

CHAPTER VII.

THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

INTRODUCTION TO THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)

In keeping with the tradition of presenting a unique simulation of a United Nations body or affiliated organization, AMUN 2004 will simulate the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Participation will be voluntary and open to one Representative from each delegation attending AMUN. The IAEA will meet for all four days of the Conference.

Before delving into the substantive issues, Representatives should understand why this Agency is distinctive. In the tradition of AMUN special simulations, the IAEA will give participants a diverse, more challenging atmosphere in which to use their skills of diplomacy, research and analysis. The topics to be discussed are detailed, and will require careful preparation prior to conference. In order to fully participate in the simulation, it will be imperative that Representatives have a working knowledge of the structure and mission of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the relevant policies of the Member State they represent, and an awareness of energy and nuclear-related issues worldwide.

ABOUT IAEA

The IAEA was created in 1957 in response to the deep fears and expectations resulting from the discovery of nuclear energy. The IAEA Statute, which 81 nations unanimously approved in October 1956, outlines the three pillars of the Agency's work: nuclear verification and security, safety and technology transfer. The Statute has been amended three times, in 1963, 1973 and 1989.

THE SIMULATION

During the 2004 AMUN Conference, the simulation of the International Atomic Energy Agency will be a special session. For the purposes of this simulation, all UN Member States will be considered to have a seat in the special session. In order to facilitate a simulation in four days, the special session will focus on two issues: Safeguards and Verification and Safety of Research Reactors. The Assembly may, at their option, create either reports or resolutions to cover these issues. The IAEA will also present a final summary report on their work, including their resolution/reports, to the GA Plenary on the last afternoon session of the Conference. It is also possible, based on the results of the discussion, that a briefing to the Security Council may be necessary.

PREPARATION

As a foundation for subsequent research, Representatives should familiarize themselves with a variety of foundation documents, such as the IAEA Statute and the supporting documents found on the IAEA web page. Careful review of the provided topic overviews and the related bibliographies will provide some assistance in this regard. It should be noted, however, that the topic overviews should not serve as the terminal point for research efforts but only as the beginning.

BACKGROUND RESEARCH

SAFEGUARDS AND VERIFICATION

In 2002, a "new" approach was endorsed through the IAEA, called "integrated safeguards." The integrated safeguards incorporate measures that significantly strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of the safeguards system, which was born in the 1960s to face new kinds of nuclear proliferation challenges. It builds from lessons learned after inspectors -- under far-ranging inspections mandated by the UN Security Council after the 1991 Gulf War -- discovered Iraq's secret nuclear-weapons program.

On 24-26 February 2003, approximately 50 international experts from research institutes and media outlets met at IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) Headquarters in Vienna to participate in a Seminar on New Approaches to Nuclear Verification and Nuclear Security. The seminar, organized by the IAEA's Office of External Relations and Policy Coordination and co-sponsored by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, the PIR Centre (Moscow), the Monterey Institute Center for Nonproliferation Studies, and the Nuclear Material Control Centre (Japan), provided a forum for senior Agency staff and seminar participants to exchange information and ideas regarding the Agency's evolving approaches to nuclear

verification and nuclear security.

During this seminar, there was a lengthy discussion regarding the current challenges facing the nuclear non-proliferation regime. This included an emphasis on: nuclear terrorism, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the current increase in terrorist attacks (with the incumbent possibilities of nuclear attacks in the future), the withdrawal of the Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea from the NPT, and Iran's expressed intent to resume a nuclear program. All of these issues have led to an increased concern about verification and security threats. The IAEA is primarily concerned in these areas with strengthening the detection and trafficking of nuclear and radioactive materials.

Questions to consider from the prospective of your government on this issue include:

- What role do you see your government taking in the strengthening the detection of nuclear weapons?
- What level sanctions should or could be leveled against countries that violate the NPT?
- What can be done to prevent trafficking of nuclear and radioactive materials?

Bibliography:

Fischer, David. *History of the International Atomic Energy Agency the First Forty Years*. www.pub.iaea.org/MTCD/publications/



PDF/Pub1032_web.pdf

Goldschmidt, Pierre (IAEA Deputy Director General). *Future Challenges for Nuclear Non-Proliferation Instruments*. www.iaea.org/NewsCenter/Statements/DDGs/2004/goldschmidt17032004.html

IAEA Regional Seminar on the Protocol Additional to Nuclear Safeguards Agreements.

www.opanal.org/Articles/safeguards/P-Klerk1.pdf

The IAEA works to prevent the further spread of nuclear weapons. www.iaea.org/OurWork/SV/

Rauf, Tariq. *New Approaches to Nuclear Verification and Nuclear Security*. www.inesap.org/bulletin21/bul21art12.htm

Treaty on Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. www.iaea.org/Publications/Documents/Infcircs/Others/infcirc140.pdf

The Safeguard Systems of the IAEA. www.iaea.org/OurWork/SV/Safeguards/safeg_system.pdf

Stronger Nuclear Safeguards System Taking Shape.

www.iaea.or.at/NewsCenter/News/2002/sgarticle_01.shtml

Additional Web Resources:

www.iaea.org -- IAEA Homepage

www.bullatomsci.org/ -- Homepage of the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists

www.nrdc.org/nuclear/nudb/datainx.asp - NRDC: Archive of Nuclear Data

directory.google.com/Top/Science/Technology/Energy/Nuclear/Safeguards/ - Directory of Nuclear Safeguards

SAFETY OF RESEARCH REACTORS

The Code of Conduct on the Safety of Research Reactors goes before the IAEA General Conference in September 2004 for adoption, having been approved by the Board of Governors at its March 2004 meeting. This will be of particular interest as a topic of discussion at the AMUN conference, as the code will be new to all IAEA members, and implementation issues will be high on the agenda.

The Code establishes “best practice” guidelines for the licensing, construction and operation of research reactors. At its core is “the safety of the public, the environment and the workers,” said IAEA Director of Nuclear Installation Safety, Mr. Ken Brockman.

Research reactors were excluded from the Convention on Nuclear Safety when it was drawn-up in the early 1990s. The need for an overarching Code of Conduct came to a head in a resolution at the 2000 IAEA General Conference, prompted by safety concerns as many of the world’s research reactors approached the end of their originally planned lifespans. “Increased fears of terrorist threats following September 11, 2001 attacks in the United States also helped to fuel desire for a Code of Conduct,” Mr. Brockman said. Just less than half of the world’s 272 research reactors still operate using highly enriched uranium - a key ingredient for a nuclear bomb.

The Code is a non-binding international legal agreement,

where States determine their own level of commitment to its guidance. The Code was derived from more detailed international standards that have been promulgated for the safe day-to-day operation, construction, shutdown and decommission of research reactors, Mr. Brockman said. “It will pave the way for the continued evolution of these standards,” he said.

The Agency has already carried out numerous safety and security missions at research reactors which, among other things, have helped to improve the security infrastructure at reactors.

Questions to consider from the perspective of your government on this issue include:

- Will your government adopt the Code? Will you incorporate the best practices guidelines?
- What implementation challenges will exist once the code is in place?
- What role do you see your government taking in the strengthening the detection of nuclear weapons?
- What can be done to encourage other states to participate and adopt the code?

Bibliography:

Code of Conduct on the Safety of Research Reactors (As Adopted by the Board of Governors, 8 Mar 2004). www.ns.iaea.org/nusafe/downloads/code_rr/code_conduct_March04.pdf

The Code of Conduct on the Safety of Research Reactors. www.iaea.org/NewsCenter/Features/ResearchReactors/conduct20040414.html

A Guide to Foreign Research Reactor Spent Fuel. www.nsc.org/public/ehc/rad/fsf_frt.pdf

IAEA Conference in Chile Focuses on Topical Issues (Staff Report). www.iaea.or.at/NewsCenter/News/2003/reactors20031117.html

IAEA-proposed “International Legal Instrument” on Research Reactor Safety. www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/commission/secys/2001/secy2001-0169/2001-0169scy.html

New fuel improves proliferation resistance of research reactors. www.anl.gov/OPA/frontiers2001/e4part.html

Radiation Safety Assessment of Small Reactors for Distributed Energy System. www.itn.mces.pt/ICRS-RPS/oralpdf/Monday10/Session6_1/odano03.pdf

Additional Web Resources:

www.iaea.org -- IAEA Homepage

www.bullatomsci.org/ -- Homepage of the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists

directory.google.com/Top/Science/Technology/Energy/Nuclear/Safeguards/ -- Directory of Nuclear Safeguards

www.ns.iaea.org/standards/Publications/rr.htm -- Research Reactor Standards

www.world.nuclear.org/portal/nuclear_safety.htm -- World Nuclear Associations - Nuclear Portal