. The Soviet Union, understanding as it does the needs of developing countries and their desire to ensure the stable and reliable market for nuclear materials and equipment, has decided to take part in the work of that Committee. Our country is supplying nuclear fuel on a long-term basis to atomic power plants that are under construction or that have already been constructed with the technical assistance of the Soviet Union, and it is also providing services for uranium enrichment to countries that have placed orders with us. However, we are doing this in strict compliance with existing agreements on controls of nuclear exports in the interests of an effective nuclear non-proliferation régime.

122. In taking its decision to participate in the Committee on Assurances of Supply, the Soviet Union proceeded on the understanding that the Committee in its work will fully take into account the existing agreements in this sphere. Only on this basis is it possible to speak of the establishment of genuine conditions for drawing up a reliable system of assured supplies of nuclear fuel to countries without fearing that such a system might be used as a channel for the proliferation of nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices.

123. The Soviet Union places great significance on the Agency's successful implementation of its obligation to apply guarantees. We note with satisfaction that in 1979, as in past years, there has been no transfer of nuclear materials under safeguards for the production of nuclear weapons or for military purposes or for the production of any other nuclear explosive device. As we all know, the scope of the activities of IAEA in the application of safeguards has greatly increased in recent years. Such complex facilities as uranium reprocessing and enrichment plants and plants for the preparation of mixed fuels are now included under its control. This has presented the Agency with a number of problems whose successful solution will enable it to achieve the necessary effectiveness of control. My country will continue wholeheartedly to support IAEA's activities with regard to the subject of guarantees. We should point out in this connexion that we have earmarked 1 million roubles for 1980-1982 for work in the USSR relating to technical supports for safeguards, and that at the present time the programme for this work is being co-ordinated.

124. In speaking of the continued development of the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and the implementation of safeguards measures, my delegation wishes to emphasize the important role being played in this field by the Agency and its Director General, Mr. Eklund. We in the Soviet Union have a high regard for the efforts of IAEA to scientific and technical co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and in the exchange of information, including the holding of international scientific conferences and the provision of technical assistance to interested countries. Our country is making great use of atomic energy for creative purposes and is ready in the future to share its experience and its scientific and technical knowledge in this sphere in order to achieve further progress.

125. In conclusion, I should like to emphasize once again that, on the whole, the Agency is working successfully for the cause of peace and security, towards strengthening the régime of non-proliferation and for the development of international co-operation in the field of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and in this connexion we should like to wish the Agency further success in its lofty mission.

126. We wish to express our confidence that further fruitful activity by IAEA will contribute to effective co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and that it will make a significant contribution to the increased effectiveness of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and give it added reserves of strength.

127. Mr. KRUTZSCH (German Democratic Republic): The report of IAEA for the year 1979 and the excellent statement by its Director General, Mr. Eklund, today reaffirm that the Agency has made fruitful contributions to the promotion of international co-operation in the field of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to strengthening the régime of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

128. The activities of IAEA serve the noble aim of utilizing the achievements of scientific and technological progress for the benefit of the people and not to their disadvantage.

129. The Agency's work and we might go so far as to say the fate of this Organization, are inseparably linked with the régime of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and its key element, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

130. The German Democratic Republic identifies itself with the objectives of that Treaty, to which it was one of the first countries to accede. Over the 10 years of its existence, the Treaty has become a reality in international life and has had a positive impact on the efforts towards détente, disarmament and the strengthening of international security.

131. This was confirmed at the second Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, although unfortunately the Conference was not able to reach agreement on the text of a final document. Notwithstanding differing positions on several issues, the parties to the Treaty identified themselves with this instrument of international law and emphasized the importance of the principle of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

132. We are in agreement with all States that have expressed their concern about the undiminished arms race, and we see the recent armament decisions of the countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization [NATO] as the result of a policy of confrontation that gives rise to new threats to peace and détente and that hampers international co-operation, in particular in the field of the peaceful use of nuclear energy. The only way out is to step up efforts aimed at halting the arms race, first of all in the field of nuclear weapons, and to initiate measures leading to disarmament.

133. It is well known that the German Democratic Republic, as well as the USSR and other socialist countries, is advocating the speedy conclusion of a

treaty on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests and is striving for effective security guarantees for non-nuclear-weapon States and urging the initiation of negotiations on comprehensive nuclear disarmament.

134. To bring about pertinent initiatives is also among the goals set for the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly. Everything that has been achieved so far in the field of arms limitation and disarmament must be utilized and consolidated to make headway in this difficult process. This applies, first of all, to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. We emphatically support the endeavours to make that Treaty universal in scope.

135. The work of IAEA in the field of safeguards is a considerable contribution to the strengthening of the régime of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. The report on the safeguards implementation gives rise to the well-founded conclusion that nuclear material which is subject to such control has remained within the sphere of peaceful nuclear activities.

136. The ascertaining of this by IAEA is of extraordinary significance for the building and consolidation of confidence among States, which is imperative for peaceful co-operation. The German Democratic Republic will continue to support the efforts undertaken by the Secretariat with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of safeguards.

137. On the other hand, it must be noted with concern that the number of non-nuclear-weapon States operating unsafeguarded nuclear facilities has remained unchanged and, further, that reports indicate that there may even be an increase in this number in the near future.

138. Therefore, the demands that the safeguards agreements so far concluded be fully realized and that non-nuclear-weapon States place all their nuclear activities under IAEA safeguards are of primary importance.

139. With the successful preparation of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its opening for signature, IAEA has fulfilled an important task. The German Democratic Republic has signed that Convention and is preparing its ratification. My country hopes that all Member States of the United Nations will accede to this document, which is so highly important for nuclear safety.

140. We commend the activities of IAEA towards the successful conclusion of the studies of the International Fuel Cycle Evaluation. Those activities, among others, generated the establishment of the Committee on Assurances of Supply by IAEA's Board of Governors. The German Democratic Republic is taking an active part in the Committee's work. Its participation is guided by the objective of seeing to it that the recommendations and proposals to be prepared by that Committee are in accordance with the endeavours further to strengthen the régime of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

141. The German Democratic Republic endorses the plan to convene in 1983 a conference concerning the promotion of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. According to the

statement of my Government in regard to this question, the main concern of this conference should be to strengthen and continue to develop the basic principles that have come about in international co-operation in this field. This would give fresh impetus to the activities in the nuclear-energy field. In this context, we regard the further strengthening of the régime of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons as an integral part of this development.

142. IAEA should play a central role in the preparation and holding of the conference. Over more than two decades of activities, the Agency has gathered valuable experience in this field.

143. Permit me to make some comments on special items of the present report. The programme of work, in its concept and structure, is clearer and more expressive than previous ones and takes account of the present trends in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

144. My country will make its contribution to the successful realization of this programme while attaching special importance to the following elements of the programme: technical assistance, safeguards, nuclear safety, nuclear power and the International Nuclear Information System. Our thanks go out to the IAEA secretariat for its efforts to keep the rate of increase in the budget for 1981 within limits. The increase in the budgetary allocations for those specific areas concerning safeguards, technical assistance, nuclear safety and environmental protection is fully justified. They are all important areas of the Agency's promotional activities. The obligation of IAEA to exercise control in accordance with the provisions of the non-proliferation Treaty involves additional expenditures, especially since it is required to expand further and back up safeguards both in material and technical terms and to increase their effectiveness. Moreover, account must be taken of the fact that the ever-widening scope of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy implies that further nuclear plants, nuclear materials and equipment should be placed under the control of the Agency.

145. In line with its policy of rendering support and economic assistance to developing countries, the German Democratic Republic deems it an important task to make an appropriate contribution also within the framework of IAEA's technical assistance. It is based on our voluntary contribution which throughout the past few years—just as will be the case in 1981—has always exceeded our share of the target sum. The German Democratic Republic has raised its contribution to 325,000 marks for the year 1981. Owing to the good co-operation between the IAEA Secretariat and the competent bodies of the German Democratic Republic, the voluntary contribution of my country, made in national currency, has been fully used for technical assistance purposes.

146. In addition, a long-term programme that outlines various fields in which my country is ready to lend its co-operation was submitted to the secretariat of the Agency. The programme takes into account the major trends of development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy as well as specific wishes voiced by developing countries. In accordance with its statute, the IAEA has established an effective system of

financing technical assistance. In this context, one has to take into account that such assistance can be effected only on a voluntary basis. The rapid growth of technical assistance over the past years justifies the maintenance of this principle. With this in mind, the German Democratic Republic has joined the consensus decision to determine indicative planning figures for funding technical assistance for the next two years.

147. At the conclusion of my statement, I wish to extend my gratitude and appreciation to the Director-General of IAEA, Mr. Sigvard Eklund, and to his staff for the excellent work they have done in the past year.

148. Mr. BELTRAMINO (Argentina) (*interpretation from Spanish*): It is my intention to address this Assembly within the context of the debate on agenda item 14 in order to make known some points of view of my delegation regarding the report on the activities of IAEA for 1979, and in general, regarding the transcendental role of nuclear energy used for peaceful purposes in the economic development of peoples.

149. In the first place I should like to reiterate the congratulations already expressed by my Government to the Director General of the Agency, Mr. Sigvard Eklund, on the efficiency of his work and that of his staff. The broad spectrum of activities carried out during 1979 is, as usual, faithfully reflected in the report submitted for consideration by the General Assembly. Our satisfaction concerning the tasks performed by the Agency furthermore extends to the recently established Committee on Assurances of Supply, to which we wish every success in its important tasks.

150. At the present time it should be redundant to insist on the fact that, for some countries, the ability to rely on nuclear power today or in the future will be a question of survival, while for all countries the degree of mastery of the atom in its peaceful applications will be an efficient stimulus to their capabilities and national potential and therefore should be encouraged. For various reasons, which my delegation regrets, this is not so. Until such time as this criterion is accepted sincerely and unreservedly by all members of the international community and reflected in their actions, its repetition will not be redundant.

151. Among the resources of this planet with regard to which alarm signals have begun to be sounded, energy is one of the most if not the most critical. Factual causes and others which are politically nourished interact, and profoundly affect the times we live in. Despite the fact that any projection on the subject has a high level of inaccuracy, we shall not be far from the truth if we say that fossil fuel reserves will be depleted by the middle of the next century and that uranium, if used in the way that will best exploit its potential, will become the main source of energy in the immediate future.

152. The Republic of Argentina, which is aware of the seriousness of the situation, has for some time been giving special attention and devoting considerable efforts to the development of its ability to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Likewise, from a multilateral point of view, we have supported, within the limits of our means and possibilities, the work of

IAEA. As we see it, its role is vital, starting from the assumption that mankind requires "more and better" nuclear plants to meet its future needs. In saying "better", we are thinking of installations that are more efficient and also safer, for which we depend both on the technology being developed by the most advanced members and on the mechanisms that are part of IAEA.

153. On the other hand, we are quite naturally concerned with the problem of nuclear proliferation, which is theoretically linked with the development of technology. Argentina, because of its characteristics as a peace-loving country which—even more important—it has throughout history proved itself to be, fully respects and supports the safeguards mechanisms administered by the Agency and, furthermore, agrees that those mechanisms should be reviewed so as to keep up to date with the advances being made in the field of nuclear installations.

154. We would not wish our concern at this problem, however, to conceal an even greater concern arising out of such real and effective causes as those mentioned in the valuable "Comprehensive study on nuclear weapons" prepared by the Group of Experts appointed by the Secretary-General, when it states that in the last 12 years

"The total number of strategic nuclear warheads has increased from 4,500 to at least 9,200 for the United States and from 1,000 to at least 6,000 for the USSR" [*see A/35/392, annex, para. 5*].

155. We said at the outset that it was still necessary to insist on the defence of the principles of equity which are incorporated in our claims. Although this affirmation does not imply a positive assessment of the present situation, we are not so pessimistic as not to appreciate that certain progress and certain recognition have been achieved.

156. In the first place, we cannot deny that the atmosphere for an international debate is comparatively more objective today than it was some years ago. This development is not due to mere chance. On the various occasions when these questions have been considered—both in the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation and at the second Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons—the international community has refused to endorse the application of restrictive policies by countries which control the nuclear trade.

157. Secondly—and I am saying this from the point of view of my country specifically—we see with satisfaction that, despite the fact that international conditions are not always favourable, the plans drawn up by our Atomic Energy Commission are being successfully developed, as regards both the installation of nuclear plants and the matter of their supply, radioisotope and radiation programmes, radiological protection programmes and, finally, nuclear research and development.

158. While it may appear premature to attempt an assessment of our experience in recent years, we find that an adequate explanation of the causes and effects observed are recorded in the following statement made by the Chairman of the National Atomic

Energy Commission of the Republic of Argentina, Vice-Admiral Carlos Castro Madero, on inaugurating on 30 June last at Buenos Aires the first meeting of non-aligned co-ordinating countries in the field of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Referring to the meagre results observed as regards international nuclear co-operation in recent years, Mr. Castro Madero drew the following conclusions, which I shall quote in English since that is the language in which was drafted the final document of that meeting, to which the opening statement is officially appended:

“(1) Unilateral decisions affecting international co-operation, which do not take into account the legitimate interests of the affected countries, can only result in the isolation of those making such decisions.

“(2) Moral principles we all share should not be preached to protect the political and economic interests of a few. As a result, the principles lose their value, and mistrust and disbelief are generated among those who feel themselves to be the victims of a moral fraud and material damage.

“(3) It is not possible to discriminate and expect that the victim will accept the fact without making every effort in his power to free himself from discrimination. Under discriminatory conditions, the possibilities of international co-operation are nullified and, instead, the road towards chaos and anarchy is paved.”¹⁰

¹⁰ Quoted in English by the speaker.

159. My delegation sincerely hopes that in the years to come progress will be made in international co-operation through dialogue and understanding. In particular we attach considerable importance to the convening of the international conference for the promotion of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and we trust that it will be the point of departure for a new concept of relations among States in these matters.

160. I do not wish to reiterate at this time the opinion of my Government regarding that conference. It has already been submitted to the Secretary-General and appears in document A/35/487. Therefore I shall simply emphasize that it is based on the agreed criteria of the group of non-aligned countries responsible for co-ordination in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, arrived at during its last meeting, held at Buenos Aires from 30 June to 4 July 1980.

161. That meeting proved furthermore, that our countries are determined to identify possible areas of co-operation and to plan the machinery to bring about that co-operation. We are certain that we shall make progress in this field and that we shall broaden the basis of those who supply and those who need nuclear energy. At the same time, we hope that this process will acquire a global dimension and that the conference will contribute to it. We believe that this is a positive development which deserves to be encouraged.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.