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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Letter dated 22 October 1986 from the Permanent Representative of  
the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic to the United Nations  
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour, on behalf of the co-sponsors, to request you to arrange for distribution of the attached declaration by the Group of socialist countries on international co-operation in the peaceful uses of advances in science and technology as an official document of the forty-first session of the General Assembly, under item 12 of the agenda, "Report of the Economic and Social Council".

(Signed) Lev MAKSIMOV  
Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Representative of the  
Byelorussian SSR to the United Nations

ANNEX

Joint statement by the delegations of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the German Democratic Republic, the Hungarian People's Republic, the Mongolian People's Republic, the Polish People's Republic, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on international co-operation in the peaceful uses of advances in science and technology

The socialist countries regard the United Nations as an effective means of strengthening peace, ensuring international security in all areas and promoting broad international economic, scientific and technical co-operation.

The rapid growth of science and technology in the last quarter of the century affords enormous opportunities to settle many global problems that affect the interests of all States. Prospects are opening up for the more efficient use of natural resources, for the development of new sources of energy and new technologies, for enhancing the fertility of the soil, for combating desertification, for protecting the environment, for peacefully mastering the oceans and seas and outer space, and for overcoming the economic backwardness of the developing countries.

The successful resolution of these supranational problems depends on greater, more thoroughgoing international economic, scientific and technical co-operation, combined efforts by the entire world community, and the application of advances in science and technology solely for peaceful purposes.

The past few years, however, bear witness to a deteriorating international economic climate, a loss of confidence in international economic relations, increased signs of crisis in commercial, economic, currency, financial, scientific and technical relations between States, a further decline in the economic status of many developing countries, and a growing threat to States' economic security.

The main obstacle to the development of international co-operation in science and technology is the determination of certain forces to heighten political tensions and find solutions to international problems in military force. The arms race, above all in nuclear weaponry, and the militarization of space on the basis of modern theoretical and technical advances in physics, chemistry and biology have particularly grave consequences for mankind. They make the socio-economic development of States more difficult and have a lethal effect on international relations, threatening to bring about the end of civilization on earth.

Certain circles are bent on undermining egalitarian, mutually beneficial economic, scientific and technical co-operation and making use of their international connections to exert pressure and interfere in the internal affairs of sovereign States, hampering self-sufficient development and increasing the exploitation of such countries by transnational corporations.

Methods are being applied in the economic, scientific and technical relations between States which are contradictory to the principles of the United Nations, such as unilateral refusals to respect the terms of treaties and agreements, blockades, illegal sanctions and other discriminatory measures to cut socialist and other countries off from modern technology, retard their economic development and upset the strategic parity.

The socialist countries believe the United Nations should take the initiative and devise concrete action to put an end to these adverse developments. We favour a normalization of international relations in the fields of economics, science and technology on the basis of complete equality and respect for the sovereignty of all.

Peace alone will allow the world community's problems with economic, scientific and technical development to be resolved. The concrete initiatives put forward by the USSR and other socialist countries, in the context of the Warsaw Treaty and elsewhere, are intended to reduce armaments, eradicate nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction, cut armed forces, and reduce States' weaponry and military expenditure. They provide a way of liberating the vast additional resources needed for socio-economic, scientific and technical purposes in the developing countries, for resolving the world's problems and for promoting wide-ranging international co-operation, in part through United Nations channels. This would be in keeping with the goals of the International Year of Peace proclaimed by the General Assembly.

To hasten socio-economic advance and increase the well-being of their citizens, the socialist member countries of CMEA have adopted a Comprehensive Programme to Promote the Scientific and Technological Progress of the Member Countries of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) up to the Year 2000 (A/41/123, annex I) with the goal of attaining the highest level of achievement in the most important areas of science, technology and production.

The Programme is not directed against the interests of any countries or peoples. If put into effect, it will extend the scope of international co-operation in science and technology.

The socialist countries are ready to co-ordinate their activities under the Comprehensive Programme, subject to fair and mutually agreeable conditions, with action by other countries, including action under any programmes for international co-operation in science and technology they may adopt which are humane and peace-loving in conception and consistent with the goals of the United Nations.

The socialist countries are convinced that international co-operation in science and technology needs to become global in character; they reaffirm their readiness to contribute substantially to the formulation and execution of a single, global programme in this sphere. Economic security for all States, an integral part of the comprehensive system of international security proposed in a letter dated 5 August 1986 addressed to the Secretary-General by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the German Democratic Republic, the Hungarian People's Republic, the Mongolian People's Republic, the Polish People's Republic, the Socialist Republic of Romania, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (A/41/191), would allow the necessary pre-conditions to be met.

The socialist countries consider it important to intensify international scientific and technical exchanges without restrictions or discrimination and to improve the terms under which they take place, notably where exchanges of experience, technology and know-how in the sphere of environmental protection are concerned. The relevant United Nations bodies and organizations could play a very useful role in promoting these ideas and putting them into practice.

The socialist countries build their foreign economic links on stable, long-term foundations which provide a firm basis for the development of international economic, scientific and technological co-operation. They are active in international economic, scientific and technical organizations and in carrying out a whole range of international programmes on science and technology, and they put forward initiatives designed to generate conditions conducive to co-operation among all countries, initiatives which broadly reflect the interests of the developing countries.

In furtherance of expanded international co-operation in science and technology, the socialist countries are willing to become more active in international economic, scientific and technical organizations and in carrying out specific projects, including projects of assistance to developing countries in the consolidation of their scientific and technological potential, the formulation of national policies and the creation of an efficient infrastructure for, among other things, the transfer of technology.

The economic, scientific and technical bodies and organizations of the United Nations system can and should increase their contributions to the development of international co-operation in science and technology and the use of the results exclusively for peaceful purposes, for the good of all countries and peoples.

The socialist countries call on all countries to strive for enhanced international co-operation in the development of science and technology on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

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