Views of the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General's views on the relationship of the Agency to the United Nations were made known in a study circulated to all the governments concerned prior to the conference in Washington. The study outlined those basic principles which the Secretary-General considered should be included in the agreement to be entered into by the General Assembly, on behalf of the United Nations and the General Conference, on behalf of the Agency.

It was suggested by the Secretary-General that the United Nations should recognize that the Agency is responsible, "under the aegis of the United Nations", for taking action to accomplish the objectives set forth in the statute, and that "by virtue of its international character and international responsibilities, the International Atomic Energy Agency should function as an autonomous international organization under its statute and in the working relationship with the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies set out in the Agreement."

The Secretary-General was of the opinion that the Agency also should submit reports of its activities to the General Assembly, the Security Council, when appropriate, and to the Economic and Social Council and to other organs of the United Nations on matters within their competence. He proposed that the Agency should consider resolutions relating to the Agency adopted by the General Assembly or by any of the councils of the United Nations and, when requested, submit reports on any action taken by the Agency or its members as a result of such consideration; that it should also provide the Security Council with such assistance and information as may be needed to maintain or restore peace and security; and that it should co-operate with the United Nations and its organs to ensure co-ordination of its activities, including administrative matters, with those of the United Nations and of the Specialized Agencies.

The Secretary-General considered that he or his representatives should be entitled to attend and to participate without vote on matters of common interest in sessions of the General Conference, of the Board of Governors, and of other meetings of the Agency at which matters of interest to the United Nations are discussed. In his view, representatives of the Agency should also be allowed to attend and to participate without vote in meetings of the General Assembly and its committees, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, and their subsidiary bodies; they might also attend meetings of the Security Council, at its invitation, to lend assistance on matters within the province of the Agency.

Other suggestions in the Secretary-General's study were that items proposed by the United Nations should be included on the agenda of the General Conference and the Board of Governors; that the Secretary-General should bring to the attention of the appropriate organs of the United Nations questions proposed by the Agency; and that the General Assembly should take action to enable any legal question arising within the scope of the Agency's activities to be submitted to the International Court for an advisory opinion when requested by the Board in accordance with the statute of the Agency.