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HUMAN RIGHTS AND SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Draft declaration on the use of scientific and technological
progress in the interests of peace and for the benefit of
mankind

Note by the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. By resolution 3269 (XXIX) of 10 December 1974, the General Assembly, having considered the draft declaration on the use of scientific and technological progress in the interests of peace and for the benefit of mankind, proposed by Bangladesh, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Mauritius, Poland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (A/C.3/L.2144), 1/ decided to defer further consideration of the draft declaration until its thirtieth session and to take it up at that session as a matter of priority, and requested the Secretary-General to bring the draft declaration and the amendments proposed thereto to the attention of Member States for any comments or suggestions they might wish to make on them. The amendments in question were proposed by Morocco (A/C.3/L.2146), 2/ Germany (Federal Republic of), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (subsequently joined by Cuba) (A/C.3/L.2147) 3/ and the United States of America (A/C.3/L.2148). 4/

2. By a note verbale of 17 April 1975, the Secretary-General drew the attention of Member States to General Assembly resolution 3269 (XXIX) and invited the Governments concerned to make such comments and suggestions as they might wish to make on the draft declaration and amendments suggested thereto.

3. The substantive replies received as at 15 September 1975 are set out below. Any further substantive replies will be reproduced as an addendum to the present document.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Annexes, agenda item 56, document A/9937, para. 11.

2/ Ibid., para. 13.

3/ Ibid., para. 14.

4/ Ibid., para. 15.

II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM MEMBER STATES

AUSTRIA

/Original: English/
/4 August 1975/

1. Austria supports the amendment proposed by the United States of America (A/C.3/L.2148), this amendment being in perfect consistency with the concept of the individual rights.
2. Austria suggests the supplementing of operative paragraph 1 as follows:
"... and the realization of human rights and freedoms of the individuals on the ...".
By adding this, it would be made clear that this international co-operation has not only to serve the interests of States or groups, but also the human rights of the individual.
3. Austria proposes that paragraph 2 should read as follows: "All States undertake to ensure that scientific and technological achievements are used to satisfy the ... of the whole population." This formulation would underline the importance of the utilization of scientific achievements. By using the words "whole population", the rather unclear expression "sectors of population" could be avoided.
4. Austria welcomes the amendment contained in document A/C.3/L.2147.

HAITI

/Original: French/
/17 July 1975/

Haiti: Amendments to document A/C.3/L.2144

1. Third preambular paragraph

Do not alter the structure of the phrase "deprive the peoples of their fundamental rights" and delete "and also". The paragraph would read:

"Noting with concern that scientific and technological achievements can be used to the detriment of human rights and freedoms and to intensify the arms race, suppress national liberation movements and deprive the peoples of their fundamental rights,".

2. In operative paragraph 5, insert the word "class" between the words "race" and "sex". The paragraph would then read:

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"All States should take the necessary measures, including legislative measures, to ensure that the utilization of scientific and technological achievements promotes the fullest realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms without any discrimination whatsoever on grounds of race, class, sex, language or religious beliefs."

JORDAN

/Original: English/
/30 May 1975/

The Jordanian Government approved draft resolutions A/C.3/L.2144 of 5 December 1974, A/C.3/L.2146, 2147 and 2148 of 3 December 1974 concerning scientific and technological progress in relation to human rights.

KUWAIT

/Original: English/
/24 June 1975/

1. The original project is basically good and deserves to be approved, considering the humanitarian principles it contains.
2. The Moroccan amendment, mentioned in document A/C.3/L.2146, deletes a repetition in the introduction and substitutes a meaningful clause in place of clause 4, which is obscure, and thus the amendment deserves to be approved.
3. The British amendment contained in document A/C.3/L.2147 has a political significance, but does not affect the substance of the project and therefore the competent authorities in Kuwait do not approve it.
4. As for the United States amendment, paragraph 1 is accepted because it clarifies the original text. The rest is but a repetition and there is no need to approve it.
5. In general, the competent authorities in Kuwait take a favourable attitude towards the project and approve it with the above-mentioned amendments.

NIGERIA

/Original: English/
/11 July 1975/

The Government of Nigeria has no amendment to propose on the draft Declaration as it stands.

PAKISTAN

/Original: English/
/31 July 1975/

1. The sanctity of human rights can be safeguarded by total elimination of war and by utilizing all available resources in promoting economic, social, cultural and moral advancement of the human race.

2. Outer space should be internationalized in the interest of universal peace and freedom of human rights. Space exploration should not be used for aggressive purposes, nor should it be allowed to pose a threat to individual freedom or action. Its fruits should, instead, be shared by all nations irrespective of their degree of technological development.

3. The use of science and technology should be limited to the requirements of ensuring national security, maintenance of law and order, eradication of social evils and promotion of scientific knowledge. It should not be used to infringe upon the privacy and rights of individuals.

4. The question of human rights and scientific and technological developments needs to be examined in the dynamic framework of developments both in the field of science as well as in the evolving objectives of international society for durable and stable political and economic structures both at the national and international level. It is only within the ambit of such societies that repression and war can be eliminated from the world.

PHILIPPINES

/Original: English/
/20 June 1975/

The Philippine Government, in principle, would support draft resolution A/C.3/L.2144 entitled "Declaration on the use of scientific and technological progress in the interests of peace and for the benefit of mankind", with the amendments of the second preambular paragraph and the replacement of the entire text of operative paragraph 4, as proposed by Morocco (A/C.3/L.2146).

The Philippines would also support the addition of a new operative paragraph 2 in document A/C.3/L.2144, as proposed in document A/C.3/L.2147.

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SUDAN

/Original: English/

/2 June 1975/

All the activities of the competent Sudanese authorities aim at achieving social justice for the workers and their welfare through the application of labour conventions, the protection of workers against the risks of work, the improvement of their terms of employment, and the securing of their future as well as that of their families. This in itself represents an effective contribution towards the achievement of peace and justice for members of society as a whole.

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

/Original: Russian/

/21 August 1975/

The Soviet Union has consistently advocated that the achievements of modern science and technology should be used exclusively in the interests of peace and for the benefit of mankind. The draft declaration (A/C.3/L.2144) introduced at the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly by the delegation of the USSR together with the delegations of the German Democratic Republic, the Polish People's Republic, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and Bangladesh is designed to serve these purposes.

As one of the sponsors of the draft declaration, the Soviet Union is naturally convinced that it should be adopted promptly by the Assembly without substantive amendments and that, at a time when the process of détente in relations among States is gaining strength and when international links in science and technology are being widely developed, the speedy adoption of this draft declaration by the Assembly would have a very favourable effect.

All States should promote international co-operation to ensure that the results of scientific and technological developments are used in the interests of strengthening peace and security, freedom and independence, and for the purpose of the economic and social development of peoples and the realization of human rights and freedoms on the basis of the right of peoples to self-determination, respect for State sovereignty, equality and non-interference in the internal affairs of States. States have an obligation to take measures to ensure that scientific and technological achievements satisfy the material and spiritual needs of all sectors of the population and to prevent scientific and technological developments from causing any increase in social and material inequality or any intensification of the exploitation of the working people. The draft declaration appeals for such action, and it also proclaims the obligation of States to refrain from any acts involving the use of scientific and technological achievements for the purpose of violating the sovereignty of other States, interfering in their internal

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affairs, waging aggressive wars, suppressing national liberation movements, or pursuing a policy of racial discrimination. The draft declaration states that such acts are not only a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, but constitute an inadmissible distortion of the purposes that should guide scientific and technological developments for the benefit of mankind.

If the General Assembly confirms these noble purposes and principles, it will be acting in conformity with the spirit of the times and will be making a constructive contribution to the creation of more favourable conditions for the further development of international co-operation in all fields. Amendments to the draft declaration which do not alter its substance and social purpose may be favourably considered and agreed upon at the thirtieth session of the Assembly.
