

**IAEA refutes  
misleading media  
report on  
International Centre  
for Theoretical  
Physics****THE ICTP AT TRIESTE: SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT**

In a press release issued on 8 January 1993, the IAEA moved to set the record straight about a misleading newspaper article on activities at the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), an international research institute which is jointly overseen by the IAEA and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The article had sought to portray the ICTP as an institution that could be used by scientists from developing nations to conduct research "related to nuclear weapons, missile systems or other military technologies". The article was published in the United States by the *Washington Post* on 24 December 1992.

In describing the newspaper article as "misleading", the IAEA said that it "distorts reality" in suggesting military-related activities at the ICTP.

"Had the *Washington Post* writers scrutinized the Centre's programme in more depth, they would have found that there was little in it that could be of real use for anyone interested in building nuclear weapons," the IAEA said in its press release. "No courses or research occur in the fields of enrichment of uranium, reprocessing or the production of heavy water. Opinions may vary on where the line should be drawn in curricula to avoid unintentionally providing training that would be of real use for military purposes, but this line has been drawn with adequate prudence in Trieste.

"It should also be noted that the research work is closely supervised and that there is no evidence that the Centre's facilities or staff have been involved in activities related to military nuclear applications. Also, the stays of visiting scientists are typically of short duration.

"It is hence mischievous, misleading and malevolent to suggest by inference, as did the *Washington Post* article, that the IAEA — specifically charged by governments with promoting peaceful applications of nuclear energy and with helping to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons — would permit misuses of the ICTP in ways that would run counter to this latter mission."

The press release emphasized that the ICTP, since its establishment in 1964, has been dedicated to the promotion of scientific progress in developing nations across a wide spectrum of disciplines. It noted that some 4000 scientists and mathematicians from countries all over the world visit the Centre each year, and it underlined the fact that 250 to 300 scientists from the United States visit the Centre each year and take part in its scientific activities, most of them in the capacity of lecturers or course directors. Seventeen Nobel Laureates from the United States have visited and worked at the Centre, and the Chairman of its Scientific Council is Professor Robert Schrieffer, Nobel Laureate in Physics 1972, from the University of Florida, Tallahassee.

"Both the IAEA and UNESCO believe that the ICTP is a useful, cost-effective instrument to foster the advancement of science and its application in technology, notably in the Third World," the IAEA said. "This view is also shared by the Italian Government which not only hosts the Centre but has provided the bulk of its funding over the years. Other donors include Sweden, Kuwait, United Kingdom, Spain, Brazil, Canada, France, and Iran."—*Copies of the press release may be obtained from the IAEA Division of Public Information.*

**IAEA Board meets  
in February**

**IAEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS.** The first meetings in 1993 of the IAEA Board of Governors are scheduled to begin at IAEA headquarters in Vienna on Monday, 22 February. Other meetings during 1993 of the Board and its committees are scheduled in May, June, September, November, and December.

At meetings in early December 1992, the Board considered matters related to safeguards, reactor projects, the IAEA's financial situation, and technical co-operation, among other items. (*See the following item on technical co-operation.*)

**Safeguards.** The Board took note of a report by IAEA Director General Hans Blix on safeguards developments, including the implementation of IAEA safeguards in the Democratic