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## MAIN TRENDS OF INQUIRY IN THE NATURAL SCIENCES' DISSEMINATION OF SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE AND APPLICATION OF SUCH KNOWLEDGE FOR PEACEFUL ENDS

### Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Miss Helen HAMPTON (New Zealand)

1. At its 881st plenary meeting on 1 October 1960, the General Assembly allocated to the Third Committee item 83 of the agenda of its fifteenth session, "Main trends of inquiry in the natural sciences, dissemination of scientific knowledge and application of such knowledge for peaceful ends".
2. The Third Committee considered the item at its 1045th to 1049th meetings from 5 to 7 December 1960.
3. The Committee had before it the Survey on the Main Trends of Inquiry in the Field of the Natural Sciences, the Dissemination of Scientific Knowledge and the Application of Such Knowledge for Peaceful Ends (E/3362 and Corr.1, see also A/4461), prepared under the direction of Professor Auger of the Sorbonne, former Director of the Department of Natural Sciences of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as Special Consultant. The Survey had been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 1260 (XIII) of 14 November 1958 in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General "in co-operation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the other specialized agencies concerned with the peaceful application of science, as well as the International Atomic Energy Agency, to arrange for a survey to be made on the main trends of inquiry in the field of the natural sciences and the dissemination and application for peaceful ends of such scientific knowledge, and on the steps which might be taken by the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency towards

encouraging the concentration of such efforts upon the most urgent problems, having regard to the needs of the various countries ...". In its resolution 804 B (XXX) of 3 August 1960, the Economic and Social Council transmitted the Survey to the General Assembly and decided, subject to any action which the General Assembly might wish to take, to give detailed consideration to the Survey at its thirty-second session in 1961.

4. At the 1046th meeting of the Third Committee, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, France, Japan, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America submitted a draft resolution (A/C.3/L.854), by which the General Assembly, having received the Survey of the Main Trends of Inquiry in the Field of Natural Sciences, the Dissemination of Scientific Knowledge and the Application of Such Knowledge for Peaceful Ends, and noting Economic and Social Council resolution 804 B (XXX) requesting wide dissemination of the Survey, and seeking comments from Governments of States Members of the United Nations, the appropriate specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency, would: (1) endorse the decision of the Economic and Social Council to give detailed consideration to the Survey at its thirty-second session, taking into account such views thereon as might be expressed by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; (2) recommend Governments of Member States, related agencies and appropriate non-governmental organizations to publicize this Survey as widely as possible; (3) request the Economic and Social Council, taking into account the views obtained by the Secretary-General in pursuance of resolution 804 B (XXX), to report further on this matter to the General Assembly at its sixteenth session.
5. Saudi Arabia submitted an amendment (A/C.3/L.893) to add the following as the first paragraph of the preamble:

"Considering the important role which the natural sciences in general continue to play in promoting the economic and social development of mankind".

The amendment further proposed that the words "the discussion on this item held at the fifteenth session of the General Assembly as well as" be inserted in operative paragraph 3 after the words "taking into account".

6. Czechoslovakia submitted an amendment (A/C.3/L.895) to replace operative paragraph 3 of the eight-Power draft resolution by the following text:

"3. Requests the Economic and Social Council, taking into account the discussion on this item held at the fifteenth session of the General Assembly, to recommend to the Assembly at its sixteenth session concrete measures relating to:

"(a) The possibility of utilizing the present achievements of natural sciences for peaceful purposes, for furthering the economic progress and welfare of mankind, and for accelerating the economic and social progress of the less-developed countries;

"(b) The possibility of extending international co-operation in exchange for scientific information and experience in the field of natural sciences."

7. At the 1049th meeting the sponsors of the joint draft resolution submitted a revised text (A/C.3/L.854/Rev.1) which took account of the ideas in the Saudi Arabian and Czechoslovak amendments, and read in part as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Considering the important role which the natural sciences in general continue to play in promoting the economic and social development of mankind,

.....

"3. Requests the Economic and Social Council, taking into account the views obtained by the Secretary-General in pursuance of resolution 804 B (XXX) and the discussion on this item held at the fifteenth session of the General Assembly, to report further on this matter to the Assembly at its sixteenth session and to recommend concrete measures including those relating to:

"(a) The possibility of utilizing the present achievements of natural sciences for peaceful purposes, for furthering the economic progress and welfare of mankind, and for accelerating the economic and social progress of the less developed countries,

"(b) The possibility of extending international co-operation in the exchange of scientific information and experience in the field of natural sciences."

8. The sponsors stated further that, taking into account suggestions made at the previous meeting, they proposed to change the English text of the revised draft resolution by (1) replacing in the first paragraph of the preamble the

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word "development" by the word "progress" and (2) inserting in operative paragraph 3 (a) the word "especially" between "and" and "for accelerating". The sponsors further suggested revised French and Spanish texts of the first paragraph of the preamble. This paragraph therefore read as follows:<sup>1/</sup>

"Considering the important role which the natural sciences in general continue to play in promoting the economic and social progress of mankind".

They also suggested that in the Spanish text of paragraph 3 (a) and 3 (b) the words "las ciencias naturales" be replaced by the phrase "las ciencias exactas y naturales".

9. The representatives of Saudi Arabia and Czechoslovakia withdrew their amendments.

10. At the 1049th meeting, the revised draft resolution (A/C.3/L.854/Rev.1), as modified, was adopted unanimously.

#### Recommendation of the Third Committee

11. The Third Committee therefore recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

The General Assembly,

Considering the important role which the natural sciences in general continue to play in promoting the economic and social progress of mankind,

Having received the Survey of the Main Trends of Inquiry in the Field of Natural Sciences, the Dissemination of Scientific Knowledge and the Application of Such Knowledge for Peaceful Ends,<sup>2/</sup>

Noting Economic and Social Council resolution 804 B (XXX) of 3 August 1960 requesting wide dissemination of the Survey, and seeking comments from Governments of States Members of the United Nations, the appropriate specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency,

1. Endorses the decision of the Economic and Social Council to give detailed consideration to the Survey at its thirty-second session, taking into account such views thereon as may be expressed by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

<sup>1/</sup> For French and Spanish texts of this paragraph see relevant language versions.

<sup>2/</sup> A/4461.

2. Recommends Governments of Member States, related agencies and appropriate non-governmental organizations to publicize this Survey as widely as possible;

3. Requests the Economic and Social Council, taking into account the views obtained by the Secretary-General in pursuance of Council resolution 804 B (XXX) and the discussion on this item held at the fifteenth session of the General Assembly, to report further on this matter to the Assembly at its sixteenth session and to recommend concrete measures including those relating to:

(a) The possibility of utilizing the present achievements of natural sciences for peaceful purposes, for furthering the economic progress and welfare of mankind, and especially for accelerating the economic and social progress of the less developed countries;

(b) The possibility of extending international co-operation in the exchange of scientific information and experience in the field of natural sciences.

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