ATTACK ON IRAQI NUCLEAR RESEARCH CENTRE, 7 JUNE 1981

STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

1. I wish to make a statement about the reported Israeli air force attack on the Iraqi Nuclear Research Centre at Tuwaitha, near Baghdad, on Sunday 7 June. This is a serious development and a source of grave international concern.

2. The following nuclear facilities exist in Iraq, according to our records.

(i) IRT-2000; 2MW (th), pool type, light water moderated research reactor, using fuel with 10%, 36%, and 80% enriched uranium. This reactor was supplied by the Soviet Union and came into operation in 1967.

(ii) TAMUZ-1 and TAMUZ-2 Reactors. TAMUZ-1: 40 MW (th) tank-pool type. TAMUZ-2: 500 KW (th) associated with TAMUZ-1 reactor. The fuel for these reactors has 93% enriched uranium. These two reactors have been supplied by France but are not fully completed. An initial quantity of fuel has been delivered.

(iii) Separate storage where natural and depleted uranium is stored.
3. All these facilities and fuel are located at the Tuwaitha Research Centre and are covered by Agency safeguards under the Non-Proliferation Treaty Safeguards Agreement between Iraq and the Agency.

4. We understand that it is the TAMUZ reactor complex which was the object of the attack, but do not have detailed information of the nature and extent of damage or of casualties inflicted.

5. Iraq has been a Party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty since it came into force in 1970. In accordance with that Treaty, Iraq accepts Agency safeguards on all its nuclear activities. These safeguards have been satisfactorily applied to date, including during the recent period of armed conflict with Iran. The last safeguards inspection at the Iraqi Nuclear Centre took place in January of this year, and all nuclear material there was satisfactorily accounted for. This material included the fuel so far delivered for the TAMUZ reactors.

6. A further safeguards inspection had been planned to take place on 7 and 8 June. This has been postponed to the end of this month at the request of the Iraqi authorities since their senior officials concerned are at present in Vienna for the Agency's Board of Governors and other meetings. In view of what has happened, I have requested the Iraqi Governor to advance the date of the inspection, and he is looking into the possibility of doing this.
7. I have also informed the Governor from Iraq of the Agency's readiness to provide radiological assistance in the event that this may be required.

8. This attack on the Iraqi nuclear centre is a serious development with far-reaching implications. The Agency's safeguards system is a basic element of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. During my long time here, I do not think we have been faced with a more serious question than the implications of this development. The Agency has inspected the Iraqi reactors and has not found evidence of any activity not in accordance with the Non-Proliferation Treaty. A non-NPT country has evidently not felt assured by our findings and about our ability to continue to discharge our safeguarding responsibilities effectively. In the interest of its national security, it has felt motivated to take military action. From a point of principle, one can only conclude that it is the Agency's safeguards regime which has also been attacked. Where will this lead us in the future? This is a matter of grave concern which should be pondered well.