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President: Mr. Gaston THORN
(Luxembourg).

In the absence of the President, Mr. Grozev (Bulgaria), Vice-President, took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 14

Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency

1. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Russian*): I invite Mr. Sigvard Eklund, Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], to present the report of the Agency for the year 1974/75.¹

2. Mr. EKLUND (Director-General, International Atomic Energy Agency): This year marks the twentieth anniversary of the first International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, which opened in Geneva on 8 August 1955. In the 20 years that have elapsed since that Conference, the peaceful uses of atomic energy have come of age and presented us with new challenges.

3. Four such challenges are currently of special interest to the United Nations: first, the role of nuclear power as an alternative energy source; secondly, nuclear energy and the environment; thirdly, the task of preventing the further spread of nuclear weapons and, in this connexion, the results of the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; and, fourthly, the status of the peaceful uses of nuclear explosions.

4. Let me now turn to the first question, namely, nuclear power as an alternative source of energy.

5. At the seventh special session of the General Assembly, the problem of providing new energy sources, particularly for developing countries, was included in the programme of work of the international community. We are all faced with a dilemma in this regard. In countries where there is a reasonably large demand for energy—and this includes a sizeable group of developing countries—nuclear power has become much cheaper than oil or coal as a means of generating electricity. In the countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development [OECD] it now costs about half as much for base load as the corresponding fossil-fuel plant. However, the initial capital cost of a nuclear power plant is much higher than that of coal or oil plants; the benefits come later through much lower operating costs. It takes

8 to 10 years to build a nuclear power plant and, for a single station, 4 to 5 years before the accumulated savings of fuel costs begin to offset the initial capital cost differential. One must therefore wait 12 or 15 years before the full benefits of nuclear power are enjoyed, and during that period utilities and Governments are usually faced with peak demands for capital. As the representative of the World Bank pointed out at our General Conference in September, the situation calls for the availability of large amounts of loan capital for relatively short periods to help States over this peak. It was encouraging to note that the World Bank has this problem under consideration, since it is a matter to which the international financing institutions should, in my view, give high priority.

6. Those developing countries which have recently placed large orders for nuclear power plants are countries with rapidly expanding national incomes. Other developing countries have had to slow down their nuclear-power programmes because of insufficient investment capital.

7. It may be asked how significant this problem is. The answer is that without abundant energy there can be no full-scale industrial development, and that the cost of energy is a factor determining the rate of industrial development. The demand for energy is also growing because of the need to use poorer quality raw materials and the need to recycle scrap materials.

8. With regard to new energy sources, evaluations remain inconclusive. It is obvious that the optimistic statements made about the availability in the near future of fusion, solar, geothermal and wind power will have to be revised considerably both because of the extensive development work still needed and because of the incorrect estimates of the potential power available, for example, in the case of wind power.

9. It has thus become increasingly clear that for the rest of this century we shall have to rely on fossil fuel, particularly coal, and on nuclear energy based on the present fission process. By 1985, we expect that about 20 per cent of the world's electrical energy will be produced by nuclear power plants. Many of these are already being built or on order.

10. We shall, however, be able to rely on the present types of nuclear reactors only if we can find large new sources of uranium to at least quadruple present proved reserves. It is thus time that high priority be given to uranium prospecting and development to find those resources in the medium-price as well as in the low-price range. The fact that more than 90 per cent of the world's known reserves are in industrial countries probably reflects an imbalance of prospecting effort rather than the true geological picture. IAEA is therefore supporting uranium exploration in 20 developing countries, including five large United Nations Development Programme [UNDP] projects. Some

promising results have been obtained. I hope that the new United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration will give high priority to the work of IAEA in this field.

11. We have learned with interest of the request made by the General Assembly at its seventh special session for a study of the establishment of a new energy institute under United Nations auspices [*see resolution 3362 (S-VII), sect. III, para. 2*]. My own view is that careful consideration should be given to any proposal to set up another body in the energy field, bearing in mind that the United Nations system already provides for practically all energy questions. The extent to which energy questions are being discussed is illustrated by the fact that in 1976 alone 33 international and major national meetings are planned in the energy field, 25 of them on nuclear energy. At least 70 major studies of energy problems, some costing several million dollars, are being made.

12. With regard to the second challenge, nuclear energy and the environment, it should be noted that environmentalist concerns have played a part in retarding nuclear-power growth in some industrial countries. In this aspect, IAEA is co-operating with the United Nations Environmental Programme [UNEP] in a short-term general comparison of the environmental effects of energy technologies. This will be considered by the Governing Council of UNEP next April. The International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis is also seeking the help of UNEP for a three-year in-depth study of alternative energy options and of a methodology for comparing their environmental aspects. UNEP has been informed of the support of the World Health Organization [WHO] and IAEA for this most useful project, which should provide an analytical tool of great value to energy authorities and utilities and help to free us of the emotion-charged atmosphere in which the environmental debate is usually conducted.

13. The Agency's own work on nuclear safety and waste management is described in the report before you, and I shall not go into detail. The work which was launched last year on the comprehensive system of internationally acceptable codes and guides for the safety of nuclear power plants is progressing satisfactorily.

14. International attention is focusing on the problems of long-term storage and disposal of the high-level wastes which are now produced in growing volume by nuclear power plants. Storage in geologically stable underground layers such as salt mines appears increasingly to be a promising solution. A symposium that we held this year in Gabon with the help of the Government of Gabon and the French Atomic Energy Commission revealed some interesting results. More than 1,700 million years ago a natural reactor operated for at least 100,000 years in Gabonese uranium deposits. Like all reactors, it produced and deposited plutonium. The symposium showed that this plutonium never moved from the site of its formation but disintegrated slowly on the spot. This fact from a page of the earth's history should eliminate some concern about the risks of storing nuclear wastes in suitable underground formations.

15. I have mentioned three problems facing the nuclear industry: shortage of capital, a possible short-

age of uranium in the late 1980s or 1990s, and the problems of public acceptance and environmental safety. It is also increasingly clear that we have previously taken too fragmented and too compartmentalized a view of the problems of the nuclear fuel cycle. The fuel cycle is complex and interrelated, involving, for example, uranium prospecting, mining and milling, processing, enrichment, fabrication, reprocessing of spent fuel and storage of plutonium, as well as management of wastes. All parts of the fuel cycle must be developed in harmony, otherwise there will be fuel shortages or excesses of capacity.

16. For this reason, the Agency is organizing a major international conference on nuclear power and its fuel cycle, a proposal which was commended by the General Assembly last year [*see resolution 3213 (XXIX), para. 6*]. It will be held at Salzburg from 2 to 13 May 1977. This Conference will undoubtedly be most useful to planning authorities in States that have decided to introduce nuclear power or are about to do so. It should thus be of interest to many of the Governments represented here.

17. The production of nuclear power is now becoming a routine operation, but other stages of the fuel cycle, such as fuel reprocessing and waste management, are not. To encourage a more integrated approach to fuel cycle problems, we have started a study of regional fuel cycle centres which ideally would combine reprocessing, waste management and/or a group of nuclear power stations. Some representatives may recall that I mentioned this study in my statement last year.² The project was strongly supported at the Review Conference of parties to the non-proliferation Treaty and at our General Conference two months ago. The United States Secretary of State, Mr. Kissinger, in his address to this Assembly in September, strongly urged the development of such centres [*2355th meeting, para. 127*]. Our study began a few months ago and should be completed by the end of next year. We have approached the World Bank, UNEP and Member States for financial contributions. Of course, no one underestimates the problems of securing effective regional co-operation of this type, however desirable it may be from the economic and technological point of view.

18. Such regional fuel cycle centres under international safeguards could also make an obvious contribution to international security by helping to keep at a minimum the number of plants throughout the world at which plutonium is produced, and by reducing the risk of theft or sabotage of dangerous nuclear material.

19. This leads me to the third topic: safeguards and the non-proliferation Treaty.

20. The scope of IAEA safeguards was greatly extended this year when the non-nuclear-weapon States of the European Atomic Energy Community [EURATOM] ratified the non-proliferation Treaty. We hope that the safeguards agreement between EURATOM and IAEA will enter into force before the end of this year. The Agency's Board of Governors also approved early this year a safeguards agreement with Japan in connexion with the non-proliferation Treaty, which will enable Japan to discharge its relevant obligations when it ratifies the Treaty, as stated by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Miya-

zawa in this hall on 23 September [2358th meeting, para. 43].

21. As is shown in our annual report, almost all nuclear power plants in the non-nuclear-weapon States are now, or will shortly be, under Agency safeguards, but this statistic could be misleading. As history has shown, the spread of nuclear explosive capacity should not be correlated too closely with the growth of nuclear power.

22. It was for this reason that I stated before the Review Conference on the non-proliferation Treaty and before our General Conference—and I am repeating it again today—that I do not think we shall have a fully satisfactory international safeguards system until the suppliers of nuclear equipment and material make it a condition of delivery that the entire nuclear fuel cycle in the receiving country be placed under Agency safeguards. It is the spread of small sub-economic reprocessing and enrichment plants, as well as the spread of certain types of research reactors, that poses much more of a problem from the point of view of international safeguards than does the growing number of nuclear power stations.

23. I was pleased to see that the concept of requiring safeguards on the entire fuel cycle was endorsed by the Review Conference, although I fear that its recommendations did not go far enough on this point.

24. The Final Declaration of the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons³ expressed strong support for effective Agency safeguards. We are taking several steps to develop and improve the application of safeguards. Progress is being made to permit the automatic data processing of all safeguards information. The Agency's new laboratory near Vienna, which will come into full operation early next year, will greatly increase our ability to undertake timely analysis of samples of nuclear material. A standing intergovernmental advisory group on safeguards implementation has been established. We shall also be holding the first training seminar next month to give Governments assistance in training personnel in national systems of accountability and control of nuclear materials.

25. Improvements are also being made in the safeguards being applied outside the countries parties to the Treaty. Several important legal studies are in process, and for the first time safeguards have recently been extended to cover items produced as a result of transferred technological information and know-how.

26. Effective safeguards create the conditions in which nuclear plant material and know-how can move more freely across international frontiers—between the industrially advanced countries themselves and from them to the developing countries. In fact, it is only within the framework of confidence engendered by an effective international safeguards system that the benefits of nuclear energy will be fully realized throughout the world and not kept behind national barriers for fear of spreading nuclear weapons.

27. In the general effort to avoid further proliferation, an effort which is in the interest of all nations, the nuclear-weapon States have a particularly important role to play in at least three respects. First, they are major exporters. Secondly, they can help to demonstrate that international safeguards are not an

imposition on nuclear industry. Thirdly, and most important, further progress towards a comprehensive test ban on all nuclear explosions should encourage all those who support the cause of non-proliferation.

28. In the five years between the first Review Conference and the next one, which has been recommended for 1980, the international safeguards system will be put to severe and perhaps decisive tests. These will be years of rapid commercial expansion of nuclear power marked by a projected threefold expansion in the capacity of nuclear plants. The ability and capability to reprocess on the scale necessary for making explosives is also spreading. Plutonium stockpiles are growing. It is my sincere hope that the next review conference will be able to present to the world a safer picture. It is to be hoped that by then a common approach to the problems of non-proliferation and related measures towards nuclear disarmament will have been adopted by all concerned, particularly the nuclear-weapon States. If we do not achieve that concerned approach, the sense of frustration shown by several non-nuclear-weapon States at the Review Conference is bound to grow. There will be more who will question why they would forgo the nuclear option in an uncertain world and in the absence of progress on nuclear disarmament.

29. Related to the question of safeguards is the problem of protecting nuclear material against theft, sabotage and terrorist action—referred to as physical protection. There has been growing international concern about this problem. IAEA has recently revised its set of recommendations regarding action that member States should take to establish national systems for physical protection and to improve the quality and effectiveness of such systems. The Agency stands ready to arrange for expert help to member States in that connexion. The IAEA General Conference urged all the members of the Agency to establish and, if necessary, to strengthen their national systems of physical protection, and also to consider ways of promoting international co-operation in dealing with common problems. One course of action might be the preparation of an international convention regulating the transportation of nuclear material beyond national frontiers, since it represents the situation most vulnerable in this regard and directly involves the responsibility of more than one State.

30. Peaceful uses of nuclear explosions, the fourth challenge which I mentioned at the outset, has become a symbol of the atomic dilemma. Any benefits that this technology may offer must, of course, be available to every country; yet the essence of the non-proliferation Treaty and of all Agency safeguards activities is that the capacity to make nuclear explosives should not spread beyond the still small group of countries that now possess it. To avoid the discrimination inherent in this twin objective it would be desirable to place all such explosions in nuclear-weapon States as well as in non-nuclear-weapon States under an international régime and within the framework of a universal and total test-ban agreement.

31. That is a long-term aim. In the meantime, the General Assembly and the international community as a whole look to IAEA for an objective assessment of this technology and for services in connexion with its actual use. I am pleased to inform the Assembly

that in June of this year the Board of Governors established an *Ad Hoc* Advisory Group on Nuclear Explosions for Peaceful Purposes. The Group, which is open to all members of the Agency and all parties to the non-proliferation Treaty, held its first meeting early in October with the participation of 39 States. Among its first tasks the Group will establish a catalogue of possible applications of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes and their feasibility. It will also study health, safety and environmental aspects of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes, the economics of the applications of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes compared with alternative technologies, and the legal and treaty aspects of the matter. Procedures have already been adopted for assistance in carrying out projects related to nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes. The factors involved in setting up and operating an international service related to nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes will be reviewed.

32. The next meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Group will be held in March next year and its work is due to be completed by the end of 1976. The Group will, of course, make use of the extensive work already done by the IAEA secretariat, the Board of Governors and the Agency's four international technical panels on nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes, which have met since 1969 in order to review regularly the status of the technology.

33. Through the establishment of the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Group, the Work of IAEA in this field is being reviewed and directed at the intergovernmental level, and every interested State, whether or not a party to the non-proliferation Treaty, is offered the opportunity to participate fully. It has also been indicated by two of the States having nuclear explosive capacity that they would be prepared to consider requests for services related to nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes from non-parties as well as from parties to the Treaty.

34. To put the question in perspective, I should point out, as I did last year, that no State has yet formally requested such services. I should like to emphasize the need for very detailed studies to establish the feasibility and desirability of using nuclear explosions in any peaceful project under consideration. The impact of such undertakings would be considerable, but one must be sure not only that they are technically feasible and economically viable but also that the technology employed is sufficiently reliable and safe. With the limited experience available, these requirements for reliability and safety still need a great deal of development.

35. I have discussed what I have called four basic challenges of interest to this Assembly. I should like now to touch briefly on some aspects of the Agency's technical assistance activities.

36. We have launched this year a series of training courses on the planning and implementation of nuclear-power projects. This is a pioneering activity which should help developing countries to solve some of the fundamental problems they face in introducing nuclear power.

37. Despite the emphasis placed on nuclear power, however, we must recognize that for a large number of our member States the main interest of atomic

energy still lies in the application of nuclear techniques in medicine, agricultural research and the development of water resources. For that reason we are holding an increasing number of scientific meetings on those topics in Africa and other developing areas, and we are pressing ahead with arrangements for regional co-operation in nuclear science and techniques.

38. As regards the Agency's technical assistance target for 1976, I am happy to report that the target has been increased to \$5.5 million. Also, UNDP funds have tripled in five years, with a steady increase in the number of major UNDP projects.

39. In summary, the Agency is endeavouring to carry out the tasks entrusted to it by its statute and by the non-proliferation Treaty, at the same time increasing its capability to make benefits derived from nuclear energy more readily available to developing countries.

40. Before concluding, I should like to take this opportunity to pay a tribute to the generosity of our host Government and to the city of Vienna, not only for providing the Agency with permanent headquarters accommodation but also for the new and extensive laboratory facilities provided for our safeguards work.

41. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Russian*): On behalf of the General Assembly, I should like to thank Mr. Eklund for his introduction of the report of IAEA.

42. Mr. BERASATEGUI (Argentina) (*interpretation from Spanish*): The year 1975 has been of particular importance for relations between Argentina and IAEA. Shortly before the beginning of the year, on 6 December 1974 to be precise, negotiations were successfully concluded in which my country voluntarily agreed to submit to Agency safeguards over the installations of the nuclear reactor at Embalse. Although those negotiations demanded much effort and gave rise to considerable difficulties, a compromise solution, testifying to the spirit of co-operation and flexibility of both sides, was finally arrived at.

43. Again in 1975, a little over a month ago, Argentina was honoured by the election of the Secretary for Energy and President of the National Atomic Energy Commission, Mr. Pedro Iraolagoitia, as President of the Board of Governors of IAEA. We construe his election as implying recognition of our long and uninterrupted co-operation with the Agency's activities and of Argentina's traditionally pacifist position as clearly reflected in its positive attitude towards the Agency's safeguards system, in accordance with its statute. Similarly, we have endeavoured to support its technical co-operation activities to the extent of our ability. Recent proof thereof is the approximately eight-month-long pan-American metallurgy course held in Argentina in 1974, where 50 per cent of those attending the course were professionals from other Latin American countries.

44. The nineteenth report of IAEA,¹ which is submitted to the General Assembly for consideration, is of the same precision and high quality we customarily find in the Agency's annual reports. Together with the statement just made by the Director-General, Mr. Eklund, it offers an up-to-date and detailed picture of the Agency's past activities, and those areas where co-operation is being developed. It is hardly necessary

for my delegation to comment in detail on these questions, except to emphasize the importance of the Agency's work and to express, once again, our appreciation of the effective technical co-operation we have received from the Agency in the development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

45. After referring to the work of the IAEA in my capacity as representative of Argentina, I now wish, on behalf of the sponsors, to introduce the draft resolution in document A/L.771, which refers to the Agency's report. In so doing, I should like to underline the fact that the text submitted to the General Assembly for consideration was the subject of a thorough, detailed analysis by the sponsors, with a view to fulfilling two clearly defined objectives.

46. The first aim was to produce a document that would reflect all the approaches and points of view represented in this Assembly. Great care was taken to maintain as far as possible a sound balance which would in no way prejudice any position; in this connexion, the draft resolution does not presume to be entirely satisfactory to all, as it is certainly not satisfactory to the sponsors themselves. But the latter have accepted it in its present form, because it is their belief that thus they would facilitate broad support for the resolution.

47. Concomitantly, the sponsors have consulted a number of delegations representing different trends in the General Assembly, so as to obtain their reactions to the draft resolution. Those consultations led to the conclusion that with a small addition, which in no way alters its essential elements, it would be possible for the draft resolution to obtain the general support sought by its sponsors.

48. The addition to which I am referring consists of the insertion of the words "for the peaceful needs of these countries" in operative paragraph 4, which would then read:

"Notes with appreciation the increased and continuing emphasis which the International Atomic Energy Agency places in its technical assistance programme on the introduction of nuclear power and its technology in developing countries for the peaceful needs of these countries, in particular the series of training courses on nuclear power project planning and implementation."

49. The second aim of the sponsors was to obtain agreement for a draft resolution which would give the necessary support to the different activities of IAEA, in accordance with the provisions of article II of the statute, which lays down its fundamental objectives. This is the meaning of operative paragraphs 3 to 6 of the draft resolution, which refer to the different fields of co-operation being developed by the Agency.

50. Operative paragraphs 3 and 4 are of special importance for the developing countries. They both include provisions seeking to take account of the growing needs of those countries, which, we hope, will promote further efforts to ensure that our countries will enjoy the maximum co-operation from the Agency in the development and application of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, in particular with regard to nuclear reactors. The Director-General has, in fact, just emphasized the importance of that question in connexion with the seventh special session of the

General Assembly and the establishment of a new international economic order.

51. Operative paragraph 7 is a logical consequence of the scope, meaning and purpose of the draft resolution. If we wish IAEA to fulfil effectively the objectives set by States, it is only logical that they should continue to co-operate with the Agency in the different spheres of the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

52. The sponsors commend this draft resolution to the General Assembly for adoption in the conviction that its principal merit lies in the possibility of achieving a new consensus that will strengthen the work of IAEA and thereby facilitate international co-operation within the framework of its activities.

53. Consequently, if the debate confirms this assessment, we should be grateful to the President if the draft I have just formally introduced to the General Assembly could be adopted by consensus.

54. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Russian*): I shall now call on representatives who wish to explain their votes before the vote.

55. Baron VAN WOERDEN (Netherlands): My country is very pleased to be in a position to sponsor the draft resolution on the report of IAEA, so ably introduced by the representative of Argentina. We trust that the draft resolution will receive general support and thus give encouragement to the valuable work of IAEA.

56. To mention a few issues, I should like to express my Government's appreciation of the work of the Agency in the field of nuclear safety and environmental protection, including the training of scientists and technicians from developing countries. My Government is happy that new guidelines have been developed in respect of the physical protection of nuclear material so as to help counter an increasing potential danger. Strengthening nuclear safeguards is a continuous task of the Agency. I am happy to note, therefore, the establishment of the standing advisory group on safeguards implementation and the commissioning of the Safeguards Analytical Laboratory at Seibersdorf in Austria. It is our hope that the British proposals on the standardization of nuclear safeguards in all countries of the world will have a useful follow-up.

57. I would stress also the great importance we attach to the development of stricter common export safeguards requirements by nuclear exporting countries. For several reasons my delegation supports the studies on regional fuel cycle centres; we hope that these studies may lead to basically safer and more economical international nuclear fuel cycles in the world. My Government supports the studies by the Agency on most aspects of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes. In this connexion, we welcome the establishment of the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Group on Nuclear Explosions for Peaceful Purposes. In the First Committee my delegation will introduce tomorrow a draft resolution with respect to nuclear explosions for Peaceful Purposes.

58. Let me conclude by reiterating our warm support for the work of IAEA and our gratitude for the very interesting statement just delivered by the Director-General of the Agency.

59. Mr. MIHAJLOVIĆ (Yugoslavia): On behalf of the Yugoslav delegation I should like, first of all, to welcome the presence among us of the Director-General of IAEA, Mr. Eklund, and to thank him for the excellent report he has submitted to the General Assembly on the work and activities of the Agency.

60. The annual report of the Agency provides us with the opportunity to acquaint ourselves with a number of activities of IAEA as well as with activities planned for the future. The growing demands of Member States concerning the practical application of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes have stimulated a number of these activities, especially in connexion with the introduction of nuclear power and other major nuclear technologies in Member States.

61. Nuclear energy is becoming an increasingly important factor of development, spurred on considerably by the rise in the price of fossil fuels and by the need to find new sources of energy. Of no less importance, however, are the justified expectations and wishes of the developing countries to accelerate their development by making use of modern technology, including nuclear technology, whenever this is warranted and useful.

62. The introduction of nuclear energy in general is a complex undertaking and is linked with numerous problems. Some of these problems prove to be even more difficult in the case of the introduction of nuclear energy in developing countries. One of the constant factors with which these countries are faced is reflected in the fact that the transfer of nuclear technology to developing countries still falls far short of expectations and promises and of the obligations assumed by nuclear Powers under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons [*resolution 2373 (XXII), annex*].

63. The Review Conference of the parties to the Treaty, which was held at Geneva from 5 to 30 May 1975, was a new disappointment for the developing countries as regards the unequal position of the nuclear-weapon States. At that Conference the Yugoslav delegation pointed out that the nuclear-weapon States had not fulfilled their basic obligations assumed under the Treaty: they had not discontinued the nuclear-arms race, which was assuming new proportions; they had continued nuclear-weapon testing and nuclear-weapon proliferation, both vertical and horizontal, in the territories of some non-nuclear-weapon States; they had failed to respond to the legitimate demand of the developing countries by accepting a programme of measures that would give substance to the Treaty, both in respect of disarmament measures and in respect of the application of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

64. Strong pressure was exerted in order to impose the view that the spread of nuclear technology and the application of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in themselves constituted a threat of the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The main effort of some countries was directed towards imposing new, additional obligations on non-nuclear-weapon States, aggravating still further the existing imbalance in rights and duties as between nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon States.

65. By adhering to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the non-nuclear-weapon States have demonstrated their attachment to the régime of non-proliferation. However, they also believe that the strengthening of the non-proliferation régime and the continuance of the nuclear-arms race are incompatible, and that the only way to strengthen this régime is to ban the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, stop the production of nuclear weapons, discontinue nuclear-weapon tests and set in motion the process of nuclear disarmament. The principal threats to world peace and security are to be found in the aforementioned domain and not in the potential danger deriving from the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy by countries which have voluntarily renounced the possession of nuclear weapons.

66. The main obstacles encountered by developing countries in initiating their nuclear-power programmes are the problems of financing and of the shortage of trained technical and administrative manpower. A number of those countries are, however, capable of effectively utilizing the technical assistance offered by the Agency. It is indispensable, therefore, for the Agency to make every effort to find ways and means of increasing financial resources and of ensuring their optimum utilization in the implementation of the Agency's programmes aimed at achieving the above objective.

67. The action taken by IAEA to raise further the level of the target for voluntary contributions to the general fund of \$5.5 million, in 1976, is not at all sufficient to meet the growing needs of developing countries. However, in view of the increased needs of those countries, it is necessary to exert new efforts and to look for additional sources of financing for many commendable projects of the Agency. We consider that the developed countries with nuclear power should find it in their own interests to increase their voluntary contributions to the Agency, especially having in mind the growing need for nuclear power in Member States. At the last General Conference of IAEA, the Agency's *Market Survey for Nuclear Power in Developing Countries* showed that nuclear power is now attractive on economic grounds to about 40 developing countries and should account for more than half of the capacity additions in these countries during the next decade, 1980 to 1990.

68. However, as the developing countries proceed with nuclear-power programmes at an accelerated pace they are likely to encounter such problems of financing, the assimilation of new technologies, the training of local staff, maintaining plant safety, the safeguarding of fissile materials, and other related matters associated with the setting-up of complete fuel-cycle facilities as are already being experienced in many of the industrialized countries. It appears that the best way to solve this complex of interrelated problems is through international co-operation on a regional basis so as to co-ordinate effectively the development of all steps of the fuel cycle: fuel fabrication, spent-fuel storage and transport, spent-fuel reprocessing and waste treatment and disposal. The benefits of such an approach would touch all those potential problem areas. Not only would there be economic benefit from large regional plants but there would also be improved manpower utilization, more efficient technological

operations, better security of materials and, very important, more efficient radioactive-waste management and disposal.

69. In this connexion, Yugoslavia is following with keen interest the preparations for the conference on nuclear-power and its fuel cycle which is planned for 1977, bearing in mind the development of its own national nuclear-energy programme.

70. At the last General Conference of IAEA, Yugoslavia was elected to the Board of Governors. We believe that this will offer the possibility of developing still further the already existing fruitful co-operation between Yugoslavia and the Agency.

71. Mr. WYZNER (Poland): The Polish Government has consistently attached great importance to the activities of IAEA. We therefore welcome with satisfaction the annual report of IAEA, which has been so ably introduced by the Director-General, Mr. Eklund, in his lucid statement. We fully appreciate the fact that his personal dedication, knowledge and experience have contributed to the effective manner in which the Agency has been able to discharge its duties over the past 12 months.

72. It is a cause for special gratification to my delegation that the active involvement of my country in the work pursued by the Agency, as well as our broad co-operation with its programmes, have in turn been recognized by the latest General Conference, which entrusted its chairmanship to the representative of Poland, Mr. Jan Felicki, and which has also elected my country to the Agency's Board of Governors for a two-year term.

73. While its operations have been facilitated by the process of political détente in Europe and elsewhere, the Agency's responsibilities, because of a number of factors, have grown both in scope and in complexity. At the same time, the international prestige of IAEA has further increased because of its role in the peaceful application of atomic energy throughout the world, reflected in the conclusion or entry into force of additional safeguards agreements under article III of the non-proliferation Treaty. With the admission of three new Members—Qatar, the United Republic of Tanzania and the United Arab Emirates—the Agency has advanced further towards universality.

74. The IAEA report before us again draws the attention of the international community to some of the implications of the ascendant role of nuclear energy in this energy-conscious age. The rapid expansion of nuclear technology, a by-product of the scarcity and growing costs of fossil fuels, makes for increased responsibilities for the Agency not only in the field of the physical protection of nuclear material and of nuclear safety in general, but also in the field of environmental protection and in regard to the application of safeguards designed to assure the international community the increased availability of fissionable materials will not find its way to nuclear programmes other than peaceful ones. The fact that in the period under review the IAEA inspectors carried out 190 inspections connected with article III of the non-proliferation Treaty, as compared to only 147 a year ago, is a welcome indication of the growing scope of the Agency's work in that respect.

75. Indeed, my delegation believes that the Agency's safeguard role under article III of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is among the most relevant and constructive aspects of its activities, as is recognized in the Final Declaration on the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons³ held at Geneva last May. As is well known, Poland and other socialist countries attended the Conference with the primary objective of securing the further consolidation and strengthening of what we believe to be one of the most significant international instruments in the field of arms limitation. We wished to see the scope of that Treaty enlarged, its strict observance promoted, and its universality advanced by encouraging the widest adherence to it. We are gratified that these objectives have been largely attained and that, as a result, the non-proliferation Treaty emerged from the review process considerably strengthened, although, admittedly, some divergences of opinion on several issues were voiced by certain countries. The ratification of the Treaty by a number of States, including the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy and other "near-nuclear" EURATOM States, not only advanced the cause of the universality of the non-proliferation Treaty, but also offered proof of sustained confidence in that instrument.

76. The report covers a great number of important matters with which the Agency is concerned as a result of the recommendations of the Review Conference. Some of them my delegation deems highly relevant. They include, *inter alia*, studies on the concept of regional or multinational nuclear fuel cycle centres, an issue the significance of which came to be better appreciated in the light of the concern of the international community over the recent major commercial deals involving the technology of complete nuclear fuel cycles. Other important Agency activities resulting from the Review Conference which the report refers to, include studies on nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes as well as its technical assistance programmes for the benefit of developing States parties to the non-proliferation Treaty.

77. At the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly, when speaking on the work of the Preparatory Committee for the Review Conference, I had the opportunity to acknowledge with appreciation the excellent co-operation extended to the Committee by the Agency and by Mr. Eklund personally. Today I wish to restate our gratification at the fact that the Review Conference throughout its duration had the benefit of the generous co-operation of IAEA. As the report notes, the Agency had submitted valuable reports on its safeguards work, on nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes, on the provision of technical assistance and on other activities related to article IV of the non-proliferation Treaty, which were most helpful in the deliberations of the Conference.

78. My delegation believes that the Agency should be commended on the sense of urgency and purpose with which it has already started to implement the relevant recommendations of the Review Conference, including those on nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes. After all, those tasks mean an additional workload on top of its other priorities, including

environment protection and technical assistance programmes.

79. To that latter issue Poland attaches special importance, particularly to technical assistance programmes in the field of the application of atomic science and techniques in agriculture and medicine. Motivated by a desire to make a further contribution to those programmes, the Polish Government has decided again to increase by over 60 per cent its voluntary payment to the technical assistance programme for 1976, a contribution which was, in any event, substantially augmented a year ago.

80. Moreover, as reflected in annex B to the IAEA report,¹ Poland has again offered 10 fellowships, free of charge and available to nuclear scientists from developing countries.

81. As my delegation had occasion to observe during the consideration of the IAEA report at the twenty-ninth session, few other fields of human activity pose potentially greater hazards to the survival of man, and hence require more urgent remedial measures, than does the use of nuclear energy. We cannot overlook the fact, of course, that the hazards to man's natural environment arising from atomic radiation generated by nuclear facilities geared to the peaceful applications of the atom could be compounded by the continued atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons, even though by one nuclear-weapon Power only. The IAEA efforts in the field of environment protection would be greatly facilitated by the General Assembly's positive action on the proposal advanced by the USSR to conclude a treaty on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests [*see A/10447*].

82. Finally, I should like to register the satisfaction of my delegation over the recent conclusion of an agreement between the Agency and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance [CMEA] on close co-operation in the sphere of the peaceful applications of nuclear energy, co-operation which we trust will be mutually profitable.

83. In concluding, I wish to underline my Government's full support for the IAEA programme of operations for the year 1976 which was submitted to and approved by the General Conference of the Agency last September. We believe that 1976 and the next few years will see a further expansion of the Agency's technical and political role in the field of safeguards, resulting from the growing pace of the application of nuclear energy on the one hand and the increased co-operation of States, spurred on by the process of political détente, on the other. In that respect, the competence of IAEA and the leadership of its Director-General are, of course, primary factors.

84. For those reasons, my delegation will be glad to give its support to draft resolution A/L.771.

85. Mr. BENNETT (United States of America): On behalf of my Government, I wish to commend the Director-General and the staff of IAEA with respect to the Agency's annual report for the period from July 1974 through June 1975.¹ We believe this report reflects the superior quality which has characterized the work of IAEA over the years. In a period of history marked by world-wide concern about such crucial problems as the proliferation of nuclear weapons, energy shortages, food shortages and the need for transferring

modern technology to developing countries, it is gratifying to read a report which indicates that the United Nations system incorporates an institution which is addressing these problems with vigour and with imagination. The report provides solid evidence that the Agency is carrying out its mandate in an efficient and productive manner.

86. The recent nineteenth General Conference of IAEA, which approved this report, manifested the world-wide support which the Agency has won for its activities. We were especially impressed by the support expressed at that Conference for the concept of regional nuclear fuel cycle centres as well as for international arrangements to promote the physical protection of nuclear material and facilities. We also welcome the comments made by the Director-General concerning regional nuclear fuel cycle centres in his statement to this Assembly.

87. My Government endorses the work of the Agency in those fields and urges all members to encourage and assist the Agency in those undertakings. It is only through the continued vigorous support of the world community that the Agency will be enabled to continue its most important functions. My Government is prepared to support draft resolution A/L.771 sponsored by Argentina, the Netherlands and Yugoslavia.

88. Mr. GARCÍA ROBLES (Mexico) (*interpretation from Spanish*): The Mexican delegation has studied very carefully the report of IAEA, which contains a detailed summary of the activities of the Agency in the past year. Similarly, we have listened with the same attention to the presentation of the report by the Director-General of the Agency, Mr. Eklund. My delegation is glad of the opportunity afforded by its annual debate to express once again its appreciation of the efforts made by the Agency in Vienna in the area of the peaceful application of nuclear energy, in particular in the developing countries, and of the dedication with which Mr. Eklund directs those activities.

89. On previous occasions we have laid emphasis on the need for IAEA to redouble its technical assistance activities and efforts in favour of the developing countries. We are convinced that today, more than ever, it is essential that those countries should make the greatest possible use of the services and assistance of the Agency. Mexico has received that assistance in connexion with its nuclear-electric programme and especially with the two reactors of Laguna Verde, Veracruz, which are scheduled to go into operation at the end of the present decade. In addition, studies are being carried out for the installation of other units in other parts of the country.

90. Mexico's nuclear-electric programme is such that it is hoped that by 1990 it will provide over 30 per cent of the electric power produced in the country. In order to ensure the full development of that programme it will be necessary to exploit our uranium resources more fully. It is for this reason that Mexico at present attaches special importance to geological and geophysical prospecting for such resources in our country.

91. These programmes form part of the consistent long-term policy of the Mexican Government for the achievement of the widest possible use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. In this connexion, it

should be pointed out that the whole of the Mexican nuclear programme has been placed under Agency safeguards, and that this year an amendment to article 27 of the Political Constitution of Mexico entered into force whereby it is laid down that "it is up to the nation to ensure the full use of nuclear resources for the generation of nuclear energy and the regulation of its applications for other purposes" and that "nuclear energy can only be used for peaceful purposes".

92. Mexico has followed closely and supports resolutely the Agency's activities for the establishment of safeguards to ensure that fissionable material, special and other, as well as services, equipment and installations, are used exclusively for peaceful purposes. We also support the establishment of safety regulations to protect health and to reduce to a minimum any danger to life or property that might result from the use of nuclear energy.

93. However, we must once again stress the fact that the intensification of IAEA activities in the field of safeguards should be accompanied by even greater intensification of the technical assistance given by the Agency to the developing countries.

94. With regard to the question of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes, which the report of the Agency and in particular, annex A, deals with *in extenso*, the Mexican delegation wishes to repeat that its position concerning the special international agreement, which the representative of the United States, Mr. Goldberg, called the basic special international agreement in the First Committee debates in 1968,—and which is mentioned in article V of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons—is the same we set forth on 25 November 1968⁴ and reiterated last May at the Review Conference of the Treaty itself.

95. It is in the light of the foregoing that Mexico's support for draft resolution A/L.771, submitted by Argentina, the Netherlands and Yugoslavia, is to be interpreted.

96. Mr. JAIPAL (India): May I, personally and on behalf of my delegation, extend to the Director-General of IAEA my Government's appreciation of the work of the Agency under his distinguished leadership and guidance. We all know only too well the high hopes placed by the General Assembly in the Agency when it was established in 1957. We know also the unrealized potential there is in the Agency's statute for harnessing the atom for peaceful purposes, especially for the benefit of developing countries. It is necessary therefore for the General Assembly, when examining the annual report of IAEA, to relate it to the original objectives of the Agency which are stipulated in article II of the statute.

97. Since the Agency was created, the membership of the United Nations has more than doubled and the majority of Members today are developing countries. We hope this fact will never be lost sight of by the Agency. We say this not because the Agency has neglected the needs of developing countries but rather because we are aware of the financial, political and other constraints that are placed upon the Agency. There is all the more reason, therefore, for the needs

of developing countries to be given priority attention. We wish to assure the Director-General that he will always find in the General Assembly overwhelming support for whatever the Agency may do to increase and expand assistance to developing countries.

98. The problems facing developing countries have been identified in the report as shortage of finance and of trained personnel. But, of course, they are not the only problems. As the Director-General pointed out in his most interesting and significant statement this afternoon, there is also the problem of uranium shortage. The Agency's programmes for surmounting these and other problems of developing countries should be intensified and expanded. We are aware that regional seminars and training courses are being planned, as well as regional solutions for meeting their fuel cycle needs. However, we should like to see greater attention given also to projects for better use of fertilizers and for development of water resources for irrigation purposes.

99. We know that the Agency has in hand a project for evolving safety codes for nuclear power plants. May I mention in this connexion that the practical application of knowledge and experience in this sphere to developing countries directly concerns the Agency. We would therefore expect the Agency to take into account the inherent shortcomings of developing countries when it establishes safety codes for them. Working groups entrusted with this task should invariably include participants from developing countries so that the application of sophisticated methods is adapted to suit the special situations in the developing countries.

100. In the introduction of nuclear technology in developing countries it is important to ensure that transfer of technology does not also bring with it transfer of hegemony of one kind or another. This is a danger that developing countries have to guard against, because nuclear technology at the moment is the virtual monopoly of a few developed countries. Naturally, developing countries look to the Agency for adequate safeguards against monopolistic influences and pressures not only in the matter of trade in nuclear materials but also in regard to attempts to impose international inspection of a sweeping nature that may sometimes infringe national sovereignty.

101. We see from the report that for 1976 the target for voluntary contributions for technical assistance has been fixed at \$5.5 million. We believe that technical assistance is the most important function of the Agency for developing countries, and we fully support the Agency's programmes. But it seems odd that technical assistance should be financed out of voluntary contributions and not out of the regular assessed budget. There is a reason for this, of course, and it goes back to the early days of drafting the statute of the Agency, when the expectation was that the bulk of technical assistance would be provided on an intergovernmental basis and not through the Agency. But a time may come soon when the Agency will be called upon directly to provide assistance of all sorts, and it will then be questioned increasingly why the entire expenditure of the Agency should not be borne on the regular budget. Pressures in this direction may become inevitable unless all requests for technical assistance from developing countries are met adequately and

regularly through an increasing scale of voluntary contributions in cash or in kind to the Agency.

102. International responsibility in this regard has to be acknowledged because, as the report itself says, for the next 20 years, if not longer, nuclear power will offer the only practical means of reducing the world's dependence on fossil fuels. We cannot accept a situation of monopoly in regard to nuclear technology. We should like the assistance of the Agency in ensuring that the acquisition of this technology by developing countries is on the basis of non-discrimination and the sovereign equality of nations.

103. We observe that the report has dealt at some length with nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes. The various studies carried out by the Agency in this field make it clear that this technology is feasible. Further experimentation should open up possibilities for the application of this technology in industry, in construction operations and in scientific research. It is essential, therefore, that the development of this technology is not hampered by artificially created difficulties similar to those imaginary obstacles erected in the early years concerning the design of nuclear reactors and more recently concerning the siting of reactors.

104. More emphasis is now placed on regulatory aspects than on promotional and developmental aspects of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and this imbalance needs to be corrected.

105. I come now to the safeguards operations of the Agency. We regard safeguards activity as being primarily of national interest and scope. There are, however, one or two matters of general concern. First, the safeguards department of the Agency seems to be growing at a somewhat rapid rate in terms of both cost and personnel. We wonder whether such growth is really commensurate with the actual results achieved. Surely it is more practical and economic to develop and rely more and more on national or regional safeguards systems than on one centralized safeguards agency. Secondly, we feel that the Agency should continue to adhere scrupulously to the principles enshrined in its own statute and should not yield to extraneous pressures. Any attempt by the Agency to impose on Member States safeguards requirements that are not universal in their application would in fact be discriminatory and would damage the Agency in the long run. The integrity of the Agency's safeguards system should not be eroded by considerations that are political in character.

106. Lastly, my delegation has read the draft resolution submitted by Argentina, the Netherlands and Yugoslavia [A/L.771]. We shall be glad to support it.

107. Mr. FAKTOR (Czechoslovakia) (*interpretation from Russian*): From the report of IAEA, which we are now discussing, it appears that the very favourable influence of the Agency on international co-operation in the field of the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes is being strengthened. At present, IAEA, generally speaking, is successfully participating in the dissemination of experience on the practical uses of nuclear technology and energy in the world within the framework of the general development of

useful and peaceful co-operation between States with different social structures on the basis of international détente.

108. The Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held last May at Geneva, strengthened the role and importance of IAEA. The work of the Conference will influence to a considerable extent the development of important spheres of the Agency's activities, primarily as regards the further enhancement of the effectiveness of the existing system of safeguards and controls within the IAEA framework, by means of expanding international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, including nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes and assistance to the developing countries in the application of these for peaceful nuclear projects. This fact was noted in the statement made by the Director-General of IAEA, Mr. Eklund, at the nineteenth General Conference of the Agency.

109. We are of the view that the work of the Agency should be intensified in connexion with the practical implementation of the non-proliferation Treaty and with the Final Declaration adopted by the Review Conference at Geneva last May.³

110. We have in mind the strengthening of the Agency's activities, mainly in the field of achieving more effective safeguards in order to respect the sovereign rights of States and ensure that the safeguards do not hamper the economic, scientific and technological development of the States parties to the Treaty as regards international co-operation in the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

111. We consider it appropriate for the Agency to continue to develop and utilize the most progressive technological methods and means of control to improve the organizational structure and operational activities in implementing control and inspection. This could be promoted by automation in the preparation and analysis of safeguards data, by the use of computer technology and by setting up national systems to register nuclear material.

112. The Agency should devote more attention than it has so far to the conclusion of safeguards agreements. In the interests of strengthening the system of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, it would be useful for States which export nuclear equipment and materials and which grant assistance in the field of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy to States parties to the non-proliferation Treaty to insist that such States undertake not to use those materials and that technology for the production of nuclear explosive devices. For this reason the Agency should step up its work to enhance the effectiveness of controls and safeguards in the non-nuclear States that have not yet acceded to the Treaty.

113. In the view of the Czechoslovak delegation, this activity should be directed towards maximum harmonization of the criteria of the "old" system of safeguards utilized by the Agency with those of the model agreement on safeguards in accordance with the Treaty: in other words, at expanding the Agency's control measures over all peaceful activities in the

field of nuclear energy by States that are not parties to the Treaty.

114. The Czechoslovak delegation also holds the view that the non-nuclear States that are parties to the Treaty should be given priority with respect to receiving IAEA technical assistance over those States which have not yet acceded to the Treaty.

115. The Czechoslovak delegation supports the Agency in the development and implementation of the idea of creating intergovernmental and regional nuclear fuel cycle centres, the creation of which would provide the developing countries with economic and technical benefits and would promote the further strengthening of the Agency's control role in limiting the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

116. As regards nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes, the Czechoslovak delegation welcomes the decisions taken at the Review Conference at Geneva, which emphasized the role of the Agency as the sole international body by means of which services could be provided for nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes. At this point, the Agency should begin, through a group of experts, to draw up the appropriate procedures leading to an international agreement or agreements, as provided for in article V of the non-proliferation Treaty.

117. Czechoslovakia supports the draft programme of the Agency for 1976, insofar as it meets our interests in the field of nuclear energy, the development of nuclear science and technology, nuclear safety and environmental protection, the International Nuclear Information System [INIS], technical assistance, the use of radionuclides and ionizing radiation, the preparation and finalization of rules for the physical protection of nuclear material and the practical implementation of the principles of the Treaty, particularly regarding safeguards and control.

118. At the nineteenth General Conference of the Agency, held at Vienna, our Government submitted a proposal calling for the organization of two special Agency events in 1976 and one Agency symposium in 1977 to be held in Czechoslovakia. In connexion with these proposals, which had already been made on another occasion, we should welcome the organization of a second international IAEA symposium in the field of nuclear information. Furthermore, within the framework of the fellowships for 1976, we suggest five additional long-term fellowships for study in Czechoslovak institutions, four one-year fellowships covering introductory courses at the Czechoslovak Institute of Science or other institutes of research in the field of the Czechoslovak nuclear programme, and three supplementary yearly fellowships financed by UNDP.

119. The Czechoslovak Government will contribute the sum of 250,000 Czechoslovak krone to the IAEA fund for technical assistance to the developing countries. I should like to stress that Czechoslovakia pays great attention to the needs and interests of the developing countries. From the time of its ratification of the non-proliferation Treaty, Czechoslovakia has increased its voluntary contribution to the technical assistance fund of IAEA by 65 per cent.

120. Throughout the past period, the Agency has achieved excellent results. My delegation supports the

draft resolution on the report of IAEA [A/L.771] and will vote in favour of it.

121. Mr. NISHIBORI (Japan): It is with a warm feeling of welcome that I extend my greetings to the Director-General of IAEA, Mr. Eklund, and offer my most sincere congratulations on his significant statement on the Agency's activities.

122. There is no need to reiterate that the promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy is an important factor for the welfare and prosperity of the human race, but I would say that in this field we are faced with three problems of immense proportions.

123. The first is the problem of how to promote international co-operation so that all the peoples of the world may enjoy equally the benefits of the progress that is being made in the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. This is a problem of how to expedite the interchange and flow of nuclear technology, information, material and equipment and of urgently expanding technical assistance to the developing countries.

124. The second problem is that of ensuring safety and protecting the environment, as the application of nuclear energy widens.

125. The third problem is that of strengthening and rationalizing the safeguards system lest the widespread use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes should lead to nuclear proliferation on the one hand, and of establishing and ensuring the implementation of proper rules concerning the international transfer of nuclear materials on the other hand.

126. Those are, of course, among the tasks entrusted to IAEA, and it is with gratification that, after examining Mr. Eklund's report, I am able to confirm that some constructive results have emerged from the serious consideration of the problems by IAEA.

127. First, at its last General Conference the Agency approved the target sum of \$5.5 million, to be contributed voluntarily to the general fund for the fiscal year 1976. I have a high regard for the positive stance thus taken by IAEA regarding the provision of assistance in the development of nuclear energy. I take this opportunity to express the hope that that target will soon be successfully achieved, and that an effective technical assistance programme will be provided and subsequently expanded.

128. Secondly, it should not be overlooked that the standing advisory group on safeguards implementation of IAEA will be meeting in the near future with a view to ensuring efficiency and reasonableness in the implementation of the Agency's safeguards. My country places high hopes in the future performance of the advisory group and intends to co-operate actively with it on the basis of the experience and knowledge that we have accumulated as the country which was the first to accept the IAEA safeguards voluntarily.

129. Thirdly, we are gratified to note that the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Group on Nuclear Explosions for Peaceful Purposes has begun to study the problems of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes, including their technical and economic feasibility and safety and the legal aspects. While I trust that the activities of the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Group will mark an important step towards clarifying a variety of problems concerning the aspects

I have mentioned, I hope that the study will be made quickly and that it will produce the guidelines necessary for the non-nuclear-weapon States that wish to enjoy the services provided for in article V of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, if and when nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes are put to practical use.

130. Lastly, there is the question of the physical protection of nuclear material, which has recently attracted special attention. While I am of the opinion that this is a question which should be solved essentially by the respective countries, it would be desirable for the IAEA secretariat to continue to study such problems as the aspects and techniques of protection and to assist the respective countries, as required, in implementing physical protection effectively in a manner appropriate to their respective circumstances.

131. For the human race, nuclear energy is a fire of hope when used for peaceful purposes. If used for destructive purposes, on the other hand, it will become a curse which will wipe out the human race. Therefore the first pre-condition must be that the peaceful uses of nuclear energy are promoted in such a way as will completely eliminate the possibility of their serving destructive purposes. I earnestly desire, therefore, that IAEA should further intensify its activities as the guardian of the fire of hope for the human race.

132. Mr. BARTON (Canada): It is a great pleasure for me to be here speaking on behalf of Canada on this day because 20 years ago I had the privilege of participating in the drafting of the statute of IAEA and a few years later I served on its first Board of Governors.

133. I should like to preface my remarks on IAEA by welcoming the three new members of the Agency, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar, not only because of this further implementation of the principle of universality but also because of the contribution which we are confident will be made by those three countries to the work of the Agency. I also express our appreciation for the interesting and instructive statement of the Director-General earlier this afternoon.

134. Since its creation, the Agency has served—in its own words—to “enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world”, primarily through its promotion of nuclear energy programmes including assistance, training and information exchange, and through the development of constructive and dynamic safety and environmental protection programmes. Moreover, it has acted to enhance international security through improved safeguards activities and through the development of adequate standards for the physical security of nuclear material.

135. The acceleration of the demand for, and the interest in, nuclear power as an alternative source of energy, brought about largely by the recent greatly increased costs of oil and petroleum, has added a new dimension to the Agency's nuclear power expansion programmes and a new urgency to the Agency's safeguards work. Canada recognizes the need for the growth of nuclear power, particularly in the developing countries, but at the same time we are deeply concerned that that expansion be controlled in consistency with the obligation of the Agency as stated

in article II of its statute, to “ensure, so far as it is able, that assistance provided by it or at its request or under its supervision or control is not used in such a way as to further any military purpose.”

136. I am pleased to note again this year that such a large proportion of the Agency's regular budget has been dedicated to programmes of direct interest to developing member States, and in particular to note the increased emphasis that the developing countries, members of the Agency, have placed on the introduction of nuclear power into their energy programmes. It is becoming increasingly clear that, in a number of countries, nuclear energy provides a major alternative to hydrocarbons, which are expensive and, in short, an unreliable supply. A sound nuclear programme carefully planned, adequately staffed and efficiently operated could now bring within the reach of many countries the possibility of longer-term energy security and, with advances in resource development and reactor technology, an increased degree of energy independence.

137. The Agency, through its various programmes, has a vital role to play in the expansion of nuclear power. One of its most important activities this year will be its study of the desirability and the technical and economic feasibility of regional fuel cycle centres, and this is an activity which my country endorses whole-heartedly. Urgent study is needed of such possibilities in order to make the most effective use of scarce resources. The joint efforts of groups of countries to co-operate to this end could lead to a breakthrough in the wider introduction of nuclear power for development. Canada shares the views expressed by other countries as to the role which regional fuel cycle centres might play in lessening the danger of the proliferation of nuclear explosive devices by limiting the number of facilities producing fissile material.

138. It is equally clear that the Agency is also the organization to which all nuclear programme operators must look for help in the definition of common standards of safety and environmental protection. Canada fully supports the Agency's ongoing programme to develop safety codes and guides. We are an active participant in the Agency's work in the area of radioactive waste management, and this reflects our national policy of storing wastes at land-based sites in retrievable form rather than attempting to “dispose” of such materials, while recognizing at the same time that such a solution may not be possible for all countries.

139. One of the most controversial and fundamental issues facing the Agency concerns the environmental implications of nuclear power. In keeping with the high standards of scientific objectivity and responsibility to the international community, which we have always been able to take for granted in the case of the Agency, it should continue to do its best to ensure that a comparative examination of the environmental impact of the various other energy sources is pursued on the highest scientific plane possible.

140. We welcome most heartily the co-operation of the Agency and WHO in a study aimed at a quantitative evaluation of the effects of all available options for energy production. We agree with the Director-General's remarks that it will be more useful if the environmental implications of nuclear energy are examined in the context of other available energy options, and

we welcome his willingness to seize the opportunity for the Agency to play a most useful role towards this end in its co-operation with UNEP.

141. I take this opportunity to commend the Agency for the very useful work it has undertaken with respect to the application of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes. Canada fully supported the conclusion of the Final Declaration of the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons³ which declared the Agency to be the appropriate international body through which potential benefits from the peaceful applications of nuclear explosions should be made available to non-nuclear-weapon States, and urged the Agency to expedite work on identifying and examining the important legal issues involved in, and to begin consideration of, the structure and content of the special international agreement or agreements envisaged in article V of the non-proliferation Treaty. We share the view of the Review Conference that the Agency should broaden its consideration of this question to include, within its area of competence, all aspects and implications of the practical applications of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes. And we welcome the establishment by the Agency of the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Group on Nuclear Explosions for Peaceful Purposes—within the Agency itself—and will follow its work closely.

142. While Canada's international development assistance policy continues, as in past years, to be based on a preference for the central funding of United Nations activities, we have once again pledged our full share to the Agency's technical assistance programme in 1976. This represents an increase from the previous year—in which I am happy to note that we were able to contribute somewhat in excess of our assessed share—and is justified in our minds by the growing needs of the developing countries for support from the Agency and the unfortunate erosion that inflation has wrought over the past year in the resources available.

143. Last May, in a statement to the Review Conference of the parties to the non-proliferation Treaty, the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada said:

“Canada will continue to play its full part in contributing to the International Atomic Energy Agency's general fund for technical assistance and to the United Nations Development Programme, which also finances projects implemented by the Agency.”

He added however that:

“It is Canada's intention to provide, within its over-all aid criteria and priorities, increased amounts of technical assistance in the nuclear area, bilaterally or through appropriate multilateral channels such as the International Atomic Energy Agency, to the developing countries which are parties to the non-proliferation Treaty.”

144. It must be recognized that the increased interest in nuclear power has created an unprecedented demand on the resources of countries such as mine. In our efforts to allocate those resources most efficiently, we have taken into account our strong concern to ensure that nuclear power is restricted only to

peaceful applications; and thus we intend to give particular attention to assistance to those countries which have ratified the Treaty and thereby fully subscribe to what is today the best instrument, if a still imperfect one, for preventing the proliferation of nuclear explosive devices.

145. I should conclude these remarks with a brief reference to the Agency's safeguards activities. Canada regards the Agency's safeguards functions as being of critical importance and inseparable from the Agency's other programmes. Indeed, effective safeguards are the necessary basis for international co-operation in the transfer of nuclear materials, equipment and technology. My country finds itself in full sympathy with Mr. Eklund, the Director-General of the Agency, who declared:

“I do not think that we shall have a fully satisfactory international safeguards system until the suppliers of nuclear equipment and material make it a condition of delivery that the entire nuclear fuel cycle in the receiving country be placed under Agency safeguards.” [See para. 22 above.]

Canada is willing to work actively in efforts to achieve this objective of common export requirements, to which the Final Declaration of the Review Conference has already called attention.

146. International co-operation in the nuclear field is indispensable, but it does require an impartial international system of safeguards. Effective guarantees that the atom is safe from man as well as from accident are essential if it is to be an accepted and long-term source of energy and an acceptable, desirable area for international co-operation. Canada looks to the Agency as the international community's main instrument for giving those guarantees.

147. My delegation is in agreement with the draft resolution before us and will support its adoption.

148. Mr. NEUGEBAUER (German Democratic Republic): I should like on behalf of the delegation of the German Democratic Republic, to thank Mr. Eklund, Director-General of IAEA, for the report and the supplementary explanations he has given.

149. The report of IAEA reflects the continuous extension and activation of international co-operation in the sphere of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy on the basis of and in accordance with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. My delegation is of the opinion that the Review Conference of the Parties to the non-proliferation treaty, held at Geneva in May this year, and the nineteenth session of the General Conference of IAEA are important for the extension of peaceful international co-operation in the field of nuclear energy.

150. At the nineteenth session of IAEA, it was clearly felt that the further development and strengthening of the international process of détente has positive consequences for the extension of co-operation on a basis of equality among States with different social systems in such an important field as the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

151. With the adoption of the 10 principles on the shaping of relations among States and the establishment of new forms and policies of co-operation in the fields of economics, science, technology and

environmental protection, the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe at the same time also revealed new possibilities for the development and co-operation in the field of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Therefore, the General Conference of IAEA underscored with good reason the significance of those possibilities and the new impetus they would give to the activities of the IAEA.

152. My delegation would like to make some remarks on several paragraphs of the report of IAEA.

153. The German Democratic Republic welcomes and supports the main tasks mentioned in the report, especially the concentration of IAEA activities on practical problems resulting from the uses of nuclear energy.

154. The German Democratic Republic supports all IAEA activities aimed at increasing the security of the plants and the protection of man and the environment. For the same reason, we fully approve the recommendation of the Review Conference for the creation of regional nuclear fuel cycle centres for the uses of nuclear energy. Such centres will not only bring economic advantages, in particular for less developed countries, but will also facilitate the application of all safeguards, including controls of nuclear material.

155. In the interest of promoting the political and economic independence of the developing countries and in accordance with the decisions of the seventh special session of the General Assembly, the German Democratic Republic also supports, within the scope of its capacities, the IAEA programme of technical assistance. In this connexion, I should like to mention the fact that for 1976 the German Democratic Republic has again increased its voluntary contribution to the Agency's technical assistance programme.

156. Because of the importance that must be accorded to safeguards, the German Democratic Republic follows with special attention all measures taken or envisaged by IAEA in this field. The German Democratic Republic advocates the systematic development of the IAEA safeguards programme and welcomes the Agency's efforts aimed at coping with the control measures in connexion with the rapidly growing use of nuclear energy in the world. This refers especially to the further improvement of the effectiveness of safeguards and the extension of IAEA controls to all the peaceful nuclear activities of non-nuclear-weapon States that are not parties to the non-proliferation Treaty. Therefore we attach great importance to the agreement on article III, paragraph 2, of the non-proliferation Treaty and advocate a further increase of the number of participants in that agreement. We welcome the further progress achieved last year towards giving full effect to article III of the Treaty, in particular by the conclusion of safeguards agreements taking into account the obligations assumed.

157. In this connexion, we reaffirm our support for the demand which was made in the Final Declaration of the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference to prevent the diversion of nuclear material for the production of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. The German Democratic Republic will actively participate in the work of the standing advisory group on safeguards implementation.

158. Closely related to the question of accounting and controls is the problem of the physical protection of nuclear material and plants. The solution of this problem is an important prerequisite for the successful and safeguarded use of nuclear energy. In our view, the assurance of this protection has to be guaranteed by the State which bears responsibility for the nuclear material and the establishments mentioned. The Agency is to be thanked for the recommendations elaborated with regard to physical protection, and for the related deliberations.

159. The IAEA report also mentions the problem of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes. The German Democratic Republic attaches great importance to the related political, technological and economic questions as well as to the safety and legal aspects, and considers IAEA to be the only competent international body in accordance with article V of the non-proliferation Treaty. The German Democratic Republic is prepared, in close co-operation with all States parties to the non-proliferation Treaty, to support the Agency in the fulfilment of these complicated tasks. The German Democratic Republic will co-operate to the best of its ability in the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Group on Nuclear Explosions for Peaceful Purposes, established by the Board of Governors of IAEA.

160. Allow me to deal here with the question of IAEA co-operation with other international organizations. The General Conference of IAEA, at its nineteenth session, approved, among other things, the application regarding co-operation with CMEA. As a member of CMEA, the German Democratic Republic welcomes this co-operation agreement between IAEA and CMEA. In the work of CMEA, the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and all related questions have their firm basis in the Standing Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy. Within the framework of CMEA the use of nuclear energy is developed to the mutual benefit of all member countries. The success achieved by the German Democratic Republic convincingly confirms this. My delegation holds the view that the conclusion of the agreement between IAEA and CMEA will be of considerable advantage for comprehensive co-operation in the field of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

161. The nineteenth session of the General Conference of IAEA was held shortly after the Review Conference of the parties to the non-proliferation Treaty. The great importance of this Conference for IAEA activities has also been underlined by the Agency's Director-General, Mr. Eklund.

162. Despite differing views on particular questions, the Review Conference furnished convincing proof that the non-proliferation Treaty contributes significantly to restriction of the arms race. The Treaty has become a reality of international life, meeting the interests of all peoples and States, and has essentially stimulated international co-operation in the field of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. As is known, the Review Conference called upon all hesitant States to effect their accession. The delegation of the German Democratic Republic regrets that a number of States have not yet acceded to the non-proliferation Treaty. Undoubtedly, the accession of all States would significantly increase the effectiveness of the Treaty and

the danger of a nuclear world war would thus be reduced considerably.

163. But it is also necessary to point to the dangers that may ensue from the proliferation of nuclear weapons out of profit-seeking interest. In the general debate of this year's General Assembly attention has already been drawn to this fact, and in connexion with the discussions on the policy of *apartheid* of the racist régime of South Africa a large number of official representatives have pointed to the dangers to peace and security emanating from access by the régime in Pretoria to nuclear know-how and technical equipment for the production of nuclear weapons. The aggression of that racist régime against the young African State of Angola shows quite clearly the danger to peace and security and how that racist régime uses, for instance, the military assistance of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization circles.

164. International co-operation for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy requires that the provisions of the IAEA statute and the non-proliferation Treaty be strictly observed and that all attempts to undermine these international agreements be decisively rejected.

165. In the opinion of my delegation, all efforts to restrain the arms race, to limit armaments and to achieve concrete disarmament measures are of fundamental importance for the work of IAEA.

166. The results of the work of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, now before the General Assembly [see A/10027], confirm this and, above all, the new proposal of the USSR on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests [see A/10447] is of great importance for the activities of IAEA.

167. It is also beyond any doubt that a convention on the prohibition of action to influence the environment and climate for military and other hostile purposes, which are incompatible with the maintenance of international security, human well-being and health would extend the range of action of IAEA and correspond to the fundamental concern of that Agency.

168. My delegation is convinced that progress in the field of disarmament will simultaneously give IAEA new impulses and possibilities for a broad and effective development of world-wide peaceful co-operation in the field of nuclear technology, in fulfilment of its statute.

169. Concluding my comments, I should like to emphasize once again that the German Democratic Republic advocates wide international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and favours the strengthening of the régime of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. In accordance with the aims and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, the statute of IAEA and the provisions of the non-proliferation Treaty, the German Democratic Republic will continue within the Agency to contribute actively to international co-operation in the interests of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy for the benefit of mankind.

170. Mr. ALLEN (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom delegation has listened with interest to the introduction of the report of IAEA by its Director-General, Mr. Eklund. As he has shown in his com-

prehensive review, the Agency is at a most important stage in its development. He has drawn attention both to the opportunities and to the difficulties which will show themselves in the next few years. My Government reaffirms its continued strong support for the Agency and its activities, and its confidence that under Mr. Eklund's wise stewardship the problems will be overcome and the opportunities turned to good account.

171. Perhaps the most important event concerning the Agency in 1975 was the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held at Geneva in May. And here I have to say that my delegation would have wished to see in the draft resolution which is before us [A/L.771] a more prominent reflection of the importance of the recommendations of that Conference. In particular, we believe that the draft resolution should have reflected the urgency of the problem of nuclear proliferation by calling in specific terms on all States to become parties to the non-proliferation Treaty so as to render that Treaty universal and thus more fully effective.

172. In its Final Declaration,³ the Review Conference requested the Agency to initiate or continue the necessary work on matters which my Government believes to be of the highest importance. First among these, I would draw attention to the question of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes. The Review Conference expressed its appreciation of the work of IAEA in this field and recognized the Agency as the appropriate international body through which potential benefits from peaceful applications of nuclear explosions could be made available to any non-nuclear-weapon State. The Conference urged the Agency to expedite work on identifying and examining the important legal issues involved in the structure and content of the necessary special international agreement or agreements; and it also urged the Agency to set up appropriate machinery within which intergovernmental discussion could take place and through which advice could be given on the Agency's work in the field of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes. So my Government welcomed with great satisfaction the establishment by the Agency's Board of Governors at its June meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Group on Nuclear Explosions for Peaceful Purposes. The Advisory Group held its first session in September. My Government will play a full and constructive part in the Group's activities, in the belief that the Agency has much to contribute in this important and complex area.

173. The Review Conference also urged all parties to the Treaty actively to pursue their efforts to seek the strengthening of common export requirements relating to safeguards, in the hope that there will be the widest measure of acceptance of such common requirements. In his statement in the General Assembly on 23 September, [2358th meeting] our Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs urged that the United Nations should concern itself with this problem immediately and add vigour and impetus to the work that is being done in IAEA. My Government intends to make a specific proposal along these lines at the next meeting of the Agency's Board of Governors.

174. My delegation welcomes the recommendation in operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution for

the Agency to intensify its work, in accordance with its statute, in the fields of reactor safety and reliability, the disposal of radio-active waste, and the safeguarding of nuclear materials, mainly plutonium, from diversion to non-peaceful purposes.

175. We support draft resolution A/L.771, with the reservation that I have expressed. May I end by once more recording my Government's continued appreciation of the valuable work of the Director-General and his staff and our firm support for all aspects of the Agency's work.

176. Mr. ALEXIE (Romania) (*interpretation from French*): May I be permitted, on behalf of the Romanian delegation, to extend the warmest greetings to the Director-General of IAEA, Mr. Eklund. With his characteristic competence, the Director-General has given us a general outline of the Agency's activities, thus making a valuable contribution to our debate.

177. We should like also to express to the Director-General and to the Agency as a whole our wishes for full success in the development of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy—a vital field of activity for the very future of mankind.

178. The main role assigned to the Agency by Member States consists precisely of encouraging and facilitating the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes by all countries and for the benefit of all nations. If we consider IAEA activities from that point of view, then we can say, on the basis of the annual report, that the balance is positive.

179. Among the numerous projects carried out this year, my delegation wishes to single out the growing importance attached to technical co-operation. Thanks to the important contribution of UNDP to the implementation of projects of which IAEA is the executing agent, there is reason to hope that the Agency will devote a greater share of its talent and resources to this field of activity, which is of concern to all developing countries.

180. We have similarly taken note of the Agency's increased activities in the area of energy production and the application of isotopes and radiation for peaceful purposes to industry, agriculture, medicine and other economic sectors. We also wish to emphasize the intensified efforts of IAEA to train national cadres in the field of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

181. Among the manifold activities of the Agency during the period covered by the report, we wish to stress those connected with nuclear energy, an area to which the Agency, acting in conformity with the interests of Member States, pays special attention. It is worth mentioning, in particular, the organization of scientific activities of the Agency to keep Member States informed of all the complex problems inherent in nuclear energy, the scientific and technical studies, the groups of experts and the scientific meetings, which have dealt with a wide spectrum of subjects ranging from topics that have already become classical to the most modern aspects of rapid reactors and breeder reactor technology.

182. The manner in which the Agency has accomplished its tasks to date offers the certainty that it will continue to play an active role in all aspects of

the industrialization of atomic energy and that it will continue to extend the sphere of its activities to the nuclear fuel cycle.

183. We are of the opinion that particular value attaches to the activities to elaborate standards and make recommendations relating to protection against radiation and to nuclear reactor safety, with a view to helping Member States to adopt appropriate national regulations and to expand and diversify the programme of meetings on scientific, economic and juridical subjects.

184. The success achieved by IAEA should not, however, prevent us from mentioning some of the failings or shortcomings in its activities. We wish first of all to underline the serious financial situation in which the Agency finds itself. That situation is reflected in the Agency's deficit this year.

185. The rise in prices of nuclear equipment and the allocation of increased funds to control activities have led, in these past years, to stagnation and even to a cutback in the activities relating to technical assistance and support for the efforts of the developing countries to introduce new techniques.

186. As regards its future activities, the Agency has entered a new stage, that of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, in the course of which a growing number of developing countries are passing from the stage of great expectations to that of practical achievement. It is incumbent on the Agency, as the main forum for co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, to carry out special tasks in the area of effective technical assistance to such States in order that nuclear energy may be used as an important instrument for the solution of their economic and social problems.

187. We consider that the more intensive peaceful use of nuclear energy will help to accelerate the economic development of the developing countries, to do away with underdevelopment, to eliminate the existing differences in the world economy and to ensure general progress.

188. These activities are provided for in article II of the IAEA statute, as well as in articles IV and V of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. They were emphasized again in the Final Declaration adopted by the Review Conference of the parties to the non-proliferation Treaty.³ They should also be appropriately reflected in the Agency's programmes of activity for the coming year.

189. In the opinion of the Romanian delegation, the Agency should pay special attention in its programmes to that question in order to facilitate access by all States to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy on a non-discriminatory basis and to increase technical assistance to non-nuclear-weapon States, including the supply of nuclear material and equipment and the liberalization of the transfer of technology.

190. The promotion, in the developing countries, of fundamental and applied research in the nuclear field requires, similarly, that the Agency intensify its activity in the area of nuclear energy, that it grant research contracts to developing countries and that it organize a larger number of scientific meetings on subjects of general interest to such countries.

191. On that premise, Romania welcomes the initiative of the Director-General to convene, in 1977, a conference on nuclear energy and its fuel cycle. In cherishing the hope that the Agency's activities next year will concentrate on those problems that are of particular interest to the developing countries, we must emphasize that the assurance that the Agency will carry out more fruitful activities depends to a large degree on the maintenance of a rational balance between the funds allotted for the fulfilment of its main function—namely, the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy—and those for its activities relating to safeguards.

192. Romania, a developing country, in its own future activities attaches great importance to development in the nuclear field. Its efforts are exerted within the framework of the national nuclear energy programme adopted last year. On the basis of that programme, nuclear power facilities with a production capacity of 6,000 megawatts will be installed in our country. In order to carry out this expanded national programme, to which Romanian research and industry will make a significant contribution, Romania created an integrated physics centre. Approximately 5,000 persons of different professions are working or are being trained in that centre.

193. Romania has also had significant success in the field of nuclear fuel. Its co-operation with IAEA, UNDP and States members of IAEA has played an important part in the achievement of these results. In view of this progress, a pilot unit will be built in our country next year for the production of fuel from natural uranium.

194. Romania also hopes to benefit in the future from the technical assistance offered by IAEA and is prepared, in turn, to grant assistance to other developing countries.

195. These are but some of the objectives of my country's activities in the nuclear field on the achievement of which depends the creation of the conditions needed for us to begin building the first nuclear power plants in co-operation with States that have developed nuclear energy to the stage of industrial production.

196. Among Romania's concerns with regard to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, we must emphasize our interest in international co-operation in this field and in the activities of IAEA.

197. The Romanian delegation is convinced that the Agency, on the basis of the rich experience it has accumulated to date in its activities and the suggestions and proposals of all the interested States, will be able to make an important contribution to the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the forthcoming year. That all-important task will be among the many concerns of the international community with regard to the establishment of a new economic order in the world.

198. In conclusion, I wish to express the support of my delegation for draft resolution A/L.771.

199. Mr. STASHEVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (*interpretation from Russian*): In connexion with our discussion of the report of IAEA, the Soviet delegation would like to emphasize the important role played by IAEA in the development of international

co-operation in the peaceful utilization of atomic energy. Evidence of this is to be found in the report and in the statement by Mr. Eklund, the Director-General, at this meeting.

200. We should also like to highlight such important aspects of the Agency's work on nuclear energy as research in the field of guided thermonuclear synthesis, environmental protection, INIS, the safety of nuclear electric power stations and, of course, the Agency's work on the practical implementation of the provisions of the non-proliferation Treaty. We should also like to mention such timely activities of the Agency as the formulation and perfecting of standards for the physical protection of nuclear material.

201. The Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held at Geneva last May, was of great significance. The recommendations adopted at the Conference will, to a very large extent, determine the further work of the Agency in many important directions, as, for example, with regard to safeguards and services in the field of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes. The activities of the Agency relating to the non-proliferation Treaty were very favourably assessed by the Conference.

202. The work of the Agency concerning control measures in accordance with the Treaty continues to expand and develop considerably. Having so successfully dealt with the complex problem of safeguards, the Agency has acquired well-deserved authority as the highest competent organ of control. The USSR has for many years given the necessary assistance to the Agency in this sphere and will continue to play an active role in this important work.

203. The further increase in the number of parties to the non-proliferation Treaty is of capital importance, as is the conclusion by these States of safeguards agreements with the Agency. The fact that in this year the number of parties to the non-proliferation Treaty has been increased by the participation of the EURATOM countries which have highly developed nuclear industries—namely, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg—should be considered as a positive development.

204. The task of the Agency in promoting more effective control in non-nuclear weapon States that are not parties to the non-proliferation Treaty is of particular significance. The research being conducted by IAEA into the establishment of intergovernmental and regional fuel cycle centres deserves to be encouraged.

205. A very important aspect of the Agency's activities is in the field of the peaceful application of nuclear explosions. The Review Conference confirmed that it is indeed the Agency which is the appropriate international body referred to in article V of the Treaty, through which non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty will receive services in connexion with nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes.

206. The Agency is carrying out considerable work in the practical implementation of article V of the Treaty. The Agency has held several meetings of experts on the scientific and technological problems of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes. At the

beginning of this year the Agency set up a special section to deal with nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes; it has the responsibility of providing services in this field and for the further study of items related to nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes. The Agency is systematically disseminating scientific and technological information on nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes. In June this year the Board of Governors of the Agency set up an *Ad Hoc* Advisory Group on Nuclear Explosions for Peaceful Purposes, which held its first meeting in October. The problem of the use of nuclear explosions for constructive and creative purposes was given great attention at the nineteenth session of the General Conference of the Agency, which was held in September.

207. The Agency is devoting considerable effort to overcoming the difficulties it is encountering in solving this problem. The Soviet Union, for its part, has helped and will continue to help IAEA in tackling the wide range of tasks linked to article V of the non-proliferation Treaty.

208. In actively co-operating with the Agency, the Soviet Union is continuing to develop ties with many countries in the field of nuclear energy and the peaceful uses of atomic energy, providing technical assistance in the construction of large-scale nuclear power plants in a number of countries.

209. From the very inception of the Agency, the Soviet Union has participated actively in the promotion of programmes of technical assistance to developing countries in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The voluntary contributions of the Soviet Union to this programme are being used to provide equipment, apparatus and nuclear material, to grant fellowships in Soviet scientific institutions to specialists from the developing countries, study trips in the Soviet Union, and so on. The Soviet contribution for these purposes for 1976 will be increased to 550,000 roubles.

210. While expressing our appreciation of the work of the Agency and in view of the valuable work the Agency is doing, we should like to emphasize once again that the Soviet Union will contribute to the further development of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in accordance with the purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, the statute of IAEA and the non-proliferation Treaty. In the light of the foregoing, the Soviet delegation will vote in favour of draft resolution A/L.771.

211. Mr. HOVEYDA (Iran): I should like at the outset to express my appreciation to the Director-General of IAEA, Mr. Eklund, for his detailed and lucid presentation of the very valuable report of the Agency.

212. We are considering the annual report of the Agency at a time when the world-wide economic and political dimensions of the global energy situation have resulted in accelerated demand for nuclear energy. While that demand has grown, so have the requests for a number of the Agency's programmes and services, such as the introduction of nuclear power and other nuclear technologies, the application of safeguards, the physical protection of nuclear materials, and nuclear safety and environmental protection.

213. With the capacity of nuclear power plants dramatically increased and the number of States

embarking on nuclear programmes continuing to grow, the responsibilities of the Agency have also expanded. Among the Agency's activities of a highly versatile character and great importance, no area has received more attention than its efforts regarding nuclear safety and safeguards.

214. The Director-General has repeatedly addressed himself to the necessity of maintaining the highest safety record. The imperative need to give priority to the questions of nuclear safety is also reflected in the Agency's present report. In this connexion, we are glad to note that the training of operating and safety personnel and the provision of economic and other advisory services, particularly to developing countries, are reported to have been properly incorporated in the Agency's programmes.

215. The question of nuclear fuel cycle centres, which aroused considerable attention when it was broached by the Director-General last year, is also reflected in the report. We are aware that the interest shown in this concept has been on the increase and that the various aspects of this complicated question are under systematic scrutiny. We welcome the integrated approach of the Agency regarding this question and look forward to receiving the results of its studies, which have a bearing on, among other things, the economics, safety, safeguards and security of nuclear-power programmes.

216. Technical assistance in the nuclear energy field is one important aspect of the Agency's activities that has acquired new dimensions during the past several years. It is, in particular, gaining added importance at this time when a growing number of developing countries are trying to diversify their sources of energy. The Agency's increased emphasis on nuclear power and safety in its programme of technical assistance is a commendable feature of this year's report. The target for voluntary contributions to the General Fund, which is used to finance the Agency's own programme of assistance, was raised from \$3 million in 1974 to \$4.5 million in 1975, and a further increase to \$5.5 million for 1976 has already been recommended. It would perhaps be appropriate to mention here that my country not only welcomed the increased level of voluntary contributions to the General Fund but raised its own contribution to the Fund for 1974-1975 almost tenfold.

217. Needless to say, because of its competence and long experience in this field, the Agency is the most suitable organ to administer nuclear assistance. It is therefore essential that the countries in a position to do so, especially the nuclear Powers, channel increased funds and facilities through the Agency, consider the needs of developing countries and ensure that they fully enjoy the benefits of nuclear technology within the framework established by the Agency and the non-proliferation Treaty.

218. Let me now turn to the question of safeguards, particularly in the context of non-proliferation. As may be recalled, during the consideration of the Agency's report last November, 36 of the 80 non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the non-proliferation Treaty had not then completed the negotiation of the safeguards agreement with the Agency that the Treaty requires. On the other hand, as reflected in the present report, by mid-1975 the total nuclear-power capacity

outside the nuclear-weapon States had grown to 24,000 megawatts in 15 countries. Following the ratification of the Treaty by five non-nuclear-weapon States members of EURATOM, in May 1975, a significant step in the right direction was taken, and almost all installed nuclear-power capacity in those 15 countries came under the Agency's safeguards.

219. Iran's special interest in this question stems from the fact that it has embarked on an important programme to introduce nuclear power into the country as a major source of electrical energy. Having been among the first countries to ratify the Treaty, Iran proceeded to negotiate its safeguards agreement with the Agency, which came into force on 15 May 1974, thus placing all our nuclear facilities under the Agency's safeguards system. We are therefore pleased to note in this connexion that, during the period covered by the report, 16 additional safeguards agreements were signed or entered into force. Five more agreements were also approved by the Agency's Board of Governors, including one with Japan—which is not a party to the Treaty—and negotiation of agreements to implement the voluntary offers of the United Kingdom and the United States in connexion with the application of safeguards in those two States reached its final stage.

220. The Agency's active participation in and contribution to the Review Conference of the parties to the non-proliferation Treaty was a major achievement. Its highly valuable reports on its safeguards operations, in connexion with nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes, and particularly in relation to article IV of the Treaty, were acclaimed by the participating States, including my country. The Agency earned well-deserved recognition and strong support, both during and at the end of the Conference, in the Final Declaration.³ The Conference, commenting on the various activities of the Agency, recommended that it increase its technical assistance and related activities for the benefit of the developing countries parties to the Treaty and reaffirmed its role as the "appropriate international body, referred to in article V of the Treaty, through which potential benefits from peaceful applications of nuclear explosions could be made available to any non-nuclear-weapon State".

221. Having briefly covered the activities of the Agency, I should like to take this opportunity to reaffirm once again our support for its annual programmes. My delegation has reserved a special word of thanks for the Director-General and his able staff for the efficient manner in which they have carried out their growing responsibilities. Since Iran launched its nuclear development programme, the Agency has been an important source of technical and scientific assistance to us. Allow me to mention in particular the training assistance, through which a number of our young scientists and technicians have notably improved their technical knowledge by participation in the seminars, for which we are grateful.

222. On the basis of the above-mentioned considerations, my delegation supports draft resolution A/L.771 and expresses the hope that it will receive unanimous support.

223. Mr. JANKOWITSCH (Austria): At the outset of my brief remarks I should like to express the appreciation of my delegation to the Director-General of

IAEA, Mr. Eklund, for the most interesting and comprehensive statement he made.

224. Both Mr. Eklund's introduction and the nineteenth report of the Agency show convincingly that the situation in the energy sector will have far-reaching effects on the nature and scope of the Agency's activities in the future. Since last year the Agency has continued its programmes and activities with increased emphasis on nuclear power and nuclear technology, the application of safeguards, nuclear safety and environmental protection, and technical assistance.

225. The ever-increasing need for energy in its different forms and the problem of producing this energy in sufficient and economically feasible amounts has faced the international community for a long time, but it has gained new relevance in the recent past. Nuclear energy has now become an economic reality; but it seems that, in order to define correctly its place in the over-all energy supply, extensive additional over-all energy research is needed, which in our view should and must lead to additional responsibilities for the Agency in such areas as economic analysis and environmental studies. The Austrian Government feels that these tasks could usefully be entrusted to the Agency. By its very nature, and within the framework of its statutory and regulatory functions, IAEA is well equipped either to co-ordinate or to implement the wide-ranging technical and scientific projects in the field of energy research, and also to make the pertinent economic analysis. One of the significant advantages offered by the Agency in this regard, which I should like to stress, is the fact that developing as well as industrialized countries have already proved on many occasions how successfully they can co-operate within its framework.

226. My country therefore renews its pledge to assist the Agency in the discharge of its major responsibilities. Austria will contribute to the 1976 budget according to the rate of assessment and has further pledged, subject to parliamentary approval, a voluntary contribution to the General Fund of the order of \$31,900, representing an increase of more than 22 per cent over the current year. Austria furthermore declares its readiness to make available, again subject to parliamentary approval, the same amount for type II fellowships as in previous years.

227. Let me now comment briefly on some aspects of the Agency's role in the implementation of the non-proliferation Treaty.

228. In regard to this Treaty, the Austrian Government has always pleaded for universality, and it has thus noted with satisfaction that since last year's General Conference 13 more non-nuclear-weapon States have signed and 13 have ratified this fundamental instrument. Among the new parties to the Treaty the members of the European communities are of particular importance.

229. Suggestions, opinions and criticism expressed by delegations to the Review Conference held last May will, it is hoped, lead to more effective steps in the implementation of the Treaty. There is now a five-year period until the next review conference, and it is to be hoped that further significant steps to achieve universal acceptance of the Treaty will be taken and that the parties to the Treaty, in particular the nuclear-

weapon States, will have fulfilled the Treaty's provisions to the greatest extent possible.

230. Last year the General Conference was informed that a number of major exporting countries had reached an understanding to apply certain standards of conduct in the implementation of article III, paragraph 2, of the non-proliferation Treaty. Austria, as a party to that agreement is at the moment preparing regulations for the necessary export control system. Those regulations will enter into force before the end of this year. I should like to add here that, when establishing the Austrian safeguards system, we found the guide on international standards for safeguards systems published by the Agency extremely useful.

231. As we mentioned at the Review Conference, it seems to be necessary to study ways and means of establishing guidelines for physical protection which would result in standardized procedures and practices to hinder sabotage and the access of unauthorized persons to nuclear material. The present guidelines and recommendations, as revised by a group of experts in April and published during this year's General Conference, should now be taken as a basis for consideration of how to make them a legally binding instrument.

232. Progress has also been made in the field of safeguards, 16 further safeguards agreements in connexion with the Treaty having been signed or having entered into force since last year. In this connexion, I am pleased to mention that the construction of the Safeguards Analytical Laboratory at Seibersdorf, Austria, has been completed, the adaptation of the laboratory and the provision of instruments to it are advancing rapidly, and it may be expected that the Agency will be able to begin its activities there very soon.

233. The initiatives taken by the Agency relating to nuclear safety and environment protection included, furthermore, the completion of a comprehensive set of safety codes and guidelines for nuclear power plants, as well as work on research projects and the preparation of symposia. One such symposium was held in co-operation with the Nuclear Energy Agency of OECD in December 1974 at Vienna, a form of co-operation that proved to be most successful and one that should be extended to other organizations working on the same issues. Indeed, as at present several international organizations are dealing with problems related to the securing of a sufficient supply of energy, closer co-ordination and co-operation at the international level should be envisaged in the field of energy market survey studies also. The same applies to energy market forecasts, which serve as basic instruments for decisions on the construction of power plants and on related problems, and which could then be made through co-ordinated action.

234. The co-operation agreements between Austria and CMEA and EURATOM may be taken as examples. Austria firmly believes that the objectives set forth in those agreements are a most useful and encouraging sign for future co-ordinated activities in the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

235. Co-operation has also been intensified with the World Energy Conference, whose Conservation Commission, which is studying the possibility of saving energy resources, started work in Vienna last month with the active support of the Agency. Austria wel-

comes those activities, since they ensure a more universal approach to this problem.

236. At last year's General Conference my delegation expressed the opinion that it might be necessary to further the exchange of information on the development of public opinion concerning the construction of nuclear power plants on a wider international scale. To accept the necessity for such plants, the public has to be provided with adequate information. To secure the broadest and most economical exchange of relevant information, the Austrian delegation recommends the examination of all possible ways to permit the pooling of such information in the IAEA secretariat. Increasing attention is also being given to a number of symposia and conferences concerned with safety and with the broader aspects of nuclear power, such as the International Symposium on Reliability of Nuclear Power Plants, which was held at Innsbruck in Austria this year. These meetings should be considered also from the viewpoint of public acceptance, since they serve to intensify the necessary understanding on the part of the public and to increase the level of information available for individual as well as for mass media use.

237. Because of the world-wide implications of the problems arising at the various stages of the nuclear fuel cycle, Austria is highly interested in the forthcoming conference on nuclear power and its fuel cycle, for which my country will have the honour of providing conference facilities in 1977.

238. Finally, there is a question of significance to which I should like to address myself briefly which is being dealt with here and concurrently in the First Committee, relating to nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes.

239. The Austrian delegation continues to attach the highest importance to General Assembly resolutions 2829 (XXVI) and 3213 (XXIX), which recommended that the Agency should establish within its framework an international service for nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes under appropriate international control. In this connexion, we support the establishment of the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Group on Nuclear Explosions for Peaceful Purposes to study their safety and their environmental and economic aspects, as well as the legal implications and the procedures for assistance in carrying out such explosions. All States should continue to co-operate with the Agency and should take all necessary measures to enhance the highly appreciated efforts of the Agency in the fulfilment of its tasks in the various fields of the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

240. For that reason my delegation will support draft resolution A/L.771 now before us. However, if I might revert for a moment to the topic I have just briefly commented upon, my delegation feels it will have to express its views on that issue in a little more detail and in greater depth when it is dealt with in the First Committee.

241. I should like now, as representative of the Agency's host country, to present a short report on the progress of the construction of the Agency's permanent headquarters in Vienna, which is being built at the expense of the Federal Government of Austria and the city of Vienna. The construction work on the office towers and the conference building will be

completed by the end of this year and the fitting of the façade is making good progress. The connexions to the highway along the Danube in front of the future permanent headquarters have been approved and preparatory work on the site has been started. Barring unexpected incidents, the buildings will be ready for occupancy by 1978, as scheduled.

242. Addressing the General Assembly at this year's session, on 2 October, and referring to the headquarters being built in Vienna, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Austria said:

"Through the construction of these buildings, Austria is making a contribution designed to ease the financial burden of the United Nations . . . My Government is convinced that the optimum use of these premises serves the interests of the United Nations and it hopes that the Secretary-General's proposals in this regard will be received favourably by all Member States." [2371st meeting, para. 111.]

243. Finally, I thank Mr. Eklund very much for the very kind words he addressed to Austria as the host country of the Agency and to assure the Director-General, and indeed all member States of the Agency and of the United Nations, that my country will continue to do its utmost to support the Agency and to meet its requirements in the future as it does today.

244. A special tribute is due to Mr. Eklund and his staff, not only for the outstanding accomplishments of the Agency in the past year but also for the excellent co-operation they have always offered to all member States, including my own.

245. Mrs. THORSSON (Sweden): The Swedish delegation wishes to thank the Director-General of IAEA for his interesting presentation this afternoon. The Director-General has, in our view, given us a very clear picture of the difficult and challenging tasks now facing the Agency.

246. Sweden has always considered IAEA the most significant instrument for international co-operation regarding the peaceful use of nuclear energy. As a process is under way whereby nuclear energy, it seems, will provide an ever-increasing share of the electricity production in many countries, the importance of the role of the Agency will be even more pronounced. During the recent General Conference of the Agency, the Swedish Government had the opportunity of making some remarks on the role of the Agency against this general background. In short, it can be observed that the role of Governments is changing as nuclear power reaches industrial maturity. The emphasis of governmental action is gradually shifting from promotional to regulatory activities. Many national agencies, including those of my own country, are now in the process of a reorientation of their work in this direction. With the expansion of nuclear energy, such problems as nuclear safety, environmental effects, waste management and transport have a greater need for intensified international collaboration, in particular in order to establish generally accepted rules and regulations. We expect that this trend will be increasingly reflected in the programme of the Agency.

247. The Swedish Government has noted with appreciation that in planning for the 1977 IAEA conference on nuclear power and its fuel cycle, the Director-

General is in line with this thinking. We understand that the agenda of the Conference will be focused on the acute problems facing Governments everywhere in implementing their nuclear-power programmes. It is therefore clear that the Conference could become a most important international event.

248. In our opinion, the preparations should be so organized as to enable conclusions to be drawn at the intergovernmental level at the conference, and progress made in efforts to establish effectively working intergovernmental co-operation for responsible handling of the nuclear fuel cycle. It is thus, in our view, important that a formula be found to enable the views of the member States of IAEA on the substance of the conference to be fed into the preparatory process, so that they can be taken into account at the conference. In view of the political relevance of many of the matters to be dealt with at the conference, it would be desirable for a report on progress made to be provided to the General Assembly next year. It would also seem appropriate for the results of the conference to be presented to the General Assembly the following year.

249. The recent Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons confirmed the central function of IAEA in establishing a world-wide system of effective safeguards. Sweden has time and time again emphasized the urgent necessity of preventing the further proliferation of nuclear weapons. The statement by the Prime Minister of Sweden in the General Assembly yesterday [2401st meeting] was but the latest expression of the grave concern of my Government in this respect. It is appropriate to state that IAEA carries a responsibility in the general area of safeguards which can be termed historical.

250. We agree with the Director-General that in the coming five years the international safeguards system will be put to severe and perhaps decisive tests. It is therefore imperative that the Agency be given the full support of the international community in order to enable it to perform the continuously more important role required of it in this regard. It is to state the self-evident to say that all States have an interest in ensuring that the effort to prevent proliferation of nuclear weapons is successful. In this connexion, the Swedish delegation wishes to draw attention to the work presently undertaken within the Agency—work which was given a clear mandate and strong support by the Review Conference—to improve the effectiveness of the IAEA safeguards as well as to work out arrangements for the physical protection of nuclear material in use, storage, or transport, and the establishment of regional or multinational fuel cycle centres. To all these aspects of the nuclear problem we attach considerable importance.

251. Let me say here that we consider it essential that common export requirements relating to safeguards be strengthened to conform with the recommendation of the Review Conference on the subject. The nuclear-exporting countries should agree on arrangements to the effect that exports of nuclear material and equipment will only take place if all the peaceful activities of importing non-Treaty States are placed under safeguards. Moreover, we believe that ways should be sought to enable all importing coun-

tries to play an important part in improving and strengthening world-wide safeguards against nuclear-weapon proliferation.

252. Technical assistance and training constitute another high priority area of the IAEA programme of work. We welcome the increase of the target for the General Fund in 1976 from \$4.5 million to \$5.5 million. The substantial Swedish contribution to the technical assistance activities of the Agency is an indication of the strong support by the Swedish Government for this part of the Agency's work programme.

253. Sweden will support the adoption of draft resolution A/L.771 submitted to the Assembly by Argentina, the Netherlands and Yugoslavia, taking note of the oral amendment to operative paragraph 4, which was just introduced by the representative of Argentina and to which we attach particular importance.

254. In conclusion, I should like, as in the past, to express the Swedish Government's appreciation of the efficiency and vigour with which IAEA and its Director-General fulfil their important functions. These functions will take on ever-increasing importance in the future. In fulfilling them the Agency will play a decisive role, as an integral part of the United Nations system, in efforts towards a safe and prosperous world community.

255. Mr. TIKHONOV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) (*interpretation from Russian*): In considering the report of IAEA, my delegation would like, first of all, to emphasize the close connexion between the question of co-operation among States in the peaceful uses of atomic energy and the predominant trend of our time, namely, international détente and the ever-greater emphasis on the principles of the peaceful coexistence of States with different social structures. At the same time, States are increasingly developing mutually beneficial economic, scientific, technological and cultural co-operation among themselves.

256. The Agency makes a useful contribution to co-operation among States in the peaceful uses of atomic energy. The Agency is carrying on work on the peaceful uses of atomic energy, on the organization of technical co-operation and assistance to the developing countries, on environmental protection and on other problems.

257. We should like to emphasize the Agency's activities related to putting into practice the provisions of the non-proliferation Treaty, and primarily in ensuring the implementation of the Treaty.

258. At the present time, the important task is to strengthen political détente by military détente. From this point of view, the problem of preventing the further proliferation of nuclear weapons and of enhancing the effectiveness of the Treaty is of the greatest significance. The problem of the further proliferation of nuclear weapons is as acute as ever. The information received regarding a certain number of countries that practise an aggressive, racist policy, such as South Africa gives cause for grave concern, for they are working actively in the field of nuclear energy, outside the control of the Agency. We know that, in accordance with the Treaty, the Agency has been charged with the implementation of a number of its provisions.

The Review Conference has endorsed the activities of the Agency in this particular field.

259. The Agency has continued its activities to conclude agreements among States on safeguards relating to the Treaty. As a result of this, as we see from paragraph 9 of the report, following the ratification of the Treaty by five non-nuclear-weapon States members of EURATOM, namely, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg, almost all the installed nuclear-power capacity in 15 countries "will now come under the Agency's safeguards". We should like to point out that, as stated in paragraph 138 of the report, of 43 safeguards agreements, 22 were with States that have "significant nuclear activities".

260. The Agency is also working on the implementation of measures mentioned in article V of the Treaty with respect to the peaceful applications of nuclear explosions.

261. Further intensifying the effectiveness and promoting the universality of the Treaty would be in the interests of strengthening peace and international security, and the development of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy. Hence, in our opinion, the continuing efforts of IAEA to fulfil these tasks, provided for in the Treaty, are among its basic objectives.

262. The Byelorussian SSR participates actively in the work of IAEA and believes that, in order for its activities to contribute to peace and security, States must co-operate in the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

263. In the Byelorussian SSR, we have created a practical basis for solving the problems of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy to promote the successful implementation of our national economic plans and the development of co-operation with other countries. Throughout the past year, for example, we have made progress in research in radiation chemistry, in radiation physics concerning solid bodies, in radio-biology and in the use of nuclear radiation in agriculture as well as for perfecting technological processes in industry and in medicine.

264. The achievements in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy should be made accessible to all peoples. For this reason, the Byelorussian SSR shares its experience in this sphere with other countries, particularly the developing countries. For two years now our country has been making a voluntary contribution to the Agency's general fund, which is used for giving assistance to these developing countries.

265. While favourably assessing the Agency's work in giving this assistance, the Byelorussian SSR nevertheless wishes at the same time to express its reservations concerning assistance to those countries which pursue aggressive policies or flagrantly violate human rights.

266. Our country expresses the hope that the development of co-operation among States in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy will promote peace and international security, and the implementation of measures on disarmament, in particular the prohibition of new types of weapons of mass destruction.

267. In conclusion, our delegation will support draft resolution A/L.771.

268. Mr. HARRY (Australia): My delegation has given careful study to the report of IAEA and to its important addendum concerning the establishment by the Agency of an *Ad Hoc* Advisory Group on Nuclear Explosions for Peaceful Purposes. Australia in general supports the draft resolution that has been submitted by Argentina, the Netherlands and Yugoslavia [A/L.771]. We have heard this afternoon a comprehensive introduction by the Director-General of the Agency, Mr. Eklund, to the report of the Agency's work over the past 12 months. His reminder that this is the twentieth anniversary of the first International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy recalled to those of us who had the privilege of attending that pioneering venture how much has been done in the intervening period. As in the past, the Australian delegation finds little to add to the Director-General's excellent survey of the work done by IAEA in discharging its major responsibilities in the field of the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Australia attaches the highest importance to all aspects of the Agency's activities and extends its full support to them.

269. I should like to use this opportunity only to comment briefly on the decision taken by the IAEA Board of Governors in June this year to establish an *Ad Hoc* Advisory Group on Nuclear Explosions for Peaceful Purposes. Australia has a particular interest in the work of the Group, and indeed my country has the honour of providing its Chairman.

270. The mandate of the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Group is, in broad terms, to advise IAEA on relevant aspects of international procedures for the conduct of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes. In view of the weapons potential of any nuclear explosive device, my Government considers it very important that any use of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes, if found to be viable, should take place within an agreed international framework. My Government recognizes IAEA as the appropriate international body through which any benefits which might accrue from the use of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes could be made available to non-nuclear-weapon States.

271. As noted in the third preambular paragraph of the draft resolution, it was made abundantly clear in the course of 1975 that further measures should be taken towards the full realization of the goal of an international non-proliferation policy. While the draft resolution does not mention the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons held in May this year, my Government believes that the results of that Conference have a particular importance for all countries which are genuinely concerned to ensure that the peaceful benefits of nuclear energy are widely disseminated in the world, without at the same time risking a dangerous proliferation of nuclear-weapons capability. The question of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes assumes a special importance in this connexion.

272. The *Ad Hoc* Advisory Group has already commenced its work which it has 18 months to complete, and we understand that it is initially concentrating on four areas of study, namely: possible applications of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes; legal aspects of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes, including model agreements; aspects relating

to health, safety and environment; and, finally, economic aspects. We are pleased to note that studies in all these four areas will go forward together. The results of these studies will provide a solid factual basis for the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Group to move on next year to its further tasks, namely: to advise the IAEA Board of Governors on the factors involved in the establishment and operation of an international service for nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes; and to advise the Board, within the Agency's sphere of competence, on the structure and content of agreements necessary under article V of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

273. A basic assumption of the Australian Government is that such an international service for nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes, when and if it is established, should be available to all States which may wish to avail themselves of arrangements to provide nuclear explosion services for peaceful purposes. This was one of the important conclusions of the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, namely, that the implementation of obligations under article V of that Treaty should not be limited to Treaty adherents but should be available to all States. It is the hope of my Government that all countries with a significant nuclear potential will have an interest in full and wholehearted participation in the work of this important Advisory Group.

274. Mr. MISTRAL (France) (*interpretation from French*): The French delegation is in favour of draft resolution A/L.771 concerning approval of the report of IAEA. Our approval, however, does not extend to the entire operative section. We have a reservation with regard to operative paragraph 3, dealing with voluntary contributions to the general fund. The French Government does not consider itself committed in any way by the provisions of that paragraph.

275. Mr. BERNARDO (Italy): On behalf of the Italian delegation, I wish to express our appreciation of the activities carried out by IAEA during the year ending 30 June 1975, as reflected in the Agency's annual report and in the statement of the Director-General, Mr. Eklund. The results achieved can be considered on the whole positive, especially in view of the complexity of the problems posed by the developments foreseen in the uses of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, particularly with regard to the energy sector.

276. The Italian delegation would also like to record its satisfaction at the favourable conclusion of the co-operation agreement between EURATOM and IAEA, which formalized the already existing collaboration between those two bodies.

277. Italy attaches particular importance to the measures undertaken to promote nuclear programmes for peaceful purposes in developing countries with a view to strengthening international co-operation.

278. The Italian delegation notes that, as a result of the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the international community has been usefully awakened to the risks of nuclear proliferation and consequently to the problem of achieving an appropriate and solid system of safeguards to avoid those risks. In our view,

a system of safeguards should be consistent with its objective and should avoid discrimination in its operations.

279. On the question of safeguards, I wish to recall the ratification by Italy, together with the other EURATOM countries, of the non-proliferation Treaty, and the conclusion of the agreement between IAEA and EURATOM. This agreement, it must be stressed, not only satisfies the conditions of article III of the non-proliferation Treaty, but also constitutes a useful model for meeting further developments concerning the application of safeguards.

280. The Italian delegation wishes to express its appreciation of the decision to convene a second review conference, and of the inclusion in the agenda of the next session of the General Assembly of the item relating to the examination of the conclusions of the first Review Conference.

281. We attach considerable importance to the widest possible exchange among States parties to the non-proliferation Treaty of technology and nuclear materials, and we hope that the review conference foreseen for 1980 will be able to facilitate the full achievement of this fundamental objective.

282. We should also like to express our satisfaction at the creation of the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Group to study nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes.

283. I wish to take this opportunity to mention that in the near future 20 nuclear centres, with a total nuclear power capacity of 20,000 megawatts, will be installed in Italy. My country is also increasing its activities in technological research and industrial promotion within the framework of the third stage of the five-year plan of our Centre for Nuclear Energy, and in particular those activities related to different types of nuclear reactors. Italy participates also in the multinational activities of EURODIF in the field of uranium enrichment.

284. In conclusion, I should like to recall the effective role played by Italy in the progress of nuclear technology, a role which is recognized at the international level and which has led to my country's membership of the Board of Governors of the IAEA. Italy will

continue to contribute fully to the activities of the Agency in order to strengthen the cohesion of member States and to ensure that available resources for international co-operation are utilized in the most effective manner.

285. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Russian*): I should like to recall that the representative of Argentina suggested that in operative paragraph 4 of draft resolution A/L.771 we include the words "for the peaceful needs of these countries" so that the text will read:

"Notes with appreciation the increased and continuing emphasis which the International Atomic Energy Agency places in its technical assistance programme on the introduction of nuclear power and its technology in developing countries for the peaceful needs of these countries, in particular the series of training courses on nuclear power project planning and implementation."

286. I should also like to recall that the representative of Argentina suggested that we adopt this draft resolution by consensus. If I hear no objection, I will take it that, in accordance with the Argentinian proposal, the Assembly decides to adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 3386 (XXX)).

The meeting rose at 7.10 p.m.

NOTES

¹ International Atomic Energy Agency, *Annual Report, 1 July 1974-30 June 1975* (Vienna, September 1975) and corrigendum and addendum; transmitted to the members of the General Assembly by notes of the Secretary-General (A/10168 and Corr.1 and Add.1).

² *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Plenary Meetings*, 2276th meeting, paras. 7-8.

³ A/C.1/1068.

⁴ See A/C.1/976.