

refused to make any pledge, arguing that the funds which it placed at the Agency's disposal two years ago for the purchase of Soviet equipment had still not been used. In instances of this kind, where members pledge contributions in such a form or subject to such conditions that they are for all practical purposes unusable, the only result is, of course, that the programmes of the Agency must be curtailed.

Safeguards System

The main achievement of the General Conference was to demonstrate that a large majority of the members support the implementation of a system of safeguards on the lines approved by the Board of Governors, to ensure that materials provided to assist peaceful nuclear programmes should not be diverted to military uses. Canada had more than one reason to be satisfied with the results of the debate on this issue. For one thing it was a Canadian scientist, Mr. Roger M. Smith, who, as Director of the Division of Safeguards, took a prominent part in the formulation of the principles and procedures on which the safeguards system is to be based. More important, it has always been Canada's policy in supplying nuclear materials under bilateral agreements to insist on the inclusion of safeguards provisions, a policy which would become difficult to maintain if other suppliers did not continue to do so. It is Canada's hope that, with the endorsement given by the Conference to the safeguards rules, they may soon be put into practice, and may thenceforth serve not only as an essential part of the Agency's operations, but also as a pattern for all bilateral agreements between suppliers and purchasers of nuclear materials. In this spirit, the Canadian and Japanese delegations announced their agreement to undertake discussions with a view to transferring to the Agency the administration of the safeguards provisions of the Canadian-Japanese bilateral agreement on atomic energy.

African Membership

In the United Nations, 1960 has become known as "Africa Year" because of the emergence to nationhood and membership of so many states of Africa. One of the highlights of the General Conference was the warm welcome extended to new African states by the members of the IAEA. Ghana, Senegal and Mali, the first of these states to apply, were unanimously approved for membership and Ghana was actually able to take its seat in the Conference as the 72nd member of the Agency after its Instrument of Ratification had been deposited in Washington in accordance with the requirements of the Agency's Statute. A surprise development, but one that had unanimous support, was a resolution sponsored by a number of states from Africa and the Middle East, recommending that the Board of Governors consider amendment of the Statute to increase the representation of Africa on the Board. At present the Union of South Africa holds a seat as the country deemed to be the most advanced in nuclear technology in the area "Africa and the Middle East", and one other member from