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Temporary President: Mr ENKHS AIKHAN (Mongolia)

President: Mr FERUTA (Romania)

Iran 155-181

155. Mr ABBASI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that 31 years previously the army of Saddam Hussein's regime had mounted a full-scale air, land and sea attack on his country. What was the connection between that military aggression and Iran's "nuclear dossier"?

156. The victory of the Islamic revolution had completely undermined the military, economic and political position of certain nuclear-weapon States in a strategically important region and had led to the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran. At that time, those who had fabricated the Zionist regime were dreaming that the Zionists would achieve their aims in the region by killing innocent Palestinians and occupying their land. In 1979, however, the prayers of all noble people who aspired to heal the wounds of the Palestinians had been heard, and the Iranians, by the grace of God and thanks to their boundless determination, had assumed power based on the freedom-seeking principles of Islam, which promised peace, friendship and defence of the oppressed people of Palestine within the region and throughout the world.

157. The resulting defeat of the Zionists and their supporters and the thwarting of their hegemonic plans had prompted them to set about suppressing the popular revolution in Iran. They had begun organizing media campaigns and military coups, but their plans had been defeated with the help of God and thanks to the wisdom of the founder and leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution.

158. The losers had resorted to war and division of the country as their last weapon, but they had failed yet again, and Iran — even stronger than before — had preserved its territorial integrity. The animosity of certain devious totalitarian countries had manifested itself in different forms, such as the planning of coups, the imposing of war and, more recently, the inventing of a "nuclear dossier" with a view to undermining Iran's peaceful nuclear activities.

159. Where were the international bodies mandated to uphold laws during the tough times of Iran's resistance to the attack from outside? Why had nobody opposed the use of chemical weapons and weapons of mass destruction by Saddam Hussein? Why had the media failed to rouse the world's conscience in support of action to prevent the martyrdom and wounding of almost 100 000 people? Iran had been subject to sanctions during the period of resistance. Allies of its enemy, acting like pirates, had closed off Iran's vital routes, but numerous independent freedom-loving countries had greatly respected the staunch resistance put up by Iran and had sought to assist it.

160. Since then, political stability in the Islamic Republic of Iran had paved the way for scientific endeavour and industrial growth, and a pioneering country logically sought to diversify its energy sources.

161. The peaceful utilization of nuclear energy could yield vast benefits as regards — for example — electricity generation, ionizing radiation applications in medicine, the promotion of scientific research in many areas and enhancement of the capacity of countries to provide specialized services. The leaders of the Islamic Republic of Iran were well aware of those benefits.

162. Member States of the Agency and the Director General should not to be influenced by certain countries that possessed and were spreading nuclear weapons and were seeking to prevent other countries from exercising their inalienable rights. Owing to the hostile positions and actions of a few Member States, other Member States, wishing to exercise those rights, were compelled to conduct their peaceful nuclear activities in secret.

163. In an era of shortages in less developed countries, the Agency should act in accordance with its statutory duty to help countries exercise their inalienable rights in the nuclear field by fighting imposed restraints, halting the fabrication of "nuclear dossiers" and sharing acquired knowledge.

164. The trust of the international community in the Agency must be restored and the Agency must not be converted into a centre for preserving the interests of nuclear-weapon States and for imposing restrictions on countries that wished to benefit from peaceful nuclear technology.

165. During the 1970s, the Agency had promoted the manufacture of nuclear explosive devices for peaceful purposes, thereby justifying the killing of thousands of innocent people in Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the radioactive pollution that had resulted from the testing of nuclear weapons by the countries involved in the nuclear arms race. The relevant Agency documents and publications were well worth reading.

166. Some nuclear-weapon States were trying to control the Agency as they wished to conduct highly polluting tests that would enable them to acquire data paving the way to software hegemony. Thanks to the Agency, they were able to present their nuclear arsenals in their movies and media as the saviour of humanity — its protector against natural and terrestrial attacks.

167. The Agency claimed to be neutral, but, if it was neutral, why had it failed to report on probable clandestine activities on the part of some European countries, or on the deployment of several hundred nuclear warheads jeopardizing the health of the people in Europe or in occupied countries? Why was the Agency silent about the lost nuclear material in the United States? The security and health of Americans and of people in the rest of the world was at risk. A thorough and precise report on that issue should be made available without further delay.

168. The Agency's selective attitude, especially towards certain developing countries, had paved the way for economic sanctions followed by military attacks on those countries. Three Western countries were the source of such undue interference. Having lost influence in Iran after its Islamic Revolution, they had pioneered the fabrication of Iran's "nuclear dossier".

169. The Agency should, pursuant to its mandate, focus on controlling war-mongering by nuclearweapon States that, whenever they wished, used force or threatened to use it.

170. The Agency should confront the country which, faced with a minor threat, had gunned down a defenceless passenger plane over the Persian Gulf and honoured the commander of the operation with a medal for bravery. The conduct of a country that possessed nuclear weapons and had not fulfilled its obligations under an international chemical convention undoubtedly posed a serious threat to global peace and security and called for urgent action by the international community.

171. The Islamic Republic of Iran had achieved self-sufficiency in terms of expertise in many scientific areas. The intelligence agencies of some countries had therefore, like terrorists, focused on assassinating Iranian experts. Dr Masoud Allimohammadi, Dr Majid Shahryari and Daryoosh Rezaeinejad had already been martyred, and others on the assassination list were experts whose names and addresses were contained, for instance, in United Nations Security Council and European Union sanctions lists. The Agency should clear its name by ceasing to act in a manner that prepared the ground for such terrorist measures. Member States and the Director General should condemn them and thereby prove their goodwill — and they should display courage and take steps to close the Iranian "nuclear dossier".

172. The Bushehr nuclear power plant was a unique achievement, and it should prompt people elsewhere to show their determination to realize the idea of "nuclear energy for all and nuclear weapons for none". The Agency, which had supervised the construction and commissioning of the Bushehr nuclear power plant, now had an opportunity, thanks to that experience, to persuade public opinion of the benefits of safe nuclear energy.

173. Iran expected the Agency to behave more responsibly towards it as regards the Bushehr nuclear power plant and the construction of further nuclear power plants and to increase its scientific and technical cooperation with Iran.

174. Despite all the obstacles placed in its way by certain countries, the Islamic Republic of Iran had mastered the technology of the nuclear fuel cycle and could produce fuel assemblies for

research reactors and power reactors. It stood ready to share its know-how with other countries under Agency supervision.

175. The Agency had recently prevented Iranian experts from participating in nuclear safety training workshops under the pretext of restrictions imposed by the Security Council. Such unprofessional conduct could jeopardize health everywhere. Scientific apartheid and the imposition of restrictions on efforts to improve nuclear safety would pave the way for accidents and was incompatible with the aims of the recent Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety. The Agency should not allow political considerations to affect what ought to be technical decisions.

176. His country stood ready to cooperate with the Agency as it had before. It hoped that the Agency would recover its independent identity in the near future and that the Director General and his colleagues would earn credit for the Agency as a non-discriminatory body by taking principled decisions.

177. The Islamic Republic of Iran would use the nuclear capabilities acquired by it solely in order to increase the well-being of Iranians and other peoples. To that end, Iranian specialists could cooperate with Agency teams in controlling and destroying nuclear weapons.

178. If countries wished to negotiate with Iran on nuclear issues, they should examine the performance of the Agency in recent decades. Its decision- and policy-making structure seriously needed to be reformed. The composition, size and authority of the Board reflected the fact that the Statute had been drawn up during the Cold War, and the Statute was not compatible with the present situation in the world. That would be a key issue in Iran's future talks with the Secretariat.

179. Other issues would be how to ensure that all countries could, without discrimination, benefit from the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy and to reassure countries as regards the non-existence of undeclared nuclear material and facilities in nuclear-weapon States.

180. Iran hoped that other Member States would support its approach, with a view to making the world a safer place — a peaceful world without discrimination, where hidden talents might flourish, science advance and prosperity spread.

181. His country was grateful to the Agency staff members — and especially the Agency inspectors — who followed their consciences and reported professionally the real situation with regard to Iran's nuclear programme. Their wise approach was important, as the Agency should be independent in its analyses, reporting and decision-making.