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CONFERENCE OF NON-NUCLEAR-WEAPON STATES

Note by the Secretary-General

With reference to the Final Document of the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States,<sup>1/</sup> an exchange of letters between the Secretary-General and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme is attached herewith. The views of the United Nations Development Programme are being conveyed to the General Assembly in accordance with the request contained in the final paragraph of the letter from the Administrator of UNDP to the Secretary-General.

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

A. Letter dated 17 October 1968 from the Secretary-General to the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

The Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States, which met in Geneva from 29 August to 28 September 1968, adopted a resolution which, inter alia, requests the United Nations General Assembly to consider at its current session the establishment, within the United Nations Development Programme, of a "nuclear technology research and development programme" to be executed as a matter of priority with the co-operation of the International Atomic Energy Agency for the benefit of the developing countries.

I have the pleasure to enclose herewith the Final Document of the Conference containing the text of the resolution in question (resolution J).

I wish also to mention resolution N of the Conference. By it the General Assembly was invited to consider, at its present session, the best ways and means for the implementation of the decisions taken by the Conference. The question of implementation of Conference decisions has now been inscribed on the agenda of the General Assembly, and I, therefore, invite your attention to the forthcoming debate on this item.

(Signed) U THANT  
Secretary-General

B. Letter dated 25 November 1968 from the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to the Secretary-General

Thank you for your letter of 17 October 1968 transmitting the Final Document of the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States.

Resolution J adopted by the Conference, which in its section I, paragraph 1, refers to the United Nations Development Programme, has been duly noted and will be brought to the attention of the Governing Council of UNDP at its seventh session, in January 1969. Naturally, we were very interested in the Conference's conclusions although we would note that the resolution was carried without any prior consultations with us or any notification to us that the subject of including a "nuclear technology research and development programme" within the United Nations Development Programme was to be discussed.

The Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme has earmarked funds in the amount of \$3,840,600 for five Special Fund-assisted projects for which the International Atomic Energy Agency is the Participating and Executing Agency. Two of these projects have already been brought to a successful conclusion. In addition, for the current biennium of 1967-1968, some \$2,226,000 of funds have been earmarked within the Technical Assistance component of the United Nations Development Programme for projects to be executed by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

As you are aware, the Governing Council policy has not been to approve autonomous programmes such as would seem to be implied by the proposed "nuclear technology research and development programme". However, I believe that the activities referred to above constitute an on-going programme. This programme of activities could be strengthened to conform to the intention of the resolution of the Conference of the Non-Nuclear-Weapon States if the Governments of developing countries assign sufficiently high priority to additional activities in this field when requesting assistance from the United Nations Development Programme.

In the course of the deliberations of the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States, interest appeared to centre on three major fields of technical assistance to the States concerned. These fields were respectively: large-scale applications of nuclear energy for the production of electric power and for water desalination; the industrial use of isotopes and of ionizing radiations; and the peaceful use of nuclear explosives.

In view of the limited funds at present available to the United Nations Development Programme, I believe that the Governing Council would agree that the Programme resources can most appropriately be applied to pre-investment studies in the field of large-scale nuclear energy; to training, research, and industrial advisory functions in the field of isotopes and ionizing radiations; and to technical and economic studies in the field of peaceful nuclear explosives, only if this field reaches the stage of practical application in the case of the non-nuclear-weapon States. Naturally, in considering requests for assistance in the field of atomic energy, I believe that the Governing Council would wish to continue to be guided, as in other fields, by its usual criteria of project soundness and priority, including the ability of the requesting Government to provide the appropriate counterpart facilities and qualified national staff, and taking account of the likelihood of investment follow-up in appropriate cases.

I should appreciate your conveying these views to the Committee to which consideration of the Final Document of the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States has been assigned by the General Committee of the Assembly.

(Signed) Paul G. HOFFMAN  
Administrator

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