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REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Peaceful use of nuclear energy for economic and
social development

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 34/63 of 29 November 1979, the General Assembly decided to convene the International Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, under the auspices of the United Nations system with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) fulfilling its appropriate role, in principle by 1983, in accordance with the objectives of General Assembly resolution 32/50. In the same resolution, the Assembly invited all States to communicate to the Secretary-General their views on the agenda, date and duration of the Conference and on other matters relevant to its preparation. Further, in resolution 34/63, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to urge all States to communicate to him their views on these matters and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session.

2. In pursuance of the Assembly's request, the Secretary-General, on 15 April 1980, addressed a note verbale to all States inviting them to convey their views on these questions to him. As at 15 August 1980, the Secretary-General had received replies from 18 States.

3. The views, observations and suggestions received from Governments in response to the Secretary-General's note verbale are reproduced in section II below and summarized in the remaining paragraphs of section I.

4. Among the Governments which have replied to the Secretary-General's note, several stressed that the Conference should be held after the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, i.e., after the middle of 1982. Specific views on the beginning date of the Conference varied between that date and sometime during the first half of 1983.

5. Specific proposals about the appropriate duration of the Conference were also made by the respondents. These varied between one and three weeks; all emphasized the importance of the Conference agenda for the final determination of the Conference's duration.

6. Regarding the content of the Conference's agenda, there seemed to be broad agreement that the agenda should cover all political and economic issues relevant to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In addition, somewhat more specific suggestions were made by some Governments as to agenda items. Among the more frequently mentioned were the following: promotion of international co-operation in the field; transfer of material, equipment, technology and know-how; questions relating to safeguards, safety, and to the legal and regulatory aspects of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy; and the role of international organizations in the field.

7. On other matters, several Governments dealt with the problems that might result from the accumulation of quantities of fissionable material for peaceful uses.

8. A number of Governments expressed their desire that the International Atomic Energy Agency play an appropriate role in the preparations for and conduct of the Conference.

9. Additional replies to the Secretary-General's note verbale will be issued as addenda to this document.

II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

ARGENTINA

/Original: Spanish/

/11 July 1980/

1. The Government of the Argentine Republic attaches considerable importance to the development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, and it is in favour of expanding and improving international machinery for co-operation in this field.

2. Bearing in mind this position of principle and considering the international community's growing energy requirements, the Argentine Republic has consistently stressed the desirability of convening an international conference for the promotion of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

3. As the United Nations General Assembly has decided by consensus, in resolution 34/63, to convene such an international conference, and in response to the invitation in paragraph 2 of that resolution, the Government of the Argentine Republic wishes to convey to the Secretary-General its views concerning various specific matters relating to the preparations for the conference, as follows:

(a) It is felt that the most suitable time for such a conference would be the first half of 1983.

(b) The duration of the conference must depend, in the final analysis, on the agenda that is decided upon, but three weeks would seem to give sufficient time to consider the probable agenda satisfactorily.

(c) With regard to the latter issue, the Government of the Argentine Republic considers that, although it might seem premature to discuss a detailed agenda for the conference, the agenda should be sufficiently comprehensive to allow for discussing all political and economic aspects of the development of nuclear energy including, in particular, the promotion of international co-operation and the transfer of materials, equipment, technology and know-how, long-term safeguards in connexion with the fuel cycle, issues relating to safety, legal and regulatory matters, and the role of international organizations in this sphere.

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4. Finally, the Government of the Argentine Republic wishes to inform the Secretary-General that it is willing to co-operate to ensure that the conference is successful and that it hopes that the conference will serve to reaffirm certain basic principles - little heeded nowadays - such as those relating to the inalienable right of all States to implement and develop their energy programmes freely and without discrimination as regards the acquisition of materials, equipment, technology and know-how for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

CUBA

/Original: Spanish/
/15 July 1980/

1. The Republic of Cuba voted in favour of convening the said Conference in the belief that any action designed to promote the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes for the benefit of the development and progress of all States is a constructive factor that helps to strengthen international peace and security.

2. The Government of the Republic of Cuba believes that the conference is, at the technical level, wholly interdependent with the International Atomic Energy Agency and recognizes that the Agency is playing an important role in the application of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, particularly for developing countries lacking the other sources of energy that are essential to their economies.

3. In the opinion of the Republic of Cuba, the agenda of the conference should focus on the issues of co-operation in the field of nuclear energy and the nuclear fuel cycle; however, no other aspect of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the inclusion of which would have the required international consensus, should be left out.

4. With regard to arrangements for the conference, the Government of the Republic of Cuba considers that it should be convened under the auspices of the United Nations, with IAEA fulfilling its appropriate role, for a period of two weeks, preferably during the first half of 1983, a time when there is less international activity in the field of nuclear energy.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

/Original: English/
/28 July 1980/

1. Czechoslovakia has already established a tradition of attaching great importance to the development of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy for economic and social development. It is therefore in favour of the convening of the above-mentioned conference under the auspices of the United Nations system, with the organizational matters being handled by the

International Atomic Energy Agency which has, almost for a quarter century, looked after the optimum development of peaceful co-operation in the field of nuclear energy. The Agency is planning the Second Conference on Nuclear Energy and the Nuclear Fuel Cycle for the first half of 1983.

2. In Czechoslovakia's view such a conference could provide a suitable international forum for the solution of problems pursuant to General Assembly resolution 34/63. Such international meetings as the Second Review Conference of the Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and other specialized international negotiations to be held in the next two years can be utilized for the thorough preparation of the conference and for ensuring its success.
3. An earlier convocation of the conference or even its convocation outside the framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency could considerably weaken the concerted efforts that, in Czechoslovakia's view, will be necessary for all-round consideration of the important international issues to be undertaken by the conference.
4. If the conference is convened in 1983, sufficient time will be provided for the International Atomic Energy Agency to settle all the basic questions relating to the agenda and the organization of the conference.
5. The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic is ready to make an all-round contribution to the successful implementation of the noble objectives of the proposed conference.

DENMARK

/Original: English/
/16 July 1980/

The Danish authorities have examined the possibilities of making suggestions regarding the agenda, date and duration of the United Nations International Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy. It has been found, however, that specific suggestions in this respect can only be made when more information is available on developments at the Second Review Conference of the Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and on the work within IAEA, inter alia, on supply questions following upon the conclusion of the international nuclear fuel cycle evaluation.

ECUADOR

/Original: Spanish/
/14 July 1980/

1. I am pleased to inform you that the Government of Ecuador considers that the conference should last one week, and that the agenda should include presentations

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on the progress made by Member States in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, particularly with a view to the economic development of the developing countries.

2. It would also be desirable for the agenda to include the question of progress in the use of radio isotopes in the fields of health and farming.

HAITI

/Original: French/

/23 June 1980/

The Haitian Government is not in a position to transmit its views at this juncture regarding the peaceful use of nuclear energy for economic and social development, since the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has no information nor infrastructure in that connexion.

HUNGARY

/Original: English/

/23 July 1980/

The Hungarian People's Republic is in support of convening the international conference, as proposed in resolution 34/63, under the auspices of the United Nations system, in 1983. It believes that in the preparation and convening of the conference on the peaceful use of nuclear energy for economic and social development and in the implementation of resolutions the International Atomic Energy Agency should fulfil its appropriate role. The Hungarian People's Republic expresses its hope that the conference will enhance the effectiveness of the non-proliferation treaty. At the same time, the Hungarian Government deems it necessary that the results of the conference should be consistent with the conclusions of the Second Review Conference of the Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

INDIA

/Original: English/

/7 July 1980/

The Government of India is of the view that the agenda, date and duration of the proposed International Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, which is scheduled to be convened in principle by 1983, could be informally discussed between representatives of Member States at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, leading to the consideration of these matters at the thirty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly.

IRAQ

/Original: English/
/10 July 1980/

With reference to the decision of the General Assembly to convene the International Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, the views of the Republic of Iraq on the timing, duration and agenda of the Conference are as follows:

1. Conference time: first half of 1983
2. Duration: as agenda requires
3. Agenda: Iraq supports broad approach that covers all economical and political aspects including:
 - (a) Transfer of material equipment, technology and know-how;
 - (b) Long-term assurances of supply of fuel cycle services;
 - (c) Questions related to security, legal and regulatory aspects;
 - (d) Role of international organizations.

LUXEMBOURG

/Original: French/
/10 June 1980/

The Ministry of Energy of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg has no suggestions to make concerning the agenda, date or duration of the International Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.

OMAN

/Original: English/
/6 August 1980/

1. The Government of Oman favours the convening of the conference in question in conformity with the decision taken by the General Assembly in its resolution 34/63.
2. While giving due attention to various proposals submitted by several Member States, the Government of Oman, at this stage, would like to suggest that the General Assembly should appoint a preparatory committee in due course to prepare the agenda of the conference and to settle other questions such as the date and

duration of the conference. This preparatory committee should have ample time to complete the task assigned to it.

3. The objectives and purposes of this conference are under serious study by the Government of Oman. While reserving its comments on the agenda of the conference for the present, the Government of Oman would like to assure the Secretary-General that it will render its full co-operation to the United Nations in the attainment of the noble objectives assigned to the conference.

POLAND

/Original: English/

/31 July 1980/

1. In the preparation and work of the said conference, the International Atomic Energy Agency should fulfil its appropriate role, and the conference should pay due attention to its role in promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

2. While promoting international co-operation in this field for economic and social development, it is imperative that the requirements of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons are constantly kept in mind.

3. At this stage, as a matter of example, it is thought that the conference could, inter alia, devote attention to the impact of development of the use of nuclear energy for energy purposes on the world energetic resources market; the organization of regional nuclear fuel cycle centres in the context of non-proliferation needs and the supply of nuclear fuels; forms of scientific and technological co-operation with the developing countries in the field of nuclear energy.

QATAR

/Original: Arabic/

/15 May 1980/

1. The State of Qatar, which shares the deep concern of the States of the world at the continuation of the arms race, and the nuclear arms race in particular, emphasizes the strong link and the close connexion between the arms race and international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We stress the basic role and ever-increasing importance of the United Nations in the achievement of the goals of general and complete disarmament. Not only does the arms race present a threat to peace and security in the world, but it is, furthermore, incompatible with the efforts being made for the establishment of the new economic order and international co-operation in the use of nuclear power for economic development.

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2. The interconnexion between disarmament and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy is of special concern to the developing countries. Firstly, they most urgently need to use all available means to achieve economic development and self-sufficiency, and, secondly, they are exposed to the nuclear threat, especially from the racist régimes in South Africa and occupied Palestine which are co-operating with each other in the field of nuclear armament.

3. The State of Qatar has expressed its support for a second special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament in 1980. Since we believe that the conference requires appropriate preparation in order to ensure its success, we consider that the International Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy should be convened following appropriate preparations and following the convening of the General Assembly's second special session on disarmament.

ROMANIA

/Original: French/

/8 July 1980/

The position of the Romanian Government concerning the peaceful use of nuclear energy for economic and social development is the same as that transmitted in 1978 and contained in document A/33/332 of 26 October 1978.

UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

/Original: Russian/

/1 August 1980/

1. The Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic is a constant advocate of the development of multilateral international co-operation in the exceptionally important sphere of the peaceful use of atomic energy. The conference on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy which, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 34/63, is to be convened under United Nations auspices, in principle by 1983, should make a particular contribution to expanding and consolidating such co-operation.

2. Resolution 34/63 indicates that the International Atomic Energy Agency should fulfil an appropriate role in the organization of the conference and in the course of its proceedings. In the view of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, active participation in the conference by this competent international organization, which is rightly recognized as the co-ordinating centre for States' activities in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, will permit proper use to be made of the Agency's considerable experience in this field.

3. It would also be appropriate, during the preparation of the conference and in its work, to take into account the results of the recently completed international

nuclear fuel cycle evaluation. Its conclusions and recommendations will help to determine the prospects for further co-operation among States in the use of nuclear energy for the purposes of economic and social development.

4. The results of the forthcoming Second Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which should be a major landmark along the course of strengthening the non-proliferation régime of such weapons, will also have a marked impact on the success of the conference.

5. The urgency of this problem is undiminished in that, with the growing development of atomic power, which today is proceeding very rapidly and is leading inevitably to an increase in the quantity of nuclear materials, the inherent danger that such materials might be diverted from peaceful applications and used for the manufacture of nuclear weapons increases. It is, therefore, absolutely essential to take all necessary steps to prevent aggressive forces from taking such a course, and effectively to forestall the proliferation of nuclear weapons. This, in the view of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, should also be the point of departure of the International Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.

6. As regards the date and duration of the conference, we feel that it would be appropriate to convene the conference in 1982, during the period between the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament and the thirty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly.

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

/Original: Russian/

/11 July 1980/

1. The Soviet Union attaches great importance to the development of co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and favours the development of such co-operation on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis, including co-operation through the International Atomic Energy Agency. We feel that a conference on the peaceful use of nuclear energy convened under the auspices of the United Nations will surely make a contribution towards expanding contacts between States in the use of nuclear energy for economic and social development.

2. It should be borne in mind in this connexion that the development of atomic energy leads to the accumulation of a substantial quantity of nuclear material suitable for the production of nuclear weapons. Co-operation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy can therefore, in our view, develop successfully only if conditions are ensured that will exclude the use of co-operation in the nuclear field for the purposes of producing nuclear weapons. Accordingly, we consider it important that the conference should make it its business to strengthen the system of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

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3. The International Atomic Energy Agency, which is the competent, authoritative organization within the United Nations system concerning itself under its statute with promoting the broad use of atomic energy to maintain peace, health and well-being throughout the world, should play an important role in preparing and conducting the proposed conference. The active participation of IAEA in the conference would make it possible to put to proper use the great experience which it has accumulated in developing international co-operation in this field.
4. In our view, it is important for the conference to take fully into account in its work the results of the recently completed international nuclear fuel cycle evaluation programme, which studied the outlook for developing nuclear power. It is also clear that attention must be given to the results of the Second Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which is to be held in August and September 1980.
5. Having regard to the fact that General Assembly resolution 34/63 calls for the conference to be convened in principle by 1983, we consider it possible to hold the conference in 1982 at some point between the special session of the General Assembly on disarmament and the regular thirty-seventh session of the Assembly.

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

/Original: English/

/23 July 1980/

The Government of the United Kingdom believes that it would be premature to take decisions now on the timing and agenda of this conference. It would be appropriate to take into consideration the outcome of the forthcoming non-proliferation treaty review conference before formulating the agenda and deciding on the timing of the conference.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

/Original: English/

/16 July 1980/

While the United States supports the objectives of the proposed conference, it continues to believe that the subject matter for such a conference should not overlap the agendas of other already scheduled international fora in the nuclear area. An international conference for the promotion of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy would be more appropriate after the non-proliferation review conference, the follow-up process of the international nuclear fuel cycle evaluation programme and the Salzburg conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency have been completed and their results have been digested by the participants. The United States therefore believes that consideration of precise scheduling of the conference and its agenda should be deferred at least until these important conferences have been completed and their results have been reviewed.