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*President:* Mr. Salim Ahmed SALIM  
(United Republic of Tanzania)

## AGENDA ITEM 18

## Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples:

- (a) Report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General

## REPORT OF THE FOURTH COMMITTEE ON TERRITORIES NOT CONSIDERED SEPARATELY (PART I) (A/34/638)

1. Mr. MORRIS (Australia), Rapporteur of the Fourth Committee: I have the honour to present to the General Assembly for its consideration part I of the report of the Fourth Committee (A/34/638) concerning the question of the New Hebrides, which was considered under agenda item 18. An account of the Committee's consideration of the remaining Territories coming under this item will be submitted to the Assembly at a later date as addenda to the present document.

2. The Fourth Committee took up the question of the New Hebrides, taking into account the invitation of the

two administering Powers to the United Nations to send a mission to observe the election process in the Territory on 14 November 1979 [A/34/616]. In adopting the recommendation of the Fourth Committee set out in paragraph 12 of the report, the General Assembly would take note of this invitation, would welcome the joint commitment of the two administering Powers to the independence of the New Hebrides and would request the Secretary-General, after consultation with the Chairman of the Fourth Committee, to appoint a United Nations visiting mission to observe the forthcoming elections and to report thereon.

3. On behalf of the Fourth Committee, I should like to express the hope that its recommendation will receive the unanimous approval of the General Assembly.

*Pursuant to rule 66 of the rules of procedure, it was decided not to discuss the report of the Fourth Committee.*

4. The PRESIDENT: The draft resolution recommended by the Fourth Committee is in paragraph 12 of its report (A/34/638) and is entitled "Question of the New Hebrides". May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to adopt that draft resolution?

*The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 34/10).*

5. The PRESIDENT: In paragraph 8 of the resolution just adopted, the General Assembly requests the Secretary-General, after consultation with the Chairman of the Fourth Committee, to appoint a mission to observe the forthcoming elections in the Territory and to report thereon.

6. Pursuant to that provision, it is my understanding that consultations are being held with respect to the composition of that mission, and that an announcement will be made in due course.

## AGENDA ITEM 14

## Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency

7. The PRESIDENT: I now invite the Director General of IAEA, Mr. Sigvard Eklund, to present the report of the Agency for the year 1978.<sup>1</sup>

8. Mr. EKLUND (Director General, International Atomic Energy Agency): It is my privilege to present to the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly the annual report of IAEA. As noted, the report for 1978, which is before the Assembly, was approved by the Board of Governors of the Agency, but has not yet been

<sup>1</sup> International Atomic Energy Agency, *The Annual Report for 1978* (Austria, August 1979); transmitted to the members of the General Assembly by a note of the Secretary-General (A/34/497).

considered by the General Conference. The reason for this is that this year the General Conference will meet in December instead of September, as is customary, since the member States of the Agency accepted the very generous invitation of the Government of India to act as host to the Conference in New Delhi.

9. As the report points out, we still face the paradox that new orders for nuclear power plants continue to decline. It is now recognized that the only significant choices we have, until at least the end of this century, for the production of electric power are coal and nuclear energy, and in some places, hydropower. Of course, we have to use all other alternative energy sources available and capable of development, but it should be recognized that by the end of the century these sources can make only a marginal contribution. The shrinking world reserves and the rising cost of petroleum will eventually eliminate it as a source of energy except for propulsion purposes and uses by the petrochemical industry. Conservation measures in the more affluent countries and higher priority for alternative energy technologies may only retard the growth of the demand for electricity. In 1978, for instance, world electricity consumption grew by 6 per cent compared with an increase of 4 per cent for the total consumption of primary energy.

10. If we are to avoid blackouts, if we are to keep our factories going and our homes warm and lighted in the late 1980s and 1990s, it is imperative that Governments consider realistic energy policies. Unfortunately a paralysis has overtaken the energy programmes of many of the leading industrial countries.

11. The reason for this, in many cases, is that the public has been badly misled and, indeed, frightened by some groups and individuals who have turned against modern industrial society as a whole. These groups and individuals have made a career of exaggerating the risks to which we are inevitably exposed by any industrial or human activity and, even more dangerously, have offered the illusion that there are so-called soft paths and easy ways out of the energy crisis. Public apprehensions have been translated into an almost impenetrable tangle of legislative and juridical processes—interventions, demonstrations and court actions—so that, in some countries, it now takes up to 16 years before a decision to construct a nuclear power plant can be translated into the production of electricity.

12. I should not like to give the Assembly the impression that this is the case everywhere. In some countries the lead time for the construction of a nuclear power plant is as short as six to eight years. At least one Western industrial country, a few developing countries and the socialist countries are proceeding at full speed with the development of nuclear power. The member countries of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance have recently raised their targets substantially and now expect to have 150,000 megawatts of nuclear power on line by 1995.

13. As I have said before, the problems facing the nuclear industry cannot be a matter of indifference to the developing world. The less nuclear power the industrial countries generate, the more oil they will consume, the higher the price will go, and the less oil will be available to the developing world. The same is true of coal. Moreover, a healthy nuclear industry in the industrial countries is an indispensable basis for the ex-

pansion of nuclear power in developing countries themselves.

14. What is the reality behind the public's apprehensions about nuclear power? By the end of 1978, the world's installed nuclear power capacity amounted to 110,000 megawatts, or 6 per cent of the world's generating capacity. By 1985, on the basis of plants now being built, the share of nuclear power will increase to about 16 per cent of the electricity actually produced. In 1985 it will represent the equivalent of more than 40 million tons of oil a year. Let me illustrate. Last year Saudi Arabia produced 420 million tons of oil. Obviously, the contribution of nuclear energy is one that we cannot afford to do without.

15. What about the safety record of the nuclear industry? Well, it may be said that, even following the accident that occurred in March 1979 in the United States at the Three Mile Island nuclear power station, the truth remains that after 20 years of nuclear power generation there has not been a single radiation-induced death or single radiation-induced injury at any civilian nuclear power plant. The introduction to the Agency's report before the Assembly gives some interesting statistics about the estimated risks for the world's population from various sources of radiation. I also draw your attention to the publication that the Agency has just released entitled *Radiation—A Fact of Life*<sup>3</sup>.

16. Let me note that, on the basis of the 1977 report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation,<sup>4</sup> it has been calculated that the radiation emitted by all nuclear power plants now operating throughout the world may cause about 6 deaths from cancer each year. This compares with 6,700 cancer deaths resulting from the medical uses of X-ray and radiation and with 35,000 cancer deaths from natural radiation out of an estimated total of 50 million cancer deaths each year from all causes. These figures speak for themselves.

17. As yet there are no comparable authoritative figures regarding the effects on health and life resulting from producing electricity from coal, oil or new and renewable sources. None of these energy sources has received anything like the same degree of scientific scrutiny as has been given to nuclear power.

18. I may be asked why I am presenting these details before the General Assembly of the United Nations. It is because the representatives assembled here constitute not only the world's most eminent political council but directly represent the Governments of all nations, whose decisions our collective future most assuredly depends. The Secretary-General, Mr. Waldheim, in his annual report on the work of the Organization [A/34/sect. V] and in other pronouncements, has spoken of the significance of the energy problem and I fully share his concerns. Energy problems manifest themselves in many aspects which at present are being dealt with by a number of organizations. There is scope for close co-operation and collaboration. I should note that in Vienna there is already a certain concentration of such organizations and I would hasten to assure th-

<sup>2</sup> See International Atomic Energy Agency, *The Annual Report 1978*, GC(XXIII)/610, paras. 13 and 14.

<sup>3</sup> Vienna, IAEA, 1979.

<sup>4</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session Supplement No. 40.*

Assembly that IAEA is making every effort to strengthen our mutual co-operation.

9. Energy is no longer a purely technical and commercial question but has become a political matter affecting the welfare of all mankind, with far-reaching implications for the preservation of world peace. It is therefore vitally important for all of us that the right energy decisions be taken without delay and that the important contribution which nuclear energy can make towards the solution of the world energy problem, the reduction of international tensions and the preservation of world peace should not be ignored or, even worse, discarded.

20. If there is a danger to mankind, it does not lie in the peaceful use of nuclear energy to generate electric power. It lies in nuclear armaments and in the risks of proliferation; it could lie in the political tensions which may follow the failure to develop nuclear power and other energy resources as replacements for declining petroleum resources.

21. I turn now to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons [*resolution 2373 (XXII), annex*] and the risks of further proliferation of nuclear weapons. Although encouraging progress has been made, there are still warning signals.

22. Progress may be measured by the fact that during the past year Sri Lanka, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and Indonesia have acceded to the Treaty and by the fact that Bangladesh and Turkey have informed the Agency that they too will shortly become parties to the Treaty.

23. The number of parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty now stands at 110. This figure includes 77 developing countries as well as all but one of the main industrial non-nuclear-weapon States. It also includes three nuclear-weapon States.

24. While many of the parties still have to conclude the requisite safeguards agreements with the Agency, 64 have already done so and the remainder do not at present operate any nuclear facilities.

25. Progress is also being made with the denuclearization of Latin America, and we are encouraged by the decision of Argentina to ratify the Tlatelolco Treaty.<sup>5</sup> Latin America is, therefore, well on the way to becoming the first region of the world in which all nuclear activities, except those that are specifically peaceful, are forbidden by international law, and where this prohibition will be verified by IAEA safeguards. It would be a major contribution to international security if other regions were to follow the Latin American example.

26. I am also pleased to report that considerable progress has been made in reaching agreement with the European Communities on detailed arrangements for implementing safeguards in the Common Market countries.

27. The safeguards operation as a whole is becoming more effective. As will be seen from the Agency's report, the Board of Governors considered that it was reasonable to conclude that all nuclear material under Agency safeguards in 1978 was being used for peaceful nuclear activities or was otherwise adequately accounted for. Essentially, the same conclusion had been reached in previous years.

28. The application of safeguards on an international scale is not without some difficulties. The increasing cost of safeguards, the continuing refusal of some States to accept inspectors of certain nationalities and the necessity continually to improve safeguarding instrumentation could be mentioned as examples. However, I should like to emphasize that these difficulties, of which we are fully aware, have not resulted in any impairment of our safeguarding activities.

29. More serious is another development referred to in the annual report. Last year, I informed this Assembly<sup>6</sup> that there were three non-nuclear-weapon States—all three in areas of political tension—that were operating without safeguards nuclear plants capable of producing materials for nuclear explosives, namely plutonium or highly-enriched uranium. There have recently been disquieting reports that a fourth country is building a plant that will produce enriched uranium without safeguards. The Board of Governors has pointed out that if this were to happen, it would reverse a trend towards bringing all civilian nuclear activities throughout the world under IAEA safeguards. Such a backward step might easily lead the world into a new spiral of the nuclear arms race with all that that implies in waste of resources and valuable manpower, not to mention the danger to world peace.

30. All four countries have declined to ratify the Non-Proliferation Treaty or to accept comprehensive safeguards. It seems to have become a truism that where the Non-Proliferation Treaty and IAEA safeguards end, the danger of proliferation begins.

31. I have referred to the accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear power station, and I should like to note that the Agency is following the consequences of that event. Shortly after the accident, the Agency convened an international group of experts to advise it on additional steps to strengthen its own nuclear safety programmes.

32. As a result of that meeting and proposals by member States, the Board of Governors approved a

<sup>5</sup> Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America. United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 634, No. 9068, p. 326.

<sup>6</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Tenth Special Session, Plenary Meetings*, 13th meeting, para. 202.

significant expansion of the Agency's safety programme. This includes a widening of the nuclear safety standards programme in such areas as the siting, construction and operation of nuclear power plants, as well as the governmental and technical infrastructure needed to ensure such safety. Steps will also be taken to establish what has been termed a nuclear fire brigade of experts to be on call at short notice to provide help and advice in case of an accident, particularly in the less industrialized countries. The Agency will also be convening an international conference on current nuclear power plant safety issues to be held in Stockholm from 20 to 24 October 1980, which will discuss, among other matters, the lessons learned from the event I have referred to and other operating problems.

33. Despite its outstanding record, the nuclear industry, like any other industrial endeavour, cannot be expected to maintain a zero-level accident rate. I fear we must also expect, however, that some of the information media will use even the most minor incident to alarm the public by exaggerating out of all proportion the risks that are actually involved.

34. There are a few other developments in the Agency's programme which I should like to mention briefly. Assistance to developing countries and safeguards remain the two pillars of the Agency's work. Most of the activities as regards technical assistance consist of perhaps unspectacular but useful projects, such as the endeavour to stop the spread of the Mediterranean fruit fly, which has established itself in Guatemala and is threatening to invade Mexico, where it could cause great losses.

35. Work is going on in 60 projects in more than 40 countries to improve crop yields, to produce new crop varieties, to produce more and better proteins and to combat animal diseases and insect pests. A good example is the Regional Co-operative Agreement in Asia which is now in its seventh year.

36. Two individual projects which have been completed and which I should like to mention are: the publication this year of a guide-book on manpower for nuclear power programmes,<sup>7</sup> and the 1979 edition of the joint IAEA and Nuclear Energy Agency survey<sup>8</sup> of the world's uranium resources, production and demand.

37. A new international project of vast potential is represented by a series of workshops to study the possibility of constructing an international fusion reactor of the Tokamak type in close collaboration with, or even under the auspices of, IAEA. This project, referred to as the International Tokamak Reactor or INTOR, was initiated by the Soviet Union for the purpose of bringing together efforts in developing a new source of energy—nuclear fusion. The findings of the workshops are being evaluated by a joint committee representing Japan, the Soviet Union, the United States and the Commission of the European Communities, all major potential contributors to the project.

38. The International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation, which was launched by the United States in 1977, will

hold its final plenary conference in Vienna in February 1980. This evaluation has already reaffirmed the importance of Agency safeguards and has indicated a number of ways in which the safeguards régime can be strengthened and complemented by other measures, such as storage of plutonium in international custody and restoration of confidence in supply commitments within the framework of full-scope safeguards.

39. Finally, I take pleasure in informing this Assembly that negotiations on the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials were recently concluded, on 26 October. The Convention will be open for signature on 3 March 1980 here at United Nations Headquarters and at the headquarters of IAEA in Vienna.

40. With regard to administrative questions, I am pleased to report to the Assembly that the Board of Governors has authorized me to accept the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit and has approved the statute of the International Civil Service Commission. It is also my pleasant duty to remind the Assembly that the inauguration of the Vienna International Centre took place on 23 August this year and that the Agency has just completed the transfer from its temporary headquarters to its permanent home on the Danube. Vienna has thus become, in all respects, one of the three major capital cities of the United Nations system.

41. I cannot conclude these remarks without mentioning the very pleasant news that Professor Abdus Salam of Pakistan, the Director of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste, which is operated by IAEA and UNESCO, was this year awarded the Nobel prize in physics. This is a recognition of a devoted international civil servant who at the same time is an outstanding scientist.

42. I should now like to end my statement by once again paying a tribute to the unstinting hospitality which the Government and the people of Austria and the city of Vienna have shown since 1957 to IAEA.

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

44. I now call on the representative of Saudi Arabia to introduce draft resolution A/34/L.8.

45. Mr. ALLAGANY (Saudi Arabia) (*interpreted from Arabic*): This is the second consecutive year in which my delegation has had the pleasure to submit to the General Assembly the draft resolution on the report of IAEA, since Saudi Arabia is Chairman of the Agency's Board of Governors. The draft resolution [A/34/L.8] contains eight preambular paragraphs and eight operative paragraphs.

46. The first preambular paragraph refers to the report of IAEA to the General Assembly for the year 1978.

47. The second preambular paragraph takes note of the statement we have just heard from the Director General of IAEA which provides additional information on developments in the Agency's activities during 1979.

<sup>7</sup> *Manpower Requirements and Development for Nuclear Power Programmes*, (Vienna, IAEA, 1980), publication STI/PUB/523.

<sup>8</sup> *World Uranium Potential: An International Evaluation*, A Joint Report by the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency and the International Atomic Energy Agency (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, December 1978).

48. In the remaining preambular paragraphs—from the third to the eighth—there is reference to the urgent need to develop all sources of energy to help us to mitigate the effects of any crisis in this field; consideration is given, of course, to the important role to be played by IAEA in making nuclear power available to all and particularly to the developing countries; and appreciation is expressed of the role played by the Agency in using nuclear energy safely and in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and other pertinent international treaties, conventions and agreements.

49. Reference is also made to the excellent safety record of nuclear power generation and to the need to pay continuing attention to the question of nuclear safety. Finally, the preamble takes notice of the special needs of the developing countries for technical assistance by IAEA in order to benefit effectively from the contribution of nuclear energy to their economic development.

50. In the operative part of the draft resolution, paragraph 1 takes note of the report of IAEA. Paragraph 2 notes with satisfaction the continuing efforts of the Agency to strengthen further its activities in the field of technical assistance to developing countries and urges all States to increase their voluntary contributions to IAEA. Paragraph 3 commends IAEA for its continuing efforts to ensure the safe and secure use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. In paragraph 4, the General Assembly notes with appreciation the special measures taken by the Agency to expand its programmes in nuclear safety, particularly aimed at helping Member States to develop their nuclear regulatory framework, to acquire adequate cadres of trained personnel and to deal effectively with any emergency that may occur. In paragraph 5, the General Assembly urges all Member States to support the endeavours of the Agency, pursuant to its statute, in furthering the peaceful uses of nuclear power, improving the effectiveness of safeguards and promoting nuclear safety. Paragraph 6 is divided into two parts. In subparagraph (a) the General Assembly notes with satisfaction the Agency's continuing work in keeping under review the world's uranium resources, production capacity and demand, the progress made in elaborating a convention on physical protection of nuclear materials, the expansion of the Agency's International Nuclear Information System, the launching of the International Tokamak Reactor workshop and the assistance given by the Agency to Member States in assessing the role that nuclear power can play in their energy development. In subparagraph (b) the General Assembly also notes with satisfaction:

"The progress made by the International Atomic Energy Agency towards the establishment of a system of international plutonium storage and the action it has taken in regard to the international management of spent fuel".

In operative paragraph 7, the General Assembly notes:

"... that the recommendation contained in paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 33/3 of 2 November 1978 will be considered at the twenty-third regular session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency and expresses the hope that the matter will be brought to an early conclusion".

Finally, in operative paragraph 8, the General Assembly:

"Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency the records of the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly relating to the Agency's activities."

[The speaker continued in English.]

51. The Director General of IAEA has informed us in the statement he just made that the negotiations on the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials were successfully concluded on 26 October 1979 and that the Convention will be opened for signature on 3 March 1980 at United Nations Headquarters in New York and at the headquarters of the Agency at Vienna. This is indeed a significant achievement of IAEA and an important development which should be reflected in our draft resolution on the report of the Agency.

52. Accordingly, I propose the addition of a new operative paragraph 3, to read as follows:

"3. Notes with appreciation that the negotiations on the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials were concluded successfully at Vienna on 26 October 1979 with the signing of the Final Act and that the Convention will be opened for signature on 3 March 1980 at United Nations Headquarters in New York and at the headquarters of the International Atomic Energy Agency at Vienna."

53. Consequently, the following words appearing in the third and fourth lines of subparagraph (a) of operative paragraph 6 should be deleted: "the progress made in elaborating a convention on physical protection of nuclear materials". Further, the present operative paragraphs 3 to 8 should be renumbered accordingly.

[The speaker resumed in Arabic (interpretation from Arabic).]

54. I hope that, as last year, we shall be able to adopt the draft resolution, as amended, unanimously and without the need for a vote.

55. Mr. DOMOKOS (Hungary): It is a long-standing tradition in the General Assembly to consider the activities of IAEA on the basis of substantive reports, the discussion of which is facilitated by the introductory statements of Mr. Sigvard Eklund, Director General of the Agency, which provide stimulus for reflection and initiative.

56. The Hungarian delegation feels that the report of IAEA, although it has not yet been approved by the General Conference, is a true reflection of the responsible work done by the Board of Governors, the Director General and the Secretariat. The report shows that the past year was an active one with a useful record of productive work to the Agency's credit. This is another proof of the indispensable and valuable role which the IAEA has been playing for many years in promoting the peaceful uses of atomic energy as well as in maintaining and strengthening the regime of non-proliferation.

57. Several chapters of the report are devoted to the wide variety of increasingly important activities aimed

at harnessing the advantages of nuclear power for the benefit of mankind in the fields of industry, agriculture, health care and scientific research.

58. The discovery of the nature and properties of the atom and the utilization of its power have by now come to contribute to satisfying the material and intellectual needs of man to such a degree that the lack of such a contribution would be seriously felt and would make future development inconceivable. The benefits derived from the use of nuclear power are not always quantifiable; yet it is no exaggeration to say that the positive economic effect of the application of the techniques of nuclear science can be expressed in terms of hundreds of millions of dollars, as is clearly shown by several examples in the report.

59. The section of the report dealing with nuclear power and reactors<sup>9</sup> contains an account of a contradictory situation. Many countries show a declining interest in a greater use of nuclear power, partly for economic reasons and the high capital costs and partly because of some controversy concerning the competitiveness of nuclear power plants, whose safety is also questioned by many. Concern about the risks of further proliferation of nuclear weapons is an added factor retarding the faster growth of nuclear power generation in some countries.

60. In this connexion, my delegation agrees with the conclusion that the energy needs of the world cannot be met without nuclear power even today, while the future holds still fewer alternatives on which mankind can rely. As regards nuclear safety, we derive satisfaction from the statement in the report, reiterated in the introductory statement by Mr. Eklund today, that "there had been twenty years of nuclear power generation without a single radiation-induced death or a serious radiation-induced injury at any nuclear power plant".<sup>10</sup> There is no doubt that part of the credit for the favourable record must go to a series of safety recommendations, codes of practice and safety guides elaborated and published by the IAEA.

61. It follows from this that we attach great importance to any proposal and support any initiative for the convening of an international conference on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We think that a conference similar to that held in Salzburg under the auspices of the Agency<sup>11</sup> would provide the most appropriate forum for the discussion of relevant matters.

62. We are following with interest the developments in controlled fusion research and consider that the Agency is engaging in useful and timely activity in the field of international co-operation.

63. In favouring further progress in peaceful nuclear activities, we do not forget even for a moment that such facilities must be operated under strict Agency safeguards. The Agency has a pivotal role to play in ensuring that the widening scope of peaceful nuclear activities will not lead to the emergence of more nuclear-weapon States and that the safeguarded fissionable material will

not be diverted for the manufacture of nuclear weapons. The annual report of the Agency gives an account of achievements in this field as well.

64. The Agency's activity has been among the factors contributing to the strengthening of the non-proliferation régime and to the further increase in the number of parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty. However, it is also stated in the report that

"The number of non-nuclear-weapon States that were operating unsafeguarded facilities capable of making nuclear weapons material remained unchanged . . ."<sup>12</sup>

and that

"the number of States in which unsafeguarded nuclear facilities are in operation may increase rather than decline in the years ahead."<sup>13</sup>

65. I believe that the United Nations should also do everything possible to ensure that this pessimistic prediction, which nevertheless reflects a real danger, will not prove to be true. It is in the vital interest of mankind to strengthen the universal character of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. In this context, we attach exceptional importance to the second Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the outcome of which would, in our view, be greatly enhanced by the ratification of Salt II and by substantive progress in the preparation of a comprehensive nuclear test-ban. The same effect would be produced by the conclusion of an international convention on the strengthening of guarantees of the security of non-nuclear States. The Geneva Committee on Disarmament could also speed up its relevant negotiations on the basis of the draft submitted by the socialist countries and by Pakistan.

66. My Government continues to support the Agency's technical assistance programme and values highly the existing co-operation between the Agency and the competent Hungarian organs. Through deliveries of equipment and the release of specialists, Hungary, too, contributes its share to the implementation of projects in developing countries under the Agency's technical assistance programme. From time to time, we also receive technical assistance which serves to promote both the satisfaction of our needs and the training of specialists from developing countries. Every year Hungary organizes several training courses and scientific symposia on the uses of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

67. Finally, I should like to express the appreciation of the Hungarian delegation to the Director General, the Board of Governors and the secretariat of IAEA for the preparation of the Agency's annual report for 1978, which the June 1979 meeting of the Board of Governors had an outstanding role in putting into final shape.

68. We are convinced that the 34-member Board of Governors will be able to maintain its effective direction of the Agency's activities and to ensure the representation of the different characteristics and interests of the various groups of States and geographical regions. We

<sup>9</sup> See International Atomic Energy Agency, *The Annual Report for 1978*, GC(XXIII)/610, paras. 46-72.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 13.

<sup>11</sup> International Conference on Nuclear Power and its Fuel Cycle, held at Salzburg from 2 to 13 May 1977.

<sup>12</sup> See International Atomic Energy Agency, *The Annual Report for 1978*, GC(XXIII)/610, para. 9.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 10.

consider, further, that the stability of the IAEA statute is also extremely important in ensuring an efficient co-operation.

69. The Hungarian People's Republic, as a member of the Board of Governors, lends active support to the constructive activities of the General Conference, the Board of Governors and the secretariat of IAEA. We propose that the thirty-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly consider the Agency's report and adopt draft resolution A/34/L.8, of which my delegation is a sponsor.

70. The PRESIDENT: I call now on the representative of Yugoslavia to introduce draft resolution A/34/L.10.

71. Mr. MUJEZINOVIC (Yugoslavia): The Yugoslav delegation has studied carefully the annual report of IAEA for 1978, which was circulated with a note by the Secretary-General dated 24 September 1979, as well as the report of the Secretary-General [A/34/197] dated 17 October 1979. As important events have occurred in the period which is not covered by the Agency's report, the statement made by the Director General of the Agency, Mr. Eklund, has provided us with additional information on the Agency's activities in the course of the current year. I wish to thank Mr. Eklund for his valuable statement and to emphasize that Yugoslavia highly appreciates his efforts and his contribution in directing the activities of the Agency. Yugoslavia will continue to co-operate actively, as in the past, with the Agency and to lend all possible assistance to Mr. Eklund and his associates.

72. The present year is developing amid signs of marked contradictions between growing energy needs on the one hand, and tendencies towards and demands for the curtailment of the construction of nuclear plants on the other. This contradiction is further intensified by awareness of the fact that oil reserves are shrinking, inevitably resulting in an increase in the value of oil, and that coal and nuclear sources of energy have emerged as the only tangible substitutes for oil. The majority of competent international and national institutions see a way out of the energy crisis in an accelerated development of nuclear sources of electric power. However, this inevitable course, especially for countries which lack oil or sufficient quantities of oil, is obstructed at this time by three serious factors: first, the problem of the safety of nuclear plants and their danger to human life and health, which were dramatized by the accident which occurred at the Three Mile Island nuclear plant in the United States; secondly, the continued monopolistic approach by producers and exporters of nuclear equipment and the imposition of discriminatory conditions on importing countries which are compelled to build nuclear plants in order to speed up their economic development; and thirdly, the increased danger of the proliferation of nuclear weapons as a logical consequence of the failure of the leading nuclear-weapon States to observe the appropriate provisions of the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

73. The report of the Agency, Mr. Eklund's statement and the most recent developments indicate that the problem of increasing the degree of safety in using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes has met with extremely divergent reactions in various parts of the world. In the developed West there is growing opposition to the construction of nuclear plants; orders for nuclear equip-

ment have decreased, particularly in the United States and Western Europe. The exceptions are France and Japan, where programmes for the production of electric power by nuclear plants have been expanded.

74. We learn from the Agency's report that such programmes have been expanded in the Soviet Union and other Eastern European countries as well. This further justifies the efforts of the Agency to elaborate safety standards as obligatory components of projects for nuclear plants which will be built in the territories of States members of the Agency in the future.

75. Yugoslavia supports the Agency's programme of protection against radiation and shares its view that the member States and their national institutions should be in the forefront of activities aimed at providing protection and safety against radiation. This is one more reason for the Agency to expand its programme of training of personnel in the developing countries, in respect of all aspects of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, including the programme of protection against the effects of radiation. This is all the more important as in the year 2000 the share of nuclear energy in the total production of electric power will amount to 25 per cent, or even more.

76. At present, 28 countries cover their needs in fuel for nuclear plants from their own production of uranium. The number will continue to grow, provided the Agency and the international community as a whole augment their assistance to developing countries with regard to prospecting for and processing uranium ore. Today the majority of developing countries have already elaborated programmes for the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Therefore, the Agency has correctly placed the accent on the training of personnel capable of executing national nuclear programmes in their own countries. This will allow for a rapid growth of uranium resources and will widen the scope of research programmes.

77. The Agency's programme of activities, oriented towards development, also provides for the possibility of generating electricity through thermonuclear fusion, known as the INTOR project—the International Tokamak Reactor. We were pleased to learn from a *New York Times* report of 20 October 1979 that Soviet scientists had achieved considerable progress in constructing and demonstrating the work of a plant for producing electric power by fusion reaction. In the light of the fact that uranium used as a source of energy in the process of fission is a non-renewable source of energy, the results achieved with regard to the production of electric energy through fusion of heavy hydrogen from sea water constitute a really encouraging development.

78. We are also confident that the efforts exerted by the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation, with which the Agency co-operates actively, will contribute to the clarification and harmonization of many technical problems with respect to the utilization and development of nuclear energy and technology, particularly in the solution of many questions concerning spent fuel and radioactive waste and effluents produced at various stages of the nuclear fuel cycle, in the dismantling of old nuclear plants and other problems regarding the safe use of nuclear power sources for peaceful purposes.

79. As shown by the report of the Agency and the statement by Mr. Eklund, technical assistance to



developing countries increased by 44 per cent in 1978, and the recommendations submitted by a group of experts resulted in an improvement in the methods, system and effectiveness of technical assistance. However, we must note that the \$15 million fund allocated for that purpose is still extremely limited, indeed insufficient. It should be enlarged considerably, particularly for the developing countries.

80. Yugoslavia is party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Therefore, we note with satisfaction that in the period covered by the report the number of countries acceding to the Treaty increased from 103 to 106—and according to Mr. Eklund's statement the number is now 110—and that there was a marked increase in nuclear materials placed under IAEA safeguards. It is encouraging that the IAEA's secretariat has not detected any discrepancies that would indicate a diversion of significant amounts of safeguarded nuclear material to the manufacture of nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices. Although such a development is a positive one, we should nevertheless point to the shortcomings that make the over-all safeguards programme designed to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons deficient.

81. First, the leading nuclear-weapon States continue to develop their non-military programmes outside the framework of the Agency's safeguards, assuming thereby direct responsibility for a possible spread of the same practice to other countries—that is, the practice of developing and using nuclear installations outside the IAEA's safeguards programme.

82. Secondly, the expansion of nuclear technology is being limited and monopolized through the imposition of additional obligations determined selectively and without mutual consent, although the need for an urgent expansion of nuclear technology, particularly in the developing countries, has become the indispensable prerequisite for the accelerated social and economic development of those countries.

83. Thirdly, almost one third of the Member States refuse to accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, not because they intend to manufacture that kind of weapons but because they feel that the Treaty, owing to its discriminatory character, cannot represent an agreed framework for the international community in the solution of these questions.

84. The non-aligned and other developing countries are devoting ever-growing attention to the question of the development and transfer of nuclear technology for peaceful uses, as one of the key elements in the development of every country. At the initiative of a group of non-aligned countries, the United Nations General Assembly adopted by consensus resolution 32/50, which lays down important principles for the development of co-operation in the field of the development and transfer of nuclear technology for the peaceful use of nuclear energy for economic and social development. Proceeding from those principles, the Sixth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, which was held at Havana from 3 to 9 September 1979, confirmed once again the inalienable right of all States to apply nuclear energy towards their development and expressed regret at the existing pressures on and threats to developing countries, aimed at preventing them from developing their nuclear pro-

grammes for peaceful purposes [see A/34/542, annex, sect. I, para. 228].

85. The Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries noted with deep concern the tendency to impede, under the pretext of preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons, the realization of the right of every State to acquire and develop nuclear technology and the tendency to impose restrictions and conditions with regard to transfer that are incompatible with the sovereignty and independence of every developing country [*ibid.*, para. 232].

86. The Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries urged that, to replace such relations, an international conference on the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes be convened pursuant to the principles and objectives of consensus resolution 32/50 adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations [*ibid.*, para. 233].

87. My Government has submitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations a detailed reply concerning several concrete proposals on the substance of such a conference. In the reply of the Government of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia,<sup>14</sup> it is stated that the conference on the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes should deal with the following questions.

88. First, economic and political aspects of the development of nuclear energy in the world; conditions and possibilities of co-operation in this field; global, regional and national projections of development; possibilities, conditions and problems of financing; the availability of and the need for raw materials.

89. Secondly, problems of obtaining nuclear technology—including problems of transfer and industrial co-operation—and, in that sense, possibilities, conditions and problems of association of countries for the implementation of programmes of nuclear technology, with special emphasis on the introduction of nuclear technology into the economic development of the developing countries.

90. Thirdly, questions involving the expansion of the exploitation of nuclear raw materials and their use and, in particular, the lending of assistance for prospecting for nuclear raw materials in the developing countries; elaboration and creation of conditions for the free and safe transfer of nuclear fuel; possibilities of association of countries in the field of securing of fuel, the fuel cycle, and so forth.

91. Fourthly, problems of possible misuse of nuclear energy—from the viewpoint of the strengthening of general collective security as well as consideration of the international obligations of countries using nuclear energy.

92. Fifthly, legal aspects of the development and use of nuclear energy: legal provisions regulating the safety of nuclear installations; national and international systems of legal regulation and system of safeguards.

93. Sixthly, regulation of the protection of the human

<sup>14</sup> See document A/33/332.



environment and universalization of safety standards for the purpose of facilitating the transfer of nuclear technology.

94. Seventhly, the promotion of scientific and technical co-operation through the creation of opportunities and conditions for joint research, exchange of information and training of personnel.

95. Eighthly, a precise definition of the role of international organizations, especially the role of IAEA in the transfer of technology and implementation of safeguards, of UNIDO in promoting technical assistance and of UNEP in solving problems of the human environment; activities of other international and regional agencies concerned with the promotion of co-operation in the development and application of nuclear technology.

96. Ninthly, the evaluation and use of the contributions to the development of nuclear technology made by international conferences, such as the International Conference on Nuclear Power and its Fuel Cycle held at Salzburg, the Conference on the Transfer of Nuclear Technology, held at Persepolis, the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation held at Washington, the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries held at Buenos Aires, the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development held at Vienna, a conference on new and renewable sources of energy to be held in 1981, the second Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to be held in August 1980, and others.

97. A group of countries has sponsored and submitted draft resolution A/34/L.10, which I have the honour of introducing. The draft resolution is based, on the whole, on the decisions of the General Assembly embodied in resolution 33/4, in which the idea of convening an international conference was endorsed by consensus.

98. In proposing that the conference should be held in the first half of 1982 at the latest, we have been guided by several important and closely connected considerations. In the first place, we bore in mind the fact that there already exists a political consensus regarding the need to hold such a conference. The holding of the conference would crown the numerous efforts exerted by the international community in its search for solutions to complex problems imposed by the very development and application of technology for the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

99. In this connexion, we have in mind the fact that the second Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons will be held in August 1980. Among other matters, this Conference will also consider the problems of the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

100. It is hardly necessary to mention that the framework of this Treaty, as proved by actual developments, is narrower than that offered by the proposed conference and that, therefore, regardless of the possible contribution to be made by the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, we must search for

frameworks that would embrace all countries and where their interests will be considered on a basis of equality. We also had in mind the fact that the study of the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation will be completed next year and that the results of this study will no doubt exert considerable influence on countries at the time of the adoption of positions on the issues raised by our draft resolution on the peaceful use of nuclear energy. The same applies to the forthcoming second International Conference of IAEA which is expected to meet in Salzburg in 1981.

101. Each of these conferences, we hope, will contribute towards the clarification of the problems to be dealt with by the conference proposed by our group of countries. Thus, we can consider that all these gatherings will be, to a certain extent, preparatory phases or complementary actions of the international community, the results of which will converge at the proposed conference. Consequently, we do not see any contradiction between the conference and the aforementioned gatherings.

102. Besides, we have had in mind yet another very important element, namely, the problems of the use of nuclear energy and of the transfer of nuclear technology which were discussed at the tenth special session of the General Assembly, devoted to disarmament, within the context of the régime of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons [see resolution S-10/2]. That special session saw the adoption of political stands and the assumption of obligations concerning the need to search for a new international consensus with regard to problems which are closely linked to the use of nuclear energy in general. We believe that the holding of this conference on the eve of the second special session of the General Assembly to be devoted to disarmament would also be of the utmost importance to efforts in the field of disarmament.

103. This conference should meet the obvious need of the international community to find, on the basis of equality, a way to promote the unhampered development of nuclear technology, to overcome the present system of monopoly, to eliminate restrictive practices and to establish a generally acceptable and genuinely democratic system of control over the use of nuclear technology.

104. The sponsors of the draft resolution hold that IAEA has an important role to play in the preparations for and realization of the said conference. We expect that IAEA, as part of the United Nations system, will make its full contribution to this undertaking.

105. In the name of the group of sponsors, I invite representatives to support the text of draft resolution A/34/L.10 and to adopt it by consensus at the time you deem to be appropriate, Mr. President, in the course of the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

106. Mr. KRUTZSCH (German Democratic Republic): The delegation of the German Democratic Republic has taken note with great attention of the report of the Director General of IAEA. It reflects the Agency's important role and responsibility as the competent organization within the United Nations system for promoting and ensuring the peaceful use of nuclear energy. The questions dealt with are of paramount interest to all States. We fully agree with the central

message of the report that the Agency's efforts can succeed only in an international atmosphere of détente. To ensure such an atmosphere requires the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

107. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is an important positive factor in the efforts to carry on the process of détente and in the struggle to maintain peace and achieve disarmament. What would be the chances of finding lasting political solutions to burning conflicts if States embarked on policies of aggression were to equip themselves with nuclear weapons? What about the resolution of issues related to colonialism, racism and *apartheid* if minority régimes were able to commit their flagrant violations of principles of the Charter and decisions of the United Nations behind the shield of nuclear weapons? The recent reports on the possible explosion of a nuclear device by South Africa prove how topical such questions are. Therefore, to achieve universality for the Non-Proliferation Treaty is in the interests of all peoples. While not being a substitute of any kind for nuclear disarmament measures, this Treaty has been, and continues to be, a necessary prerequisite for nuclear disarmament. The recently signed Treaty on the Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms<sup>15</sup> — resulting from the second round of the strategic arms limitation talks, known as SALT II — is the most significant measure yet towards curbing the nuclear arms race. At the same time, it corresponds with the provisions of article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons [*resolution 2373 (XXII), annex*]. The early ratification of the Treaty resulting from SALT II would create further opportunities for nuclear disarmament.

108. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the other States of the socialist community have made constant and wide-ranging efforts to keep the détente process going and to blaze the trail to disarmament.

*Mr. Mavrommatis (Cyprus), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

109. This is evidenced by the decisions taken by the States parties to the Warsaw Treaty in November 1978<sup>16</sup> and May 1979<sup>17</sup>, which contain far-reaching and realistic proposals for ending the arms race, particularly in the nuclear field. True to this policy, the German Democratic Republic supports the new Soviet initiative for nuclear disarmament, military détente and confidence-building in Europe that was launched at Berlin by the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, Leonid I. Brezhnev, on 6 October last, during the ceremony marking the thirtieth anniversary of the founding of the German Democratic Republic.

110. The German Democratic Republic stands for negotiations between five nuclear-weapon States and several non-nuclear-weapon States on the cessation of

the manufacture of nuclear weapons and the gradual reduction of existing nuclear-weapon stockpiles, leading to their complete elimination. It attaches special importance to an international convention on the strengthening of guarantees of the security of non-nuclear States, and it advocates the conclusion of an international accord on the non-stationing of nuclear weapons on the territories of States where there are no such weapons at present. Of particular urgency is a comprehensive nuclear test ban.

111. The realization of these and other proposals would be an essential contribution to strengthening the régime of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and improving conditions for an exclusive use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

112. The delegation of the German Democratic Republic wishes to commend IAEA, in particular for its safeguards activities. The Director General and the inspectors deserve recognition for their extensive work in this field. We were pleased to note the report's conclusion that no material under safeguards was diverted from the peaceful nuclear activities for which it was intended.

113. Further efforts are needed, however, to enhance the effectiveness of safeguards. To achieve this requires technological and methodological improvements and the appropriate utilization of all available means with the Agency's control system. In particular, it requires the political willingness of States to do their share in increasing the reliability of safeguards, since thereby trust and confidence among States would be enhanced and international security strengthened.

114. Once again, we emphasize the need for the earliest possible conclusion of the remaining arrangements subsidiary to the safeguards agreement in force between the Agency and the European Atomic Energy Community [EURATOM],<sup>18</sup> a field in which, as mentioned, considerable progress has been made.

115. We cannot leave unvoiced the concern with which we noted the report's reference to the fact that the number of non-nuclear-weapon States operating nuclear facilities without safeguards has not declined and that, to the contrary, it is increasing. The position of the German Democratic Republic on this question is as follows: the German Democratic Republic recognizes the right of States to the peaceful use of nuclear energy; it exercises this right itself. However, this right must be implemented in such a manner as to rule out the emergence of any further nuclear-weapon States. That is why we favour opening all nuclear facilities of non-nuclear-weapon States to inspection by IAEA. This would in no way affect the peaceful use of nuclear energy or related developments in science and technology. On the contrary, all peaceful nuclear activities would gain a sure foundation.

116. As a non-nuclear-weapon State that has placed all its nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards, the German Democratic Republic affirms once again that the safeguards applied by the Agency neither interfere with the normal operation of the facilities inspected nor impede the development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

<sup>15</sup> Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, signed at Vienna on 18 June 1979.

<sup>16</sup> See *Official Records of the Security Council, Thirty-third Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1978*, document S/12939.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*, *Thirty-fourth Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1979*, document S/13344.

<sup>18</sup> Safeguards agreement of 5 April 1973 (INFCIRC/193).

117. The German Democratic Republic is doing all that is necessary for the constant scrupulous fulfilment of its safeguards agreement with IAEA. Wider computerization has made the process of nuclear material recording and accounting more efficient, more reliable and less costly.

118. The report of IAEA shows how the Agency discusses all the political, scientific and technical problems concerning the peaceful use of nuclear energy and how it assists States with both advice and action.

119. The Agency merits high recognition for its efforts in the field of peaceful nuclear energy safety. The progress made in preparing internationally agreed safety recommendations for the operation of nuclear power plants is of primary significance.

120. The German Democratic Republic has always devoted special attention to protective arrangements against the possible harmful effects of the use of nuclear energy. In the course of the past 10 years, an industrially operated depository has been set up for low-level and medium-level radioactive wastes.

121. We appreciate the efforts of the Agency that led to the successful conclusion at Vienna on 26 October 1979 of the negotiations on the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials. This is in keeping with the decisions adopted by the first Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.<sup>19</sup> We express the hope that as many States as possible will become parties to this Convention.

122. My country attaches great importance to the Agency's technical assistance programmes. It was gratifying to note that the total volume of technical assistance provided by the Agency has risen by 44 per cent over 1977. For its part, the German Democratic Republic submitted proposals designed to broaden the spectrum of practical measures undertaken under such programmes and, specifically, to pass on experience gathered in the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

123. Special mention should be made of the dissemination of scientific information for promoting the use of nuclear energy. For this purpose, the Agency organized a large number of scientific conferences and meetings and further developed the International Nuclear Information System. It would be logical, therefore, that the proposed international conference for the promotion of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy should be convened within the framework of IAEA and that the Agency be requested to prepare for and organize this conference.

124. The German Democratic Republic's interest in matters concerning the peaceful use of nuclear energy can readily be explained by its extensive nuclear energy programme, which is being further expanded, in close co-operation with the USSR and the other States members of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance. As has been previously mentioned, the Council has adopted several decisions in this regard, calling, *inter alia*, for co-operative arrangements in the manufacture of nuclear power plant equipment. Such arrangements

will help to increase by more than one third the present electric-power potential of the European members of the Council and of the Republic of Cuba.

125. The implementation of this programme, as well as of all the other projects designed to use nuclear energy for the benefit of peoples, imperatively demands an improved international climate. In this quest, the cessation of the nuclear-arms race and the strengthening of the régime of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons play a particularly important role. The great significance of IAEA lies in the fact that its activities prove the conclusion that turning the great strides of science and technology to the benefit of mankind and preventing their abuse are challenges of our time that can be met successfully.

126. Mr. KLESTIL (Austria): We have all heard Mr. Eklund's comprehensive introduction of the report of IAEA for the calendar year 1978 as well as his most informative updating of this report with regard to this year's major developments in the field of nuclear energy and the relevant activities of the Agency. As in the past, the Austrian delegation wishes to express to the Director General its sincere appreciation of this most important contribution to our debate.

127. My delegation was particularly interested to hear Mr. Eklund's clear and, indeed, stimulating presentation of the current position concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy as seen today by IAEA.

128. As in previous years, I should like to take the opportunity to reaffirm that the Austrian Government extends its full support to the Agency's activities. My Government, furthermore, wishes to place on record its continued interest in seeing those activities maintained and further developed.

129. In our opinion, a fair and equitable balance should exist between such important functions of the Agency as discharging its non-proliferation responsibilities and promoting technical assistance to developing countries.

130. We note that the Agency has proceeded further with its endeavours to help member States, upon their request, in the implementation of their nuclear programmes and to provide the required assistance in these fields without losing sight of the paramount necessity of ensuring the safe use of this technology and of preventing its diversion to hostile purposes.

131. The Agency has also continued its most valuable development-oriented work in assisting member States in the application of isotope and nuclear techniques in food and agriculture, medicine, industry and scientific research. Today, nuclear techniques are being used routinely all around the world to improve crops, to determine ground-water resources in arid regions and to sterilize medical supplies; and they are also being used in medical diagnostic procedures. This fact has to be attributed to a very large degree to the untiring efforts of the Agency and its staff to make these techniques universally accessible.

132. If we look at the Agency's continuing efforts to intensify its activities in the field of technical assistance to developing countries, we can be encouraged by the fact that the total resources made available for 1978

<sup>19</sup> Held at Geneva from 5 to 30 May 1975. See document A/C.1/1068, annex I.

programmes increased by \$3.4 million over 1977 to a total of \$15 million in 1978. Austria is particularly satisfied to see that this trend of increased voluntary contributions by the member States has continued throughout 1979 and also in the 1980 budget, which will be before the General Conference of IAEA when it meets at New Delhi in December of this year.

133. A close look at the breakdown of the activities involved reveals improved efficiency in the administration of programmes as well as the qualitative importance of the projects carried out.

134. I should now like to turn to another main element in IAEA's fulfilment of its mandate, namely, its efforts in the field of non-proliferation. In a recent statement on disarmament questions that I made in the First Committee,<sup>20</sup> I dealt at some length with the complex issues of nuclear proliferation. Thus at this stage I should like only to recall that my country has always attached great significance to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and in particular has pleaded for universal adherence to that Treaty which, in spite of its imperfections, of which we are perfectly aware and which we do not try to minimize, remains the foremost legal instrument for stopping proliferation of nuclear armaments. We have therefore learned with satisfaction that the Agency has concluded several important new safeguards agreements.

135. We welcome the Agency's assistance during the past years in the field of improvement of safeguards procedures, and we acknowledge its continued efforts to develop and expand the international safeguards system.

136. We appreciate, indeed, the assistance given by the Agency in connexion with the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation. The studies undertaken by the latter are most valuable and also contribute to a much better and broader understanding and clarification of the various aspects of proliferation. This corresponds with Austria's support for ongoing efforts to develop international consensus and co-operation in the field of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, including the prevention of proliferation of nuclear weapons. It is also with these considerations in mind that Austria is actively taking part in the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation.

137. Furthermore, the efforts and activities of the Agency in the field of nuclear safety programmes must be emphasized. We notice on this occasion with satisfaction the extension of the pertinent activities within the framework of the recently adopted supplementary nuclear power safety programme. In this connexion, we welcome the decision of the Agency to convene at Stockholm an international conference on current nuclear power plant safety issues.

138. Austria is also looking forward to the second major conference on nuclear power and its fuel cycle, to be held in 1981 or 1982, which no doubt will — on the basis of the most interesting proceedings of the 1977 Salzburg Conference — provide another very useful and timely opportunity for a thorough discussion of all aspects of the nuclear fuel cycle. In its resolutions 32/50 and 33/4, the General Assembly invited all States to consider the

convening, at an appropriate stage, of an international conference or conferences aimed at promoting international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Austria has indicated its agreement in principle with the convening of such a conference, which in our view should benefit and draw the appropriate conclusions from the aforementioned and similar ongoing international discussions. Given the outstanding role IAEA is playing in this regard, it would seem to us to be of the utmost importance that such a conference be held under the auspices of the Agency.

139. In conclusion, let me reaffirm my country's continuing willingness to assist the Agency in the discharge of its heavy responsibilities.

140. In this connexion, I am very glad to report to this Assembly that, with the ceremonial inauguration of the Vienna International Centre which took place in August of this year, the Agency has found its new permanent headquarters and will also have adequate conference facilities at its disposal. In fact, the Agency has just completed its move to the Centre and I am confident that the new premises will offer working conditions of the highest standard for the staff of the United Nations, thus further increasing the already extraordinary efficiency of the Agency.

141. I should not like to close my remarks without expressing once more our appreciation of the excellent co-operation and assistance the Austrian Government has again received from the Director General and all the members of the Agency's secretariat in the course of the past year. Finally, let me thank Mr. Eklund for the kind words which he addressed to my Government and to Austria, as the host country of the Agency.

142. Mr. PETROVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (*interpretation from Russian*): The Soviet delegation has studied the IAEA report and has listened to the statement of the Director General of the Agency. We note with satisfaction that both the contents of the Agency's report and the statement made by Mr. Eklund testify to the great volume of work done in 1978 by the Agency.

143. The Soviet delegation highly commends the Agency on the important role played in strengthening the régime of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and ensuring effective international control over the peaceful use of nuclear energy and nuclear technology as well as in developing co-operation among States in the nuclear energy field. Since the time of its foundation, the Agency has demonstrated its ability to be an important instrument in fighting for the maintenance of peace and the strengthening of international co-operation. In this respect, a great personal service has been rendered by the Director General of the Agency, Mr. Eklund.

144. One of the most important tasks facing the Agency, in accordance with its statute and resulting from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, is to strengthen the régime of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. The importance of that task can be explained in particular by the fact that genuinely successful and fruitful co-operation in the field of atomic energy, in the interests of all countries, can be ensured only on condition that the international community has

<sup>20</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, First Committee, 10th meeting, and ibid., First Committee, Sessional Fascicle*, corrigendum.

a guarantee that such co-operation will not become a channel for the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

145. In discharging its functions of strengthening the international régime of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and in implementing its control activities under the Treaty and under the agreements concluded in accordance with its statute, IAEA is thus promoting the strengthening of the foundations of universal peace at the regional as well as the international level.

146. As is noted in the report presented for our examination, IAEA did not detect

“... any discrepancy which would indicate the diversion of a significant amount of safeguarded nuclear material for the manufacture of any nuclear weapon, or to further any other military purpose, or for the manufacture of any other nuclear explosive device.”<sup>21</sup>

147. That is an important conclusion, which once again demonstrates how vital the Treaty is and how vital is the system of non-proliferation which is its very foundation.

148. We also note that the Agency's safeguards system encompasses practically all the nuclear activities of the non-nuclear countries which are parties to the Treaty, and which have concluded control agreements under the Treaty with IAEA. As practice shows, the fact that some States do not have control agreements with IAEA under the Treaty, in no way, promotes the development of co-operation with such countries in the field of atomic energy.

149. Our delegation fully shares the satisfaction expressed by Mr. Eklund and other previous speakers regarding the successful conclusion of talks on the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials. We consider that the speedy implementation of that Convention will be an important factor in strengthening the régime of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. Bearing all that in mind, our delegation is ready to support the proposals submitted by Hungary and Saudi-Arabia in draft resolution A/34/L.8.

150. In discussing the Agency's report at this session on the eve of the tenth year that the Treaty has been in operation and looking ahead, we should like to stress in particular that, as in the past, the most urgent and important task continues to be the strengthening of the non-proliferation régime. As was pointed out in Mr. Eklund's statement, the Agency is concerned about reports that more and more countries have installations for the production of enriched uranium which are not subject to the Agency's control [see para. 29 above]. IAEA has more than once heard danger signals coming from various regions about this. Attention has been drawn to the danger of nuclear weapons getting into the hands of States situated in regions of tension and conflicts. In this context, particular notice has been taken of plans for producing nuclear weapons in the Republic of South Africa and Israel.

151. This situation is naturally alarming, since the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and in particular their

possession by aggressors and racists, would lead to growing tension in the regions affected and would immeasurably increase the nuclear danger for mankind as a whole. It is a matter of regret that some States are still disinclined to become parties to the Treaty and that some have not so far renounced plans to acquire their own nuclear weapons.

152. It is our profound conviction that only by the adherence to the Non-Proliferation Treaty by all States, without exception, can reliable barriers be erected in the path of nuclear-weapon proliferation. Only in this way can we remove the threat of the emergence of nuclear confrontation in those regions which are now free of it, establish conditions for the harmonious development of nuclear energy and bring about full-scale co-operation in that important field.

153. The forthcoming second Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to be held in 1980, will constitute an important milestone in the strengthening of the non-proliferation régime.

154. As was shown by the experience of the first Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Agency played an extremely useful role in its preparation and holding. We are sure that IAEA will make a constructive contribution on this occasion also to the preparation of the second Conference, by submitting reports on its activities under articles III, IV and V of the Treaty. We consider that the Agency possesses all the necessary attributes for increasing the effectiveness of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, increasing the number of parties to it and strengthening the Treaty's safeguards system.

155. As Members know, the second Review Conference will have to examine a whole range of questions concerning the implementation of the Treaty, including the duty of States to conduct negotiations on effective measures to halt the nuclear arms race in a spirit of good will. I should like to remark, in this connexion, that in its undeviating adherence to the letter and the spirit of the Treaty, the Soviet Union is doing everything in its power to reverse the nuclear arms race.

156. The proposals that we have made in this respect are well known, especially the proposal to cease production of nuclear weapons of all kinds and gradually reduce stockpiles until they have been 100 per cent eliminated. The Soviet Union and other socialist countries propose that we immediately embark on constructive talks on this matter, since the sooner this happens the greater will be the benefit for the cause of peace.

157. We consider that among the effective measures requiring speedy adoption in the field of halting the nuclear arms race is the conclusion of a treaty banning all nuclear-weapon testing and the implementation of the proposal regarding the non-stationing of nuclear weapons where there are no such weapons at present.

158. We feel that the conclusion of an international convention on the strengthening of the security of non-nuclear States would eliminate one of the factors which is impeding accession to the Treaty by a number of States and would thus strengthen the non-proliferation régime itself, which is based on the Treaty.

<sup>21</sup> See International Atomic Energy Agency, *The Annual Report for 1978*, GC(XXIII)/610, para. 6.

159. Together with the prevention of the spread of nuclear weapons on our planet, IAEA has, according to its statute, the task of developing international co-operation in the peaceful use of atomic energy.

160. At the present time, when the world is facing a dearth of fossil fuels, interest in and a desire for the acquisition and speedy development of peaceful nuclear technologies are being felt in a large number of countries, both developed and developing.

161. As was quite rightly pointed out in the Agency's report, we can speed up measures to save energy in the world. One can make larger capital investments in alternative technologies. But it is not likely that in two or three decades those measures will have a tangible effect on the satisfaction of the world's electrical power needs. As a result, nuclear energy continues to be one of the most important sources of electrical power. Of course, the Agency's role and meaning in that regard will steadily grow.

162. The Soviet Union has achieved substantial results in the use of atomic energy for constructive purposes and is actively participating in international co-operation in this field and sharing its achievements with countries which are interested, both through the Agency and on a bilateral basis, by transferring expertise and technical assistance, enriching nuclear fuel, and so on.

163. We lay great stress on giving technical assistance through the Agency. The Soviet Union, upon the request of the Agency secretariat, delivers to States members of IAEA equipment, instruments and materials, and assists them in training qualified experts by organizing courses and scientific conferences in the Soviet Union. Our country constantly increases its voluntary contribution to the technical assistance fund of the Agency so that, in 1979, that contribution was 750,000 roubles for assistance first and foremost to the developing countries that are parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

164. To our mind, the secretariat of the Agency should, through the technical assistance fund, more actively promote the development of the peaceful uses of atomic energy in countries that are parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty. That would be in line with the provision, which was widely supported at the first Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held at Geneva in 1975, to the effect that non-nuclear developing countries parties to the Treaty should enjoy priority rights as far as receiving technical assistance was concerned.

165. The Soviet Union analyses and evaluates all proposals relating to any and all measures on an international scale from the point of view of the maximal use of the Agency's facilities in the field of co-operation in the peaceful use of atomic energy. In other words, we believe that questions of co-operation in the field of atomic energy, which are extremely important for both developed and developing countries, should be examined within the framework of IAEA. We adopt that approach when we hold conferences, meetings and symposia on enhancing international co-operation in the field of the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

166. We have studied attentively the proposals which are contained in General Assembly resolutions 32/50

and 33/4 and have transmitted to the Secretary-General our answers [see A/34/197] to the inquiries contained therein. We think that the questions regarding international co-operation in the field of atomic energy which are raised in the resolutions could be effectively discussed at the appropriate political and technical level, for example, within the framework of the conference to be convened by the Agency in 1981 regarding the peaceful uses of atomic energy and entitled "International Conference on Nuclear Power and its Fuel Cycle".

167. At the present time, as you know, we are considering the question of widening the scope of problems which will be discussed at that conference so as to include measures to enhance international co-operation in the peaceful use of atomic energy, particularly in the developing countries. In that respect, we see no need to convene a special conference on these matters, especially a conference where questions of the peaceful uses of atomic energy would be artificially divorced from the technical and economic aspects of the nuclear fuel cycle and from the task of strengthening the non-proliferation régime. We are convinced that this could neither promote the development of nuclear energy in the developing countries nor strengthen the régime of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

168. The Soviet Union highly commends the Agency's activities in bringing about scientific and technological co-operation in the fields of the peaceful uses of atomic energy, the exchange of information, including the holding of international scientific conferences and the granting of technical assistance to interested countries.

169. Our country widely uses atomic energy for constructive purposes and is prepared to continue to share its experience and scientific and technological know-how in that field, on behalf of further progress.

170. In conclusion, I should like once more to emphasize that the Agency as a whole is working successfully for peace and security, for the strengthening of the non-proliferation régime and for the development of international co-operation in the field of the peaceful use of atomic energy. In that respect, I should like to wish the Agency further success in carrying out its lofty mission.

171. Mr. WYZNER (Poland): I should like first of all to express my delegation's sincere gratitude to the Director General, Mr. Eklund, for his continued outstanding leadership of IAEA and for his lucid statement introducing the annual report of the Agency.

172. We are discussing the report of the Agency at a time when, on the one hand, it is becoming indispensable and, indeed, more urgent than ever to make all possible efforts to strengthen the régime of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons; and, on the other hand, the development of nuclear power for peaceful purposes, especially as an indispensable source of energy, is assuming growing significance for all countries.

173. Poland believes that it is not only possible but imperative to pursue vigorously the achievement of both those goals which, in our opinion, are not contradictory but rather fully complementary. The dynamic development of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy, and the possibilities of wider access to

nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, depend largely on establishing effective guarantees to ensure that such co-operation will not become a channel for the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

174. We therefore attach primary importance to those activities of IAEA that aim to raise a workable barrier against the further spread of nuclear arms. We are gratified to learn from the Agency's report that its safeguards activities expanded substantially in 1978, thus promoting the objective of non-proliferation. We also highly appreciate the Agency's contribution to the work of the preparatory committee for the second Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. We note with satisfaction an increase in the number of accessions by States to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and we hope that this process will continue with a view to achieving full universalization of the Treaty which, in our opinion, constitutes the best instrument for preventing the further proliferation of nuclear weapons. On the other hand, we are deeply concerned that several countries which possess a considerable peaceful nuclear potential remain outside the Treaty and that disquieting reports continue to the effect that some of those States are planning to develop their own nuclear weapons. Should such plans be put into practice, they would have an extremely grave impact on international peace and security.

175. My delegation is particularly alarmed at the latest reports about a possible nuclear explosion conducted by South Africa. The acquisition of nuclear arms by the racist régime of Pretoria would bring incalculable consequences for peace and stability both in Africa and in the world at large. Prompt and effective action is therefore necessary to prevent a nuclear build-up in that country. That is why we fully support the initiative taken in this regard by the delegation of Nigeria [47th meeting, para.16], and we see the need for the Security Council to ensure that South Africa does not acquire nuclear weapons. My delegation also demands that all States which have so far not yet done so immediately stop every form of nuclear collaboration with South Africa.

176. We cannot but express our disappointment at learning from the IAEA report that the number of non-nuclear-weapon States which are operating nuclear facilities without safeguards has not declined. We are also concerned with the further delay in the full practical application of IAEA safeguards in the non-nuclear-weapon States of EURATOM.

177. As is well known, Poland, along with the other socialist countries, has for long been deeply involved in efforts aimed at the consolidation of the régime of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. While commending the significant role played by the Agency in this field, we see the necessity of further increasing the scope and effectiveness of IAEA safeguards. At the same time, it is indispensable actively to promote all other endeavors designed to strengthen the régime of non-proliferation. This applies in particular to such important initiatives of the USSR in the political field as the proposal for the conclusion of an international convention on the strengthening of guarantees of security of non-nuclear-weapon States or the proposal on non-deployment of nuclear weapons on territories of States where there are no such weapons at present.

178. Poland highly appreciates the important role played by IAEA in promoting peaceful uses of nuclear energy and, in particular, in rendering technical assistance to developing countries. As we learn from the report, the volume of such assistance in 1978 rose by 44

per cent. I am glad to inform the Assembly that the voluntary cash contribution of my country for this purpose has also considerably increased.

179. We have a positive view of IAEA activities in other spheres, such as nuclear safety and environmental protection, food and agricultural, medicine, research, training and exchange of scientific information in various fields.

180. We are looking forward to a successful completion early next year of the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation, which is being carried out with the assistance and support of IAEA. We believe that the Agency should be the main body responsible for the implementation of any recommendations and conclusions that may be adopted upon the completion of that evaluation.

181. Finally, in the opinion of my delegation, questions concerning possible further measures to promote international co-operation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy, to which my country attaches great importance, could be most usefully discussed in the framework of the International Conference on Nuclear Power and Its Fuel Cycle, which is to be held in 1981 under the auspices of IAEA.

182. In conclusion, I should like to express my delegation's full support of draft resolution A/34/L.8, so ably introduced by the representative of Saudi Arabia.

183. Mr. OKAWA (Japan): In June this year, the Heads of State or Government of seven developed countries met at Tokyo<sup>22</sup> to discuss problems of common interest. Much of the time was devoted to the energy issue, which was virtually the main topic of the summit meeting. During those talks, a consensus was reached among the participants to the effect that nuclear energy was, and would be for some time to come, the only dependable substitute for petroleum as a source of energy. In the declaration made public after the meeting, the participants recognized the need to expand alternative sources of energy. The declaration went on to say that without the expansion of nuclear power generating capacity in the coming decades, economic growth and higher employment will be hard to achieve.

184. This common recognition among those countries is all the more serious in relation to the energy conditions of Japan, a highly industrialized country with scarce resources. Needless to say, the issue of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy has become a matter of vital concern to the world as a whole.

185. The International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation, started in October 1977 to examine the modalities of a nuclear fuel cycle that would render the peaceful use of nuclear energy compatible with the need to prevent further nuclear proliferation, is now in the process of winding up its work, with a voluminous report to come out next February. The second Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which will deal in depth with both nuclear non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, is to be held in August 1980. During the deliberations of the Evaluation, many countries have reiterated the necessity of grappling fully with the problem of the energy needs of the developing countries.

186. The question of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy has thus now entered a critical phase, and I should like to stress that, in the light of the achievements of IAEA, which need no elaboration, we have great expectations of the important role to be played by the Agency in this regard.

<sup>22</sup> Economic Summit, held at Tokyo on 28 and 29 June 1979.



187. With the Agency's annual report for 1978 now before us, and having listened this morning to the statement of Mr. Sigvard Eklund, the Director General of IAEA, I should like to express my country's gratitude to Mr. Eklund and to his staff for their dedicated efforts and our appreciation of and support for the energetic activities of the Agency, as described in the report.

188. The accident at the nuclear power plant at Three Mile Island in the United States last March was a renewed warning to the world regarding the problem of nuclear safety. We were impressed by the speedy dispatch of an IAEA survey mission on that occasion and the convening by IAEA of a meeting of experts, which specified certain measures to which priority should be given to ensure nuclear safety in the future. IAEA has long been undertaking the compilation of detailed codes of practice and safety guides under its Nuclear Safety Standards programme, among other activities on the question of nuclear safety. Incidentally, the Tokyo Economic Summit declaration also emphasized the key role which IAEA can play in the field of international co-operation to promote nuclear safety.

189. With regard to the other central issue in the nuclear field, the prevention of further proliferation, I have already referred to the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation, the results of which, as relating to non-proliferation, will have considerable effect throughout the world on how countries will be developing nuclear energy in the future. We cannot overlook IAEA's co-operation with the work of the Evaluation and the leading role that IAEA is expected to play in such matters as international plutonium storage and international spent fuel management, both activities that have already been started as part of the international co-operation anticipated in various fields in the post-Evaluation phase to begin after February of next year.

190. Japan's position on the strengthening of the non-proliferation régime was explained, both in detail and from a broader perspective in the speech that I made before the First Committee on 19 October,<sup>23</sup> and I shall not repeat myself. But I should like to say that IAEA now faces a number of problems with respect to the implementation of its safeguards system and there are many elements to be improved upon in this regard. My country intends to continue its co-operation for the solution of such problems.

191. It is significant that the text of a draft convention on the physical protection of nuclear materials was finally adopted last week, after negotiations extending over the last two years. This accomplishment is gratifying to my country, which participated in the talks from the outset and took an active part in formulating the draft convention. We appreciate the efforts of the other participating countries and of IAEA, which provided valuable secretarial services during the negotiations.

192. The volume of technical assistance provided by IAEA to developing countries has been steadily increasing. The target figure for the voluntary contributions which will be spent for this purpose has now exceeded \$10 million in the Agency's budget for 1980. Japan has always contributed its portion of the target figures and has made additional contributions in various forms.

193. This year, having noted the importance of expediting further the Agency's activities in Asia and the Pacific, under the umbrella of the Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and

Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology—commonly known as RCA—Japan acted as host at a meeting of a working group of representatives of RCA member countries, held at Tokyo, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, from 15 to 19 October. An active discussion took place among the representatives of the 10 participating countries on how to promote co-operation among member countries in the years ahead. For instance, the question of the establishment of an Asian regional centre for research and training was discussed, and it was agreed to hold annual meetings of governmental experts on a regular basis in one of the member countries. An IAEA workshop on food irradiation for governmental experts of developing countries participating in RCA is currently being held at a Japanese research institute for a duration of one month. These are examples of Japan's co-operation in the context of RCA, and we shall continue such regional co-operation to the extent possible in the future, taking into account the actual needs of the region.

194. With respect to draft resolution A/34/L.10, which calls for the convening of an international conference for the promotion of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, my delegation expresses its full sympathy with the stated objectives and the purpose of such a conference. But we should also take into account the fact that the results of the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation will be known to us next spring, that the second Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons will be held next summer, and that IAEA is planning an international conference on nuclear power and its fuel cycle for 1981. These conferences have the same purpose as the one proposed in the draft resolution. We therefore consider it necessary, first of all, at least to await the results of these coming conferences; and, from that point of view, my delegation would feel happier if the mention of specific dates could be avoided in the draft resolution which we have before us. Secondly, we should remember and reaffirm the role of IAEA, which was established as the sole global forum in the field of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

195. Mr. HANDL (Czechoslovakia): The annual consideration of the report of IAEA traditionally centres on two major fields in which the Agency performs invaluable functions in the solution of international questions relating to the peaceful uses of atomic energy. One of these has to do with the implementation and the strengthening of the nuclear non-proliferation régime and the improvement of the Agency's safeguards system; the other involves the ever-growing volume of tasks connected with the actual uses of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, prominent among which are the questions of ensuring nuclear safety and of providing technical assistance with due regard to the needs of the developing countries.

196. The Czechoslovak delegation has thoroughly acquainted itself with the report submitted by IAEA and has listened attentively to the inspiring statement by the Agency's Director General, Mr. Sigvard Eklund. We should like to express our grateful appreciation for the extensive constructive activities performed by the Agency and its bodies in these major areas of its work.

197. We welcome the active efforts of IAEA aimed at support for the continuing development of nuclear energy; in our view, they deserve full recognition. In that context, we should also like to express appreciation for the significant contribution made by the Director General of the Agency, Mr. Sigvard Eklund. We were

<sup>23</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, First Committee, 9th meeting, and ibid., First Committee, Sessional Fascicle*, corrigendum.

pleased to welcome him this year in Czechoslovakia, where we had a fruitful discussion on questions relating to the further expansion and intensification of our mutual co-operation with IAEA.

198. There is no doubt but that nuclear energy, as is confirmed in draft resolution A/34/L.8, remains the main realistic alternative to fossil fuel in meeting the growing energy needs in the broadest international framework during the coming decades. Czechoslovakia is among the countries which, in view of their limited raw material resources, are intensively developing their nuclear energy programmes. It is therefore sincerely interested in the overcoming of certain problems that have recently appeared in connexion with the prospects for the further development of nuclear energy. That is why we fully support the concrete programmes and measures undertaken by the Agency to that end.

199. The continued positive development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy on an international scale requires, categorically, the consistent implementation of the agreed international measures aimed at eliminating the danger of the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the constant improvement of their effectiveness. Czechoslovakia regards IAEA as the key body in this respect and it extends to that body its all-round support.

200. It must be appreciated that there has been both a quantitative and a qualitative improvement in the Agency's safeguards system and that, after many years of complicated talks, safeguards agreements have been concluded with the EURATOM member countries. It will still, however, be necessary for the Agency to achieve a considerably higher degree of consistency in the practical application of these safeguards agreements and to ensure the continuous effective operation of the safeguards system on the required scale. In view of the sharply growing volume of work that is particularly apparent in this field, we also fully support the efforts by the Agency to strengthen its Department of Safeguards and to staff it with an adequate number of qualified specialists.

201. An important stimulus to the increased effectiveness of the Agency's safeguards activities was, in our view, provided by the joint Soviet-United States communiqué of 18 June 1979, issued on the occasion of the signing in Vienna of SALT II Treaty, in which the two parties expressed their consistent support for the further strengthening of the nuclear non-proliferation régime and, in that context, emphasized the importance of using the comprehensive international safeguards provided by IAEA and expressed their intention to continue to strive for the strengthening of these safeguards.

202. However, despite those positive steps, the danger of the proliferation of nuclear weapons has not yet been completely eliminated, as is demonstrated by the dangerous nuclear policies of South Africa and Israel and by the recent alarming events connected with those policies. Moreover, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which is the most important international instrument for the elimination of that danger, is still very far from having acquired the needed universality—even though we note with satisfaction that the number of parties to the Treaty has increased. We therefore attach great importance to the successful completion of the preparations for the second Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-

Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to be held in 1980. That Conference should, first of all, take a new, resolute step towards strengthening the over-all non-proliferation régime and towards reaching an agreement on the most effective concrete measures to that end. The Agency's participation in the preparation of the Conference should make a positive contribution in that respect.

203. Czechoslovakia fully supports the active work by IAEA in the field of ensuring the safety of nuclear energy generation. We believe that this activity, which in recent times has recorded a marked positive increase, especially on the practical level, constitutes a fundamental prerequisite for the continued development of nuclear energy as a whole. A number of concrete measures, successfully implemented by the Agency in this field, indicate that the safeguarding of reliable safety of nuclear energy is a problem the solution of which is quite feasible. That is why it can be classified neither as an obstacle to the continued development of nuclear energy nor as a reason for measures that would cause complications for some States in the implementation of their energy programmes that are subject to IAEA safeguards. On that basis, Czechoslovakia is fully participating in the Agency's work in the field of nuclear safety and is prepared to contribute to effective measures designed to eliminate any critical situation that might arise.

204. In the same spirit we also support, in accordance with our possibilities, a number of the Agency's programmes and projects in the field of research, as well as in the field of technical operations mentioned in operative paragraph 6 of draft resolution A/34/L.8. We furthermore appreciate the useful contribution of the Agency to the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation, in which Czechoslovakia is participating and which is to be completed next year.

205. An undeniable qualitative and quantitative improvement has occurred in recent years in the field of technical assistance provided by the Agency to member States, with a special view to the needs of the developing countries, which is also confirmed by the data submitted. This notwithstanding, it is apparent that some unused reserves still exist in the Agency's work in this field. At the forthcoming twenty-third IAEA General Conference, the Czechoslovak delegation will submit its positions and constructive proposals aimed at the further improvement of the current situation. In this context, I should like to mention that Czechoslovakia has always held the view that technical assistance should be granted, as a matter of priority, to the economically weakest member States, and especially those that are parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and have concluded appropriate safeguards agreements with the Agency.

206. In the coming year, Czechoslovakia will make a voluntary contribution to the technical assistance fund in the amount of 300,000 Czechoslovak crowns, will submit offers to organize specialized projects and will grant five long-term and four one-year scholarships to specialists from developing countries.

207. Czechoslovakia resolutely supports the Agency's efforts directed, in keeping with its statute, towards the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the interest of

economic and social development. We fully support the idea of expanding international co-operation to that end, but we firmly believe that the Agency is the only appropriate body to conduct negotiations on the practical solution of all the relevant questions. We shall proceed from that point of view in considering any proposals connected with these issues.

208. In conclusion, I should like to note that the Czechoslovak delegation finds that draft resolution A/34/L.8 is a positive text and supports its adoption.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 18**

**Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples**  
*(continued):*

**(a) Report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;**

**(b) Report of the Secretary-General**

209. The PRESIDENT: I should like to inform the Assembly that in connexion with resolution 34/10, adopted at this very meeting, the Secretary-General has informed me that, after consultations with the Chairman of the Fourth Committee, he has appointed the following States as members of the United Nations mission to observe the elections in the New Hebrides: Australia, Fiji, the Ivory Coast and the United Republic of Cameroon.

*The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.*