

to make nuclear techniques accessible to these nations. There were words of warning too: the delegates of the United Kingdom expressed concern that too many scientists and engineers might be attracted by the facilities offered for nuclear training, away from fields of more immediate need. Other countries warned that power reactors were still in the experimental stage and that much more research and development would be needed before they would be available for use throughout the world. Many maritime nations expressed vital interest in the research programme of the Agency on the disposal of nuclear wastes in the seas. The United States delegate noted the general concern on this subject, but declared that the solution must be a realistic one; on the one hand, the world must not be contaminated, while, on the other, the standards governing disposal must not be so extreme or expensive "that man will be denied the enormous benefits which the atom holds in store for him".

Undoubtedly the many suggestions made will prove their value in the future. The valuable function performed in this way by the General Conference, however, is often obscured by efforts to introduce into this debate issues more appropriate to other forums, such as the United Nations. At the recent Conference, for example, the delegates of the Soviet bloc forced debate on the need for general disarmament, an issue that, however important in itself, is not directly related to the work of the Agency and on which no progress could have been made by the General Conference.

### **Programme and Budget**

The needs of the member states emerged most clearly in the discussion of the programme and budget. With 73 nations at every stage of development represented in the Agency, it is inevitable that there are many different interests of which the programme must take account. Any programme must represent a compromise among these interests and the balance is a precarious one, particularly as the budgetary resources are limited. The Conference approved a regular budget of just over \$6 million, to be raised by assessment. This sum must cover all the regular expenses of running the Agency as well as expenses incurred on activities judged to serve the interests of the membership of the Agency as a whole. In addition, there is the so-called operational programme of the Agency which comprises technical assistance projects, fellowships and the establishment of laboratory facilities. This programme is expected to cost \$1.8 million in 1961; this sum must be raised by voluntary contribution. As the Agency has had difficulty in meeting the target for voluntary contributions in the past, the Canadian and other delegations suggested that members make their voluntary contributions whenever possible on the same proportionate scale as their assessed contributions. In the Pledging Committee, the Canadian delegation announced that Canada's pledge of \$52,020 for 1961 had been calculated on that basis. It was heartening that pledges for 1961 were considerably higher than for 1960, although still far short of the \$1.8 million target. The Soviet Union has again