

CHERNOBYL

FF203

B-WIRE

19-SEP-88 17:13

WORLD--CHINA, IAEA AGREE ON INSPECTION OF NUCLEAR PLANTS

VIENNA, SEPT. 19 (AP) - HANS BLIX, THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY, DECLARED MONDAY ONLY INCREASED USE OF NUCLEAR POWER CAN EASE THE "GREENHOUSE EFFECT" OF A GLOBAL WARMING OF THE ATMOSPHERE.

ADDRESSING THE AGENCY'S ANNUAL GENERAL CONFERENCE, BLIX ANNOUNCED THAT THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS APPROVED AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN IAEA AND CHINA UNDER WHICH THE CHINESE SUBMIT THEIR PEACEFUL NUCLEAR FACILITIES TO INTERNATIONAL INSPECTION.

MONDAY'S SIGNING BY CHINA OF THE "SAFEGUARDS" AGREEMENT MEANS THAT ALL FIVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES EXCEPT FRANCE NOW PERMIT THEIR NON-MILITARY NUCLEAR PROGRAMS TO BE INSPECTED BY IAEA EXPERTS.

UNDER THE 1969 NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY, WHICH DIFFERENTIATES BETWEEN NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND NON-NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES, THE OFFICIAL FIVE NUCLEAR POWERS PLEDGE NOT TO SHARE NUCLEAR WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD.

A SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT DELEGATION WAS HERE LAST MONTH FOR EXPLORATORY TALKS WITH AMERICAN, SOVIET AND BRITISH DIPLOMATS ON THE POSSIBILITY OF JOINING THE TREATY.

IN ADDITION TO SOUTH AFRICA SOME OTHER COUNTRIES SPECULATED TO POSSESS THE POTENTIAL OF PRODUCING NUCLEAR WEAPONS, SUCH AS INDIA, PAKISTAN, ISRAEL AND LIBYA, HAVE NOT SIGNED THE NPT.

IN HIS SPEECH, BLIX PLAYED DOWN THE LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES OF THE 1986 CHERNOBYL ACCIDENT AND CALLED FOR "SOME RESTRAINT" IN USING X-RAYS IN MEDICAL PRACTICE.

U.S. ACTING DEPUTY SECRETARY OF ENERGY JOSEPH SALGADO TOLD THE CONFERENCE THE UNITED STATES RATIFIED THE CONVENTION ON EARLY NOTIFICATION OF NUCLEAR ACCIDENTS AND THE CONVENTION ON ASSISTANCE IN THE CASE OF NUCLEAR ACCIDENTS AND RADIOLOGICAL EMERGENCY.

BOTH CONVENTIONS, WRITTEN IN THE WAKE OF THE CHERNOBYL ACCIDENT, WERE RATIFIED BY THE SOVIET UNION LAST SPRING.

THE CONFERENCE IS TO APPROVE A 157.5 MILLION DOLLARS BUDGET AND WILL ALSO BE ASKED TO APPROVE 42 MILLION DOLLARS FOR VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARD THE AGENCY'S TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

BLIX SAID WHILE 22 NEW NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS WERE OPENED, BRINGING THE NUMBER OF OPERATING PLANTS TO 417 IN 26 COUNTRIES, "ATTACKS ON THE USE OF NUCLEAR POWER HAVE AT THE SAME TIME INCREASED IN MANY COUNTRIES."

DESPITE SOME RESERVATIONS, WORLD-WIDE NUCLEAR CAPACITY INCREASED LAST YEAR BY EIGHT PERCENT TO SOME 300,000 MEGAWATTS, REPRESENTING MORE THAN 16 PERCENT OF GLOBAL ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION, BLIX TOLD THE MEETING.

BLIX INSISTED THAT NUCLEAR ENERGY IS THE ONLY SOLUTION TO CUT BACK THE RELEASE OF CHEMICAL WASTE BLAMED FOR CAUSING THE GLOBAL "GREENHOUSE EFFECT." (PTO)

FF204

B-WIRE

19-SEP-88 17:14

WORLD(1)--CHINA, IAEA AGEE ON ....

THE EFFECT OCCURS WHEN CARBON DIOXIDE, LARGELY FROM BURNING FOSSIL FUELS, AND OTHER GASES INCREASE IN THE ATMOSPHERE. THESE GASES LET INCOMING HEAT FROM THE SUN REACH THE EARTH BUT THEY REFLECT OUTGOING HEAT, KEEPING IT FROM TRAVELING INTO SPACE. THAT TRAPS HEAT, MUCH LIKE A GREENHOUSE TRAPS HEAT INDOORS.

SCIENTISTS HAVE SPECULATED THAT THE INCREASING HEAT WOULD CAUSE SOME OF THE ICE TO MELT IN THE POLAR REGIONS, POSSIBLY RAISING SEA LEVELS AROUND THE WORLD.

BLIX QUOTED A RECENT STUDY BY A U.N. COMMITTEE ON THE EFFECTS OF ATOMIC RADIATION AS SAYING THAT THE AVERAGE DOSE COMMITMENT "FOR ALL FUTURE TIME" TO THE POPULATION OF EUROPE AND THE EUROPEAN PART OF THE SOVIET UNION FROM THE CHERNBOYL ACCIDENT IS EQUIVALENT TO SOME 40 PERCENT OF THE RADIATION DOSES WHICH PEOPLE RECEIVE EACH YEAR FROM NATURAL SOURCES. OR