

Statute Review Not Imminent

The proposed amendment to Article VI of the statute helped a good deal to reduce pressure for a general review of the statute at the Sixth General Conference in 1962. There was broad agreement that such a general review could not usefully be carried out as early as 1962, and a resolution postponing the question until the Eighth General Conference in 1964 was adopted without a vote, despite Soviet attacks on the present statute as a reflection of the domination of the Agency by the United States and its military allies. It was clearly understood, of course, that the adoption of this resolution would not preclude any member from proposing an amendment of individual provisions of the statute at any intervening session of the General Conference.

Since this was the last appearance before a General Conference of Mr. Cole, the outgoing Director-General, he not only gave his usual review of the Agency's accomplishments during the past year but also made a number of concrete suggestions for its future organization and functioning. He mentioned in particular the need for increased financial contributions, for a review of the organization of the Secretariat and for a long-term programme for the Agency. Apart from Mr. Cole, whose statement was in a sense an introduction to the general debate, 43 delegates spoke. Many took the opportunity to describe the atomic energy programmes of their respective countries and to request additional support for these programmes. Others also stated their governments' positions on the more important issues before the Conference, made complaints and offered suggestions about some of the Agency's activities.

Among the more specific suggestions made during this debate was a proposal that the Agency (rather than the United Nations itself) should be principally responsible for the planned Third International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, i.e., the third big "Geneva Conference" of scientists. Several delegates suggested that the Agency was perhaps attempting to organize so many scientific seminars and symposia that their results were not sufficiently productive, and there were a number of references to the need for concentration on research in the field of radioisotopes. The British representative, while supporting in principle the proposal to adopt a long-term programme, pointed out that this would necessitate a reorganization of the Agency's method of financing and served notice that his country intended to suggest some time in the future an amendment of the statute which would effect such a reorganization.

Problems of Finance

The question of financing is of course a basic determinant of the activities possible for the Agency. At present it has two separate and distinct budgets. The first of these, the "regular" budget, covers all of the regular expenses of running the Agency as well as expenses incurred in activities which are regarded as serving the interests of the membership of the Agency as a whole. It is raised by proportional assessments levied on all members and amounts, for the year 1962,