EIGHTEENTH REGULAR SESSION: 16—20 SEPTEMBER 1974

PROGRAMME, TECHNICAL AND BUDGET COMMITTEE

RECORD OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND FOURTH MEETING

Held at the Neue Hofburg, Vienna, on Thursday, 19 September 1974, at 10.40 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. SCHMILL ORDOÑEZ (Mexico)

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* A provisional version of this document was issued on 25 September 1974.
** GC(XVIII)/534.

The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document GC(XVIII)/INF/151/Rev. 2.
THE RECORD

THE AGENCY'S PROGRAMME FOR 1975-80 AND BUDGET FOR 1975 (GC(XVIII)/526, 526/Mod.1) (continued)

1. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to resume consideration of agenda item 12.

2. Mr. MARULANDA (Colombia) said that, as all were aware, the world was currently undergoing an economic crisis which was shaking countries, big and small alike, to their roots. But the developing countries, which had based their development plans on the premise that diversification of production and exports would lead to higher standards of living for their peoples, were undoubtedly hit the hardest, for their scarce foreign exchange resources were being further depleted by loss of exports, inflationary costs of imports and currency fluctuations.

3. In those circumstances, it was impossible to look on the Agency's proposed budget for 1975 as other than a budget of the rich, which many apparently believed would lead to economic prosperity. If that objective was to be attained, however, every item would have to be scanned rigorously and all plans for the period 1975-80 carefully scrutinized. An analysis in depth of that kind was far from easy, for who could predict the future course of currency fluctuations with certainty?

4. The summary of expenditures and income in the table entitled The Regular Budget in the programme and budget document (GC(XVIII)/526) contained under the detailed expenditures for the individual items of the programme an item relating to adjustment of programme cost estimates in the amount of $2.8 million for 1975. It was exceedingly difficult from the figures given to ascertain what part of that total amount related to each individual programme. He therefore asked that in the future an additional column should be added to the table, giving the net percentage increase (decrease) for each programme.

5. Secondly, he took exception to the inclusion under the plasma and controlled fusion physics programme, of two proposed advisory groups, on experimental problems in laser-induced fusion and on experimental programmes for fusion-related plasma physics research respectively (GC(XVIII)/526, para. F.32). Given the lack of an adequate scientific infrastructure on which to base such work, further expenditure in that sector was not at present justifiable. Such luxury studies should be left to the rich countries to pursue.

6. Thirdly, with regard to the Secretariat, criticism of high salaries was often heard. In his opinion, however, the good workman was worthy of his hire. On the other hand, the entrenchment of staff members of insufficiently high calibre often presented a problem in international organizations. What was needed, therefore, in the interest of economy in the Agency, was a thorough survey of Secretariat tasks and responsibilities, with a view to effective streamlining of the manning tables. And in the present circumstances that should be done.

7. Fourthly, he was concerned also that every effort should be made to economize on official travel. In view of the recent rise of 30-40% in travel costs, all unnecessary travel should be cut out. For example, savings might be effected in connection with safeguards inspection by arranging for inspectors to cover all plants in a given area in the course of a single continuous journey, rather than doing the job piecemeal.

8. In conclusion, he assured the Committee that his comments were made in no spirit of carping criticism. Much of the work done by the Agency was highly commendable but he was sincerely convinced that improvements could be achieved in the sectors he had mentioned.

9. Mr. KOLYKHAN (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that his delegation endorsed the Agency's programme for 1975-80 and budget for 1975 as well as the draft resolution which was the subject of documents GC(XVIII)/COM.1/121 and Mod.1. It was in favour of an expansion of the Agency's activities related to safeguards in connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) [1], nuclear safety and environmental protection and the International Nuclear Information System (INIS). The proposed expansion of the Agency's training activities in relation to the introduction of nuclear power in developing Member States would also be of great value in view of the accelerated developments in that field.

10. The Agency's programme for 1975-80 had been prepared with great care and reflected the promising trends and achievements of modern science and technology. In connection with the further development of activities related to safeguards, nuclear power and associated problems, praiseworthy efforts had been made to reduce the number of programme sections and concentrate on the most important problems.

11. Endorsing the expanded programme on nuclear power and reactors, he had pleasure in noting the attention given to new reactor technology, especially that concerned with gas-cooled fast reactors, which he considered to be the most promising in the near future. The importance of the programme on fusion reactors must be stressed, too, since they might well ensure mankind's future energy supply. Considering the large expenditure involved in such research, it would be desirable to foster international cooperation through the Agency.

12. Given the intensified development of power reactor technology in all its aspects, and in view

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of the many different methods of converting thermal into electric energy, the Agency's programme should probably devote greater attention to criteria for comparing the efficiency of different systems, with special emphasis on economic evaluation.

13. Mr. MEHTA (India) recalled that his delegation had already given its detailed comments on the Agency's programme for 1975-80 and budget for 1975 in the Administrative and Budgetary Committee and at the June meetings of the Board of Governors, as also an explanation of its general approach to the programme and budget in the general debate. There were, however, some matters of immediate concern to his country to which he would like to refer.

14. The problems caused for the Agency's finances by the existing widespread inflation and currency realignments had not appreciably lessened over the past year. In anticipation of growing costs, an amount of $2.8 million had been included in the 1975 budget to cover essential adjustments in programme costs. The budget estimates for 1975 involved a price increase element of 13.8% and a programme increase of only 8.5% under the Regular Budget. The preliminary estimates for 1976, again, provided for a further amount of $2.8 million for adjustment of programme cost estimates. He would like to know whether the total preliminary estimates for 1976, which showed an increase of 13.7% over 1975, were based on a lower estimate of price increases or a lower target for programme increases.

15. It was clear that the problems of inflation and fluctuating exchange rates were chronic and the impact of those factors could not be significantly offset by economies effected here and there in individual sections of the budget. The matter was one requiring serious consideration by the Agency in consultation with other United Nations organizations.

16. In the 1975 budget, attention was rightly focused on the programmes in nuclear power and reactors and nuclear safety and environmental protection, as the two major growth areas (31.5% and 45% respectively). Indeed, the Agency had shown commendable speed and efficiency in responding to the demands placed on it by the anticipated expansion of nuclear power programmes following the energy crisis. While admittedly, those were priority areas necessitating considerably increased outlays, at the same time certain other areas of equal importance to the developing countries should not be classed as "low priority" areas and relegated to a much lower growth rate. He had in mind in particular the programmes in food and agriculture and in the life sciences, where a 2.4% increase and a 5.3% decrease respectively were shown under the 1975 budget, as also marginal growth rates under the preliminary estimates for 1976. Those areas of activity were of great importance to the developing countries and it would therefore be an unhealthy trend to assign them such low priority in the overall programme.

17. His delegation generally supported the programme in nuclear power and reactors and nuclear safety and environmental protection. Since environmental protection was a matter of general interest to both advanced and developing countries, those in a position to do so should be encouraged to reimburse the Agency for services rendered in that area. The plan for establishing safety codes and guides for nuclear power plants (GC(XVIII)/526/Mod.1, Annex VII) was also worthy of support. The plans in question had undergone extensive revision following discussions in the Board of Governors and it was further proposed that the whole programme should be carefully scrutinized by a standing senior advisory group. That was an important area of activity, considering in particular the expected accelerated development of nuclear power in many Member States.

18. With regard to the rate of growth in the safeguards budget and the principles for financing of safeguards, his delegation took the view that the development of national safeguards systems should have high priority, with the Agency's own inspection effort gradually assuming a secondary and supplementary character. The need for an ever-expanding inspectorate would thus be obviated. Secondly, the formula for financing of safeguards devised in 1971 was now somewhat outdated: a large majority of developing Member States were already paying more than the minimum envisaged under the formula, and given the present rate of growth in the safeguards budget, they would be paying much more than the minimum within the next few years. His delegation failed to see why developing Member States, whose primary object in joining the Agency had been to benefit from its technical assistance programmes, should be burdened with an accelerated growth of the safeguards budget. That problem would become even more significant with the increased tempo of nuclear power development in the industrialized countries and the safeguarding of peaceful nuclear installations in the nuclear-weapon States. The review of the formula in question scheduled for 1975 should take place sooner rather than later.

19. Seminars, symposia and allied activities should be dispersed geographically with particular emphasis on venues in developing Member States, so that larger numbers of scientific personnel in those States would be able to participate and benefit from the activities in question.

20. It was gratifying that, in the technical assistance programme, provision had been made for the training of personnel for the operation of nuclear power reactors and for work on the establishment and expansion of nuclear power projects in developing countries. That was an area in which his country was willing to play its part.

21. It was to be hoped that as many States as possible would contribute to the Operating Fund.
for technical assistance in 1975 in amounts representing fractions of the $4.5 million target in excess of or at least equivalent to their assessed share of the Regular Budget. It was also hoped that the major donor States would provide contributions in kind that would bring the total worth of technical assistance up to $6 million, the figure regarded by the developing Member States as a realistic target for 1975.

22. In conclusion, he wished to reiterate his delegation's general support for the proposals in the programme and budget document.

23. Mr. IONESCU (Romania) said that the draft programme for 1975-80 showed that the priorities of interest to Members were satisfactorily reflected in the future plans and that an adequate balance had been attained among different categories of activities. The draft closely followed the main trends in the evolution of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, giving increased emphasis to such major questions as nuclear power and technology. By expanding its work in that sector, the Agency would be better placed to meet the needs of the developing Member States. Indeed, in its role of executing agency for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), it had already begun to take a greater part in the actual implementation of nuclear power projects. His own country was in fact a beneficiary of one of the projects in question.

24. Obviously, Members were now evincing greater confidence in the Agency's ability to carry out such work; and the corollary to that growing confidence was steadily strengthening support for its activities.

25. Coming to individual sections of the draft programme, he stressed that work on nuclear power and reactors should cover all aspects of the fuel cycle, including such matters as forecasts concerning the development and improvement of nuclear power plants and of advanced reactor technology, measures for ensuring fuel supply, and nuclear environmental safety. Research in reactor physics and other technologies of particular importance should also be promoted. In that way, the Agency would be in a position to support national efforts towards meeting growing energy needs.

26. His delegation had noted with satisfaction that due account was being taken of the need for drawing up safety standards and recommendations for the safe performance of nuclear activities. The Agency's broad experience of the formulation of standards gave adequate assurance of its ability to carry out that task.

27. As to environmental protection and safety, the projected programme, to be carried out in close co-operation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), was comprehensive and would undoubtedly help to improve the quality of the environment.

28. The draft programme gave an important place to work concerning the use of isotopes, radiation and nuclear techniques in various fields. In so far as industrial applications were concerned, greater weight should be placed on those capable of leading to immediate economic results. Also, the Agency could usefully act as a catalyst by bringing together specialists to study the economic aspects of the use of nuclear energy and make recommendations on methods and techniques of general interest. His delegation would in fact like to see the Agency do more in that sector.

29. The planned work on nuclear energy applications in agriculture took account of the needs of the developing countries. Soil fertility improvements, irrigation and agricultural production, nutrition, animal health, plant improvements aimed at securing better yields, preservation and disinfestation of foodstuffs—all those things were of obvious value. The fruitful co-operation already established between the Agency and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) should not only be maintained but strengthened.

30. The same concern to introduce modern methods and techniques was reflected in the planned work on the use of isotopes and radiations in medicine and biology. The use of computers in dosimetry, to facilitate radiotherapy programming, was a case in point. Broad co-operation between the World Health Organization (WHO), FAO and other international organizations would be necessary in that area. For its part, the Agency was proposing to introduce new ways and means of tackling the work, among which the use of co-ordinated research contracts was of particular value.

31. In view of the greater use now being made of isotopes, it was gratifying that the Agency was prepared to give assistance to Members in establishing national production facilities.

32. Research efforts under the physical sciences programme would be more effective and useful if they were directed towards helping to raise the level of research in the developing countries. Further research on, say, accelerator and research reactor applications, nuclear physics, neutrons, solid-state theory and thermoelectric power conversion would help to create the scientific knowledge needed as a base for further development of nuclear energy applications. Fresh ways and means to that end should be sought.

33. As to research in relation to safeguards, the work should be designed to lead to the speedy development and introduction of effective methods and techniques, capable of ensuring automatic control.

34. The activities designed to foster the exchange of scientific and technical information would bring increased benefit to Members. The planned work was in line with the general orientation throughout the draft programme.
35. A comprehensive programme of conferences, symposia, seminars and panels was planned during the six-year period on subjects of particular interest to Members. Work on problems of nuclear technology and in particular on the economic aspects of nuclear applications should, however, be better represented in the plans.

36. The training of key staff at all levels in the various specialities was undoubtedly a matter of considerable importance. The Agency had already shown its capabilities in that type of work. His delegation shared the view that the training programme would need to be reviewed from time to time, in order to keep up to date with developments and trends in the different areas, as also with the evolving needs of the developing Member States.

37. The draft programme envisaged would require material support, including technical assistance, if it was to prove an adequate tool for meeting the needs of the developing Member States. His delegation would again stress the need for establishing a reasonable balance between co-operation and technical assistance activities and safeguards work.

38. In conclusion, he expressed his delegation's support for the draft programme for 1975-80 as a whole; its implementation would, he was sure, bring benefits to all Members, and would enhance the Agency’s prestige. His delegation naturally endorsed the two draft resolutions on the budget for 1975, which appeared in Annex V of the programme and budget document.

39. Mr. KHAN (Pakistan) said that his delegation generally supported the Agency’s programme for 1975-80 and budget for 1975. The Director General was to be congratulated on the preparation of such a well-balanced, comprehensive and forward-looking programme. He did not intend to repeat his delegation’s detailed comments on the draft programme - they had been heard at the February and June meetings of the Board - but had some suggestions to put forward in relation to the future development of the programme.

40. The radical changes that had occurred over the past year in regard to fuel supply and prices had had a far-reaching impact on the world economy, including the economies of the developing countries. The era of cheap energy was over and developing countries which had still to build up their domestic industrial infrastructure would now have to pay 4-5 times as much for energy, at a time when their limited foreign exchange resources were dwindling. For those countries, nuclear power offered a real hope, as also an economic alternative, for meeting their future power needs.

41. In making use of that alternative, they were faced by three major problems: the need for technical advice in planning and executing nuclear programmes; availability of power reactors of the right size; and financing.

42. It was gratifying that the Agency was taking such strong action to meet the first need; activities to be commended included the power market survey in developing countries, the preparation of guidebooks on nuclear power planning, economic studies on nuclear power plants, and related panels and symposia of particular interest to developing Member States.

43. With regard to the availability of nuclear power plants suitable for smaller grids in developing countries, the picture was changing somewhat in consequence of the fourfold increase in oil prices. It was now in the interest of both advanced and developing countries to promote the development of reactors in the 50-500 MW range, and recent statements in the plenary meetings by advanced countries indicating a revival of interest in that area were highly encouraging. His delegation would strongly support the establishment of a partnership between those countries and interested developing countries, under the Agency's auspices, with a view to early development and marketing of reactors in that size range.

44. As to financing, there the developing countries faced serious problems. In 1973, their annual fuel bill had stood at $3000 million; it would be $12 000 million in 1974 and by 1980 was expected to reach $20 000 million. That sudden additional burden had absorbed practically all the capital available for development purposes, so that funds for capital-intensive nuclear power plants would be hard to come by, even though the investment would be recovered within 3-4 years through savings on other types of fuel. The Agency was aware of that problem and had already made contact with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and other lending institutions on the matter. Those efforts should now be intensified and contact made with other possible sources of financing, such as the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). And, after due preparation, the Agency should convene a meeting of all international and regional lending institutions and all interested countries to discuss ways and means of financing nuclear power projects in developing countries.

45. His delegation attached great importance to the work of the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Atomic Energy in Food and Agriculture. The current food crisis, with world stocks shrunk to one month's supply, was even more serious in its direful implications for mankind than the oil crisis. The forthcoming World Food Conference would be addressing itself to the problems involved, but the Agency also had a meaningful part to play in stimulating food production through the use of nuclear techniques. And the allocation in the 1975 budget for work in that sector, i.e. 3.4% of the total budget, was much too small in relation to the size of the problem. He welcomed the special contributions to that sector of the programme pledged by a number of States, including the Federal Republic of Germany.

46. The programme itself consisted of six major areas which in turn were subdivided into
15 different sectors, with an average budget allocation to each of $70,000. It was unrealistic to expect specific results in the short term from such restricted expenditure. The Agency should give priority to expanded activities under the programme by developing a special plan of action to be financed by a separate fund in the amount of at least $5 million per annum. A comprehensive plan of the kind should be prepared for submission to the Board at its meetings in February 1975. Meanwhile the Director General could approach interested countries and organizations, including IBRD and FAO, with a view to obtaining special contributions towards the programme. It was to be hoped that many countries would respond and support the Agency's action.

47. His delegation welcomed the increase in the target for voluntary contributions in cash from $3 million to $4.5 million, together with the expectation that contributions in kind worth an additional $1.5 million would be forthcoming. It also appreciated the pledges of increased contributions given by certain developing Member States and some of the advanced Member States. Obviously, technical assistance needs would increase rapidly with the growth of nuclear energy programmes in the developing Member States. It was therefore to be hoped that the target would be reviewed and further increased, and that regard his delegation supported the draft resolution on the financing of technical assistance (GCXVIII)/COM.1/121 and Mod. 1). Countries designated as technologically advanced by the Board should refrain from seeking to draw on the Agency for technical assistance; its limited funds should be reserved for the developing Member States.

48. Recent happenings, and a certain event in May 1974, augured that the safeguards activities of the Agency might not expand as rapidly as earlier envisaged. Undoubtedly, international efforts directed at preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons had suffered a serious setback and the breach made in the barrier to proliferation was bound to have an adverse effect on expansion of the Agency's safeguards activities. In the circumstances, his delegation would suggest awaiting the results of the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (the Review Conference) to be held in 1975 before trying to make firm plans for the future.

49. Mr. STROHAL (Yugoslavia) said that his delegation was in full agreement with the basic ideas expressed in the Agency's programme for 1975-80 and budget for 1975, which were sure to contribute to the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

50. Nuclear energy was becoming increasingly important in national power systems, especially as a consequence of the oil crisis and higher fuel prices. Those factors particularly affected the developing Member States. Therefore, the Agency's direct assistance in power planning and in the preparation of national nuclear power programmes would be of great value, both economically and technically. The Agency's programme for 1975-80 was designed to promote the transfer of nuclear technology and scientific knowledge to developing Member States.

51. The construction of the increasing numbers of nuclear plants in a large number of countries highlighted the importance of the Agency's role in connection with nuclear safety and environmental protection, and in areas such as cooperative research, market surveys to determine the prospects of nuclear power, the effects of nuclear facilities on the quality of the human environment, nuclear waste management and safeguards. His country fully supported the Agency's activities in connection with the establishment of international standards and the definition of permissible doses and concentrations of radionuclides.

52. The accelerated growth of nuclear power would obviously enhance the Agency's work load in safeguards, since increasing quantities of fissile products and plutonium would be produced by plants in various parts of the world.

53. His delegation greatly valued the Agency's activities designed to promote radiological safety, particularly the evaluation of population doses and the application of radiological safety standards to man and the environment. The definition of principles and methods for establishing derived working limits for radioactive contaminants in food chains was an undertaking of great value to all Member States, including the developing ones.

54. Yugoslavia was greatly interested in all those activities, since its first nuclear power plant was under construction and several others were being planned.

55. Regional collaboration between Member States would be fruitful for determining the radiological capacities of international waters (both rivers and seas), a matter of special concern in densely populated areas and agricultural regions. The Agency should also continue its other activities - in hydrology, agriculture, technology, economics, medicine and fundamental sciences.

56. Given the urgent need to introduce nuclear power at an early date in many countries owing to the energy crisis, the proposed expansion of the Agency's training activities for developing Member States was to be welcomed. His delegation also supported the Agency's plans for a safety standards programme for nuclear power plants, including plans to accelerate the work on codes and guides related to nuclear power plant safety, and the idea of developing a comprehensive set of basic requirements for nuclear power plant safety and reliability. Nor should the Agency neglect the need for research on conventional pollution - for which purpose the research programmes of the International Laboratory of Marine Radioactivity at Monaco were in fact to be expanded.
57. Mr. FUJIYAMA (Japan), endorsing the Agency's programme for 1975-80 and budget for 1975, observed that Japan had actively supported the Agency's work in technical assistance and had already pledged to contribute, subject to parliamentary approval, its share of the new target of $4.5 million for voluntary contributions to the General Fund for 1975. It also supported the Board's decision on the financing of technical assistance set out in document GC(XVIII)/529/Corr.1.

58. It was imperative that the Agency should take effective measures to ensure that technical assistance provided under its auspices did not in effect assist the proliferation of nuclear weapons or other explosive devices.

59. His delegation strongly supported the Agency's plans for a safety standards programme for nuclear power plants and commended the Secretariat's work relating to co-operation between the Agency and UNEP.

60. Mr. PICET (Switzerland) said that his country's views on the Agency's programme for 1975-80 and budget for 1975 had been expressed at the June meetings of the Board. It was fully aware of the need to improve the Agency's activities in certain specific areas. As regards the activities financed from the Regular Budget, Switzerland attached the highest priority to those connected with nuclear safety, public health and environmental protection. Although there were many other important problems which the Agency's programme should take into account, a choice had to be made, and the most urgent ones tackled first. The Agency was on the right path, since the programme showed a clear concentration of efforts, reflected in a reduction of the number of projects.

61. Switzerland considered that aggregate expenditure - with due allowance for currency realignments and inflation - should remain more or less steady. The Agency's budget for 1975, however, showed an increase of about 18% over 1974; the Swiss Government was concerned at that trend and had accordingly reserved its stand on the estimates in the Board. In spite of its concern, however, it had authorized him now to approve the budget for 1975 and to endorse the new target for voluntary contributions to the General Fund, in the hope that the Agency would make every effort to limit future budgetary increases to the strictest minimum.

62. Mr. van BUEREN (Netherlands), indicating his Government's approval of the Agency's programme for 1975-80 and budget for 1975, commended the manner in which a balance had been struck between the programmes on nuclear energy and those relating to nuclear safety and environmental protection.

63. He welcomed the initiative the Agency wished to take in connection with an international nuclear fusion project, and the attention it was giving to the environmental and waste management problems associated with fusion reactors was praiseworthy.

64. He supported in particular the proposed activities on the utilization of waste heat, and expressed the hope that international guidelines would help to solve the administrative and city planning problems involved.

65. The Netherlands delegation also supported the activities proposed in connection with the problem of tritium and noble gases, the establishment of a data bank for occupational exposure doses, international registration of radionuclide releases, the storage and disposal of radioactive wastes, and the decommissioning of nuclear facilities.

66. While the Agency's efforts to adapt its programmes to new needs were laudable, it was to be regretted that the organization would be ceasing to participate in the preparation of international standards for radiation protection applicable to heart pacemakers.

67. Although it was gratifying to note the increasing importance of INIS, the rapidly rising costs associated with INIS were a matter of concern. It would be useful to know more about the income expected to be derived from the system. INIS should aim at supporting itself, at least as regards output. It was not clear whether the inclusion of abstracts in the output and the clearing-house function would not involve some duplication of the work of Nuclear Science Abstracts.

68. Lastly, he wished to emphasize the need for the creation of a proper infrastructure in developing Member States if those States were to derive real benefits from the introduction of nuclear power. His delegation welcomed the Director General's statement concerning the Agency's interest in establishing an international reprocessing plant, since his Government was very apprehensive about the treatment and disposal of high-level radioactive waste in view of the increasing numbers of nuclear power plants in the world.

69. Mr. BELODED (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) observed that the main emphasis in the Agency's programme for 1975-80 was on coordinating efforts relating to different projects and studies of interest to developing Member States, on conducting scientific meetings on the use of radioisotopes and radiation, and on wider exchange of information, together with regional projects and collaboration with other international organizations. Those activities were designed to develop and strengthen international collaboration in the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

70. Special attention was given to the physical sciences. The activities on plasma physics and controlled fusion, neutron physics and the use of research reactors and accelerators would pave the way for the effective use of nuclear energy for the well-being of mankind.

71. Nuclear power, including nuclear fuel resources and operating experience with existing plants, was also assigned an important place in
the programme. The studies to be undertaken should reveal characteristic national and international trends, help in the economic evaluation of power reactors and thus provide a useful basis for forecasting future developments.

72. INIS had turned the Agency into an international centre possessing information on all aspects of the peaceful applications of nuclear energy. The programme provided for increasing the output and general effectiveness of INIS and would thereby promote the peaceful uses of atomic energy to the profit of all, especially developing Member States.

73. His country regarded the Agency not simply as a body dealing with scientific and technical problems, but as an international organization called upon to take comprehensive action which would further all peaceful uses of atomic energy and prevent its use for military purposes. The Agency's role as a guardian of peace, and accordingly its international authority, had increased greatly with the responsibilities it had assumed in connection with NPT. The Ukrainian delegation fully supported the part of the 1975-80 programme which reflected the Agency's role in safeguards under bilateral agreements and in connection with NPT.

74. Although the programme as a whole marked an important step forward in the Agency's activities, his delegation felt that caution was needed: with its limited resources the Agency could not possibly handle, for example, activities relating to fifteen topics in food and agriculture and thirteen in life sciences. It would be advisable to concentrate on the most important subjects so that speedy and genuinely productive results could be obtained.

75. The Agency proposed to conclude between 200 and 300 research contracts and agreements in the 1975-80 period. It was to be regretted that in the past those contracts had not always covered the most important topics. The Agency's own laboratories could be used for some of the vital research activities. The system of cost-free research agreements should be encouraged, and maximum use made of the results obtained by national research institutions. His country would be most willing to conclude cost-free research agreements on certain subjects mentioned in the programme.

76. As regards the budget for 1975, his delegation was unable to endorse the prevalent trend of increasing the contributions of Member States to compensate for currency fluctuations. However, it wholeheartedly supported the appropriations for the productive activities of the Agency, especially those dealing exclusively with the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

77. Mr. REMBSER (Federal Republic of Germany) considered that the Agency's programme for 1975-80, in particular the expanded activities relating to nuclear power and reactors and nuclear safety and environmental protection, marked a prompt and effective answer to the energy crisis which had begun the previous year. He therefore fully supported the programme and the draft resolutions relating to the budget for 1975.

78. He noted that programme costs for the two areas to which he had referred would, according to preliminary estimates, nearly double from 1974 to 1976, while the average programme growth rate for the two years in question was about 33%. To ensure the high quality of the Agency's work and to fulfill the expectations placed in it, thorough planning and close control of the Agency's activities would be required. The Secretariat should therefore determine which new activities should have priority and which could be postponed for a time. That particularly applied to the large number of conferences, symposia, seminars, technical committees and advisory groups forecast for 1975.

79. That should in no way detract, however, from the programmes in food and agriculture and life sciences, which provided vital assistance to developing countries. It might be worth while to follow the successful example of the Joint FAO/IAEA Division and study the possibility of setting up a Joint WHO/IAEA Division to improve co-ordination and co-operation between those two organizations.

80. Referring to the establishment of a major training course in nuclear power engineering as part of the programme aimed at introducing nuclear power in developing Member States, he confirmed that his Government was offering the use of the modern training facilities of the Nuclear Engineering School at the Karlsruhe Nuclear Research Centre with the appropriate teaching staff, and would continue to provide consultants' services. The Federal Republic of Germany attached high priority to the training course project.

81. He expressed concern over the increase in the number of staff from 1973 to 1974 and the proposed increase for 1975. Such an increase did not correspond to the personnel policy of the national administrations of Member States in the present economic situation. Since the Agency would inevitably encounter financial difficulties in the future because of limited growth rates of budgets and considerable increases in prices and salaries, he recommended that it should practice a cautious, conservative personnel policy in completing its medium-term programme. The numbers of staff should tend to level off.

82. Certain programme elements, for example work relating to energy forecasts, power economics and nuclear materials resources, could probably be entrusted to a greater extent to outside experts, in view of the high cost of recruiting permanent staff.

83. He expressed regret that the Agency's programme contained no reference to nuclear propulsion of merchant ships, which he considered a very important application of nuclear energy in the light of increased oil prices.
84. Finally, with reference to technical assistance, which he felt was one of the most important parts of the Agency's programme, he wished to thank Mr. Goswami, Deputy Director General for Technical Assistance and Publications, for his capable management of the programme over many years. In spite of the limited resources of the Agency, Mr. Goswami had accomplished a great deal for the benefit of developing Member States.

85. Mr. de LA ROCHEFORDIERE (France) said that the views of the French delegation had already been expressed in the Administrative and Budgetary Committee and in the Board of Governors. He noted that 1974 marked a fundamental reorientation of the programme, with greatly increased emphasis on nuclear power and reactors and nuclear safety and environmental protection.

86. He was in broad agreement with the general trend of the programme but considered that some activities were rather premature.

87. The delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany was surely right in intimating that international organizations should practise the same budgetary austerity that was at present being forced upon most Member States. That being so he could not accept the proposed increases in the number of staff and in the budget for 1975 as a whole.

88. Finally, with reference to the voluntary contributions to the General Fund, he noted that the French Government had gradually increased its contribution to match its share of the assessed budget. In view of the economic situation, however, France's voluntary contribution for 1974 would remain the same as for 1973, namely $120,000, subject to parliamentary approval.

89. Mr. KOTELES (Hungary) welcomed the Agency's programme for 1975-80, which, he considered, answered the needs of Member States. The Agency's activities, in particular those connected with safeguards, the exchange of information and nuclear safety and environmental protection, would encourage the growth of nuclear programmes in developing Member States.

90. He hoped that the preparatory work involved in drawing up safety codes and guides for nuclear power plants would attract representatives from the broadest possible spectrum of Member States.

91. The proposed activities connected with environmental protection had his delegation's warm support. A proper balance should be struck, however, with the already traditional programmes in the medical, biological and agricultural applications of nuclear techniques, which would yield the greatest benefit to mankind both directly and promptly.

92. He fully endorsed the Agency's programme of technical assistance, from which his country had itself benefited. His Government had accordingly decided to increase its voluntary contribution to the General Fund, at present 750,000 forints, by 50%. He further noted that the Agency was making use of the Type II fellowships offered by his Government, and that cooperation between the Agency and Hungarian scientific institutions was continuing to prosper. In future, contributions in kind would, he felt, play an increasing role in the provision of technical assistance.

93. In conclusion, he reiterated his Government's belief that technical assistance should continue to be financed on a completely voluntary basis.

94. Mr. PORTER (United States of America) shared the concern of many delegates over the constant increases in the Agency's budget. Those increases were nevertheless the price that had to be paid for the Agency's expanding programme of activities.

95. Although he had not had sufficient time to study the remarks of the delegate of Pakistan on the world food problem, he felt that they warranted the serious and sympathetic consideration of the Secretariat and the Member States. He further agreed with the delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany that the possibility of establishing a Joint WHO/IAEA Division should be seriously studied.

96. In general his delegation approved the draft programme for 1975-80 and the budget for 1975. The Agency was moving towards the fulfilment of one of its primary purposes - to facilitate the provision of energy, through the use of nuclear power, which in developing countries was a prerequisite for economic and social development, and which was taking on increased importance for all countries since conventional energy resources were becoming too scarce and expensive to provide for the world's needs.

97. He welcomed in that connection the 1974 edition of the Market Survey for Nuclear Power in Developing Countries [2] and the draft guidebook 'Steps to Nuclear Power' [3], which would be invaluable to countries embarking on nuclear power programmes.

98. He likewise endorsed the importance attached to nuclear safety and the expanded training programme. The United States delegation had repeated during the general debate the willingness of his Government to join with other Members to make important contributions towards the nuclear safety programme. Also, subject to appropriate action by Congress, the United States was prepared, in co-operation with the Agency and other Member Governments, to consider serving as host to one of the initial courses in nuclear power project engineering. The syllabus for the

course was in fact to be prepared at a panel meeting later in 1974, in collaboration with the Secretariat, and he urged that those preparations be expedited.

99. As in past years, the United States intended to make, subject to Congressional appropriation of funds, a voluntary cash contribution to the General Fund and, in addition, considerable gifts in kind.

100. With regard to the target for voluntary cash contributions, his delegation would not object if the Committee decided to accept the Board's recommendation that the target for 1975 should be $4.5 million. But his Government would reserve its position as to whether any cash contribution it might make for 1975 would follow the past practice of pledging an amount representing a fraction of the target equal to the base rate of assessment.

101. In conclusion, he stated that the United States continued to support the financing of the technical assistance programme by voluntary contributions.

102. Mr. POPOV (Bulgaria) said that his Government approved the Agency's programme for 1975-80 in principle. The Agency's planned activities reflected not only the continuing energy crisis but also the accelerated construction of nuclear power stations.

103. Bulgaria attached particular importance to the training of personnel in the design, construction and operation of nuclear reactors, as well as to questions of fuel policy, waste management, safety and environmental protection. Safeguards were likewise a vital concern of his Government, which believed that there was a good case for not granting Agency assistance to States that had not acceded to NPT.

104. He would welcome the setting up of an international group to observe nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes. INIS, too, was an extremely useful sector of the Agency's activities.

105. He shared the concern of a number of delegates over the increase in the costs of administration, which accounted for more than 50% of the budget.

106. Mr. MOROZOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) noted that the Agency would in future play an increasingly important role in determining the main trends in the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. The Soviet delegation therefore endorsed the Agency's proposed programme for 1975-80, which covered the most important aspects of nuclear science and technology.

107. In view of the accelerated and large-scale development of nuclear power, the Agency was faced with the task of drawing up safety codes and guides. He was pleased to see that those tasks, together with matters of human and environmental protection, had been fully reflected in the programme.

108. Safeguards continued to be one of the most important areas of the programme, and he therefore wished to note that, in view of the recent agreement between the main exporters of nuclear materials on the introduction of a control mechanism in accordance with Article III. 2 of NPT, all activities aimed at increasing the effectiveness of safeguards were particularly important.

109. He further expressed his support for the Agency's activities relating to nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes and INIS.

110. The Secretariat was to be congratulated on having drawn up a balanced programme which concentrated on the most important topics. Regrettably, there was still some duplication and dissipation of effort.

111. The Agency's programme was naturally tied to its budget, and had to take into account not only the responsibilities and activities of the Agency but also the need for economy and rational use of resources. The Agency was faced with financial difficulties as a result of inflation, a problem that lay beyond its control. The Secretariat should therefore study methods of reducing expenditure and stemming the continuous growth of the Agency's budget.

112. The Soviet delegation approved the Agency's programme of technical assistance and the use to which its own contributions had been put. Technical assistance was an integral part of Soviet foreign policy and the number of States receiving aid was increasing.

113. The Soviet Union provided many opportunities for the training of experts in nuclear science and technology - to which it attached enormous importance - in the form of fellowships and seminars.

114. His country had increased its contribution to the General Fund by 100 000 roubles, viz. to 500 000 roubles, for 1975. That money would be used to provide equipment and materials for developing countries, in particular those party to NPT, in accordance with the Agency's programme.

115. His delegation did not exclude the possibility of raising the target for voluntary contributions to $4.5 million.

● The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.