



The Hofburg Palace in Vienna, where the Second General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Commission took place. The "Atom Car" and flags of member nations can be seen in the foreground.

Power Plants

It was apparent from the general debate, during which the representatives of thirty-eight countries spoke, that there was a keen interest, especially amongst the less-developed countries, in the requirements of these latter countries for small atomic energy power plants. The Agency was looked to for assistance in assessing the needs of various power-short areas and in providing training for scientists and technicians from those areas. There was an awareness on the part of some delegations that the technical and financial problems involved offered little hope of immediate assistance in the field of power, but others stressed the fact that, so far at least as finances were concerned, the problem was not one of choosing from a variety of sources for such power, but of having either expensive electricity provided from atomic energy plants or having none at all.

Later, in Committee, after protracted discussion, a resolution was adopted (which subsequently was passed by the General Conference) emphasizing what was already implicit in the budget, that assistance would be forthcoming to less-developed countries in preparing themselves to enter the field of nuclear development. The resolution called upon the Board of Governors: (1) to initiate action both for a survey of the needs of the less-developed countries for nuclear power generation plants and for a continuing study of the technological and economic problems involved, and (2) to assist those countries in planning and implementing their training programmes.