

The Statute of the Agency provides for a permanent staff headed by a Director General, a 23-member Board of Governors, and a General Conference consisting of representatives of all members which will meet in regular annual session and, under certain circumstances, in special session.

This first session of the General Conference was essentially an administrative conference. It had before it for discussion recommendations on most of the main items of business prepared by an 18-member Preparatory Commission which had been established on October 26, 1956. The General Conference adopted certain measures to permit the establishment of the Agency in Vienna, including approval of a Headquarters Agreement with the Austrian Government, and the recruiting of staff. It approved an initial programme of action, a budget and a provisional scale of contributions. A Board of Governors was elected and a Director General appointed. Permanent rules of procedure were approved and agreement was reached regarding the attendance of representatives of states not members of the Agency and of representatives of other international organizations and of non-governmental organizations. A relationship agreement between the Agency and the United Nations was approved and authorization given to the Board of Governors to enter into negotiations for appropriate relationship agreements with the Specialized Agencies. The General Conference decided to hold its second regular session in Vienna beginning September 22, 1958.

Opening of the Conference

The Conference was formally opened with Mr. Bernardes, of Brazil, Chairman of the Preparatory Commission, in the chair as temporary president. A minute of silence in honour of the late King Haakon of Norway was observed. The Conference was then addressed by Dr. Adolph Schaerf, President of Austria, Dr. Ralph Bunche, representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and Mr. Bernardes. Messages from Heads of Government were then delivered by the representatives of the United States, the U.S.S.R., the United Kingdom, France, Canada, India and Japan. Mr. Diefenbaker's message was as follows:

On behalf of the Government and people of Canada, I extend to the First General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency the warmest good wishes for a full measure of success in its important endeavours. The Agency has a leading part to play in bringing the benefits of atomic energy quickly and abundantly to all. Even as it takes up its task, the Agency has the satisfaction of knowing that it cannot fail to contribute to prosperity, security and a wholesome peace throughout the world. The question which you must face is how great that contribution will be. We in Canada shall do all that we can, together with other countries large and small, advanced and not yet fully advanced, to make that contribution as great as it can be and should be.

Elections

Dr. Karl Gruber, Austrian Ambassador to the United States and Head of the Austrian Delegation, was unanimously elected President of the Conference. The Canadian representative, Mr. M. H. Wershof, was elected a member of the General (Steering) Committee.

In accordance with the powers bestowed on it by an annex to the Statute, the Preparatory Commission had designated thirteen members for the first Board of Governors. (This will be done in subsequent years by the outgoing Board of Governors). The members designated provide for adequate repre-