

According to its Statute, the IAEA "shall seek to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world". With the passage of time, the character of the programme has changed in some respects, in part because of advances in the technology of atomic energy and in part because the needs of member states have altered as their own programmes developed. This is true in the Agency's technical assistance programme, where, for example, the fraction devoted to fellowships has gradually fallen while the provision of experts and equipment has risen as trainees have returned to their home countries. The applications of radioactive isotopes to medicine, industry, research, and especially agriculture, continue to be the major fields of assistance. Nuclear engineering and various areas of atomic science are also important in the programme. Altogether, since it started, 800 experts have served in 44 countries, 2,500 fellowships have been awarded and 450 scientists have been trained and given equipment worth nearly \$3 million.

Because of the growing importance of nuclear power in supplying the world demand for electric energy, this field is proving to be of increasing importance to all member states. The IAEA organizes scientific conferences and meetings of experts, distributes technical information, carries out surveys, organizes co-operative research programmes between countries, and assists in the supply of fuel and equipment for reactors.

Similarly, research in the physical sciences is promoted by exchanges of information and by granting research contracts to laboratories in member states. In recent years an annual total of about \$800,000 has been devoted to such contracts, two-thirds to developing countries. The IAEA operates its own small laboratory at Seibersdorf near Vienna and plays an important role in the International Centre for Theoretical Physics at Trieste and the International Laboratory of Marine Radioactivity in Monaco.

In the field of health and safety, the Agency has paid special attention to the drawing-up of codes and practice, regulations and safety standards for use in member states. Its recommended regulations for the safe transport of radioactive materials have been adopted in many countries. During 1966, important revisions were made in these regulations, based on the experience already gained.

It is a requirement of the IAEA Statute that none of the assistance it gives shall be used for any military purpose. To this end, the Agency established in 1961 a system of safeguards against the diversion of nuclear materials to military use. These safeguards apply not only to assistance given directly by the Agency but also, by request of individual countries, in certain