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SCIENCE AND PEACE

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The International Week of Science and Peace was first observed during 1986 as part of the observance of the International Year of Peace. The organization of events and activities for the week was undertaken as a non-governmental initiative; the secretariat for the International Year of Peace was informed of the preparatory activities and the final summary of events that occurred during the week. The organizers sought to encourage the broadest possible international participation in the observance.

2. Based on the success of the 1986 observance, the organizers continued their *efforts in successive years*. In recognition of the value of this annual observance, the General Assembly adopted resolution 43/61 in December 1988, which proclaims the "International Week of Science and Peace", to take place each year during the week in which 11 November falls. The General Assembly urged Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to encourage relevant institutions, associations and individuals to sponsor events and activities related to the study and dissemination of information on the links between progress in science and technology and the maintenance of peace and security; urged Member States to promote international co-operation among scientists and requested the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session on the activities and initiatives of Member States and interested organizations in connection with the Week.

3. The present report has been prepared in response to that request. It is based on information received by the Secretariat as at 30 September 1990. Information has been provided by Member States, permanent observers, specialized agencies of the United Nations system and members of the non-governmental international co-ordinating committee for the 1989 Science and Peace Week observance.

II, HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 1989 OBSERVANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL WEEK OF SCIENCE AND PEACE

4. A wide variety of activities took place during the 1989 observance of the Week from 6 to 12 November 1989. The majority of events was organized at universities with both faculty and student participation. However, many conferences, round tables and symposia were open to the public and, in many cases, significant coverage was provided by the media.

5. The central focus of the observance was on the links between scientific and technological development and peace. Scientists of both the physical sciences and the social sciences organized conferences, discussions, round tables, seminars, exhibits and competitions on different aspects of this theme. In view of the volume of activities that took place, a sampling of actual events is provided here. More detailed information can be obtained from the United Nations Secretariat,

6. In many universities and institutions the relationship of science and peace was examined. Particular consideration was given to the role of scientists in the promotion of peace. Some events focused on scientific responsibility and moral considerations in the performance of scientific research. Seminars, conferences and round tables were organized on science and peace in the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, at universities in Chile, in China, Cuba, Jamaica, Mexico, Japan and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The round-table discussion organized in Jamaica was televised and a special supplement was included in major newspapers featuring articles on science and peace.

7. Issues of disarmament, arms control, and international and regional security provided a focus for activities in many countries. In Hungary, the Faculty of Natural Sciences of Eotvos Lorand University sponsored a discussion of the arms race from the point of view of the natural sciences, while lectures at the Semmelweis University Medical School addressed the psychological effects of the nuclear threat. A one-day conference entitled "The Limits of our Defence" took place at Umea University in Sweden. In the USSR, the Academy of Sciences of Turkmen SSR and the Committee of Soviet Scientists for Peace and against the Nuclear Threat sponsored a regional conference, which launched an appeal to concerned organizations and institutions to support an initiative entitled "Deserts of the world - a nuclear-free zone". At Kiev and Leningrad State Universities, the Leningrad Polytechnical Institute and the Moscow Institute of Aviation, seminars and discussions were held on aspects of military conversion. In the United Kingdom, discussions and talks were organized in Bristol, London and Norwich on issues such as "Non-provocative Defence" and military funding of university research. In the United States a symposium on "The Effects of the Arms Race on Public Health in the USA" was organized at the Albany campus of the State University of New York.

8. Questions of philosophy and ethics were also considered in the context of Science and Peace Week. In Argentina, a symposium on Ethics in Modern Society was jointly organized by the University of Buenos Aires, the University of São Paulo (Brazil) and the Brazilian Society for the Advancement of Science and the Regional Office of Science and Technology for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The Institut de la Vie of the Free University of Brussels sponsored a one-day conference, which included a half-day session devoted to the subject "Towards a Global Ethic - a Responsibility of Universities?" In Pisa, Italy, a panel discussion took place concerning "Ethical Issues of Scientific and Technological Development", Japanese novelist, Oe Kenzaburo, gave a talk on the humanism of peace at the University of Tokyo. With co-sponsorship by UNESCO, the Polish quarterly Dialectics and Humanism organized the First International Symposium on Universalism, which resulted in the establishment of the International Society for Universalism. In the USSR a conference was held on the philosophical problems of social ecology, and an international seminar was organized on the ethics of non-violence.

9. An important topic for discussion was the relationship of scientific and technological progress, peace and the environment. In the Byelorussian SSR, teachers' associations and student clubs held lectures and discussions on nature

and socio-economic consequences of the scientific and technical revolution for the promotion of peace, prevention of war and conservation of the environment. The Cuban United Nations Association and the Higher Technical Institute of the Province of Cienfuegos sponsored the planting of a peace tree during the week. The Institute of Nuclear Research of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences hosted a talk on "The Greenhouse Effect" in Debrecen, Hungary. In Japan, a symposium on "Environmental problems and global peace" was held at Saitama University and a teach-in and lecture on forest destruction took place at Tsuda-Jyuku University in Tokyo. The Universities of Delft and Utrecht in the Netherlands organized lectures or seminars on the relationship between environmental problems and international security.

10. The relationship of peace, scientific and technological progress and development provided an additional focus for discussion. In Cienfuegos, Cuba, an exhibit on the United Nations system focused on the role of the Organization in scientific development and the promotion of peace. The Minister of Development, Planning and Production of Jamaica issued a special statement on peace and development for the observance of the Week. Observance of the Week led to the organization of a later event in Mexico, the "First International Seminar on Education for Peace and Development". Sponsored by the National Polytechnical Institute, the seminar took place in March 1990 and consisted of public lectures, an exhibit and the screening of several films. In Moscow displays at the Exhibition of the Economic Achievements of the USSR featured information on international co-operation in the use of science and technology and its contributions to social and economic development.

11. In addition to conferences, seminars and discussions during the Week, a variety of special activities took place. In Chile the Hernan Olguin prize for scientific journalism was presented. Chinese Central Television broadcast a cultural evening programme entitled "Science and Peace" and children were given free admission to the Children's Sciences Centre throughout the week. A commemorative envelope was issued by the China Stamp Corporation. Athletes participated in a Marathon for Peace in Cienfuegos, Cuba. In Japan 80 scientists signed an appeal for scientific and public participation in the Week; they also established a co-ordinating committee for Japanese observance of the Week.

12. In many countries, the media contributed to the observance of the Week by covering local or national events related to Science and Peace Week, publishing special articles on relevant issues and televising interviews, round tables and talks related to science and peace,

13. Many events were organized with emphasis on international participation and/or co-operation. International symposia were organized in Hiroshima and Tokyo with the participation of eminent international scientists. In the USSR a display related to the space programme highlighted the contributions of astronautics to the solution of current global problems and indicated projects for international co-operation in the further exploration of outer space.

III. CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE PLANS

14. In many countries, the observance of International Science and Peace Week promoted greater awareness of the positive potential of science to contribute to peace. This awareness can lead to increased public discussion and debate as well as more informed and practical action at the local and national levels. Observance of the Week also encourages further research into the relationship between science and peace, contributing to academic analyses from both a single discipline and from multi-disciplinary perspectives as well.

15. Observance of the Week serves as a complement to and stimulus for additional activities at different times during the year. Public interest in related peace and security events such as the International Day of Peace, Disarmament Week and Environment Day is encouraged through the week-long focus on science and peace. Greater public participation in such events, particularly in schools and institutions of higher learning, can be a positive source of citizen action and support throughout the year.

16. The Week provides a valuable opportunity for undertaking various types of international co-operation. Because of its limited duration, specific projects can be undertaken or more long-term programmes launched in the context of the Week. A primary aim of the observance of the Week is to generate greater international scientific co-operation. Such co-operation will develop gradually and Science and Peace Week provides an occasion of limited duration for seeking new forms of international collaboration.

17. Several Member States have informed the Secretariat of plans for Participation in the 1990 observance of International Science and Peace Week. Relevant institutions in Austria and Senegal have indicated their intention to organize events for the Week. The Philippine National Science Society, together with the National Academy of Science and Technology, is organizing a symposium on Scientific and Technological Development for Progress and Peace. There are also tentative plans for a second symposium which would culminate in a stage presentation during the observance of the Week. The Pontifical Academy of Sciences, in the name of the Holy See, will continue its work related to the contributions of science to the realization of peace. UNESCO has expressed interest in publishing information about programmes and projects undertaken in observance of the week.

18. The scientists who compose the international co-ordinating committee for the Week have indicated interest in meeting together in order to exchange experiences and opinions on past observance of the Week and to discuss plans for the future. Particular attention would be given to ways of broadening participation in the observance and encouraging greater international co-operation. The Peace Studies Unit of the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs of the Secretariat is currently exploring the feasibility of organizing such a meeting.

19. The annual observance of the International Week of Science and Peace is making an important contribution to the promotion of peace. The Week encourages greater academic exchange on a subject of universal importance while also generating

greater awareness of the relationship of science and peace among the general public. Based on observances of Science and Peace Week to date, it may be expected that participation each year will increase, contributing to greater international understanding and opportunities for co-operation in the applications of science for the promotion of peace throughout the year,
