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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

Addendum

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM MEMBER STATES	
Barbados . . . . .	2
New Zealand . . . . .	2
Pakistan . . . . .	2
United States of America . . . . .	3

BARBADOS

/Original: English/

/30 July 1975/

The Government of Barbados has no objections to the draft Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind and is in agreement with the aims and objectives of the instrument to achieve international co-operation in channelling and directing scientific and technological developments towards peaceful purposes and for the benefit of mankind.

NEW ZEALAND

/Original: English/

/9 September 1975/

New Zealand does not have any specific comments on the draft Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind. The New Zealand Department of Scientific and Industrial Research has indicated its approval of the principles of control embodied in the draft Declaration, and believes that the New Zealand authorities are already committed to the protection of the rights of the individual in the context of scientific and technological advances.

PAKISTAN

/Original: English/

/6 August 1975/ 1/

(e) The Government of Pakistan, in its determination to combat the challenge of poverty and inequitable distribution of wealth, has, as a first step, recently introduced a number of socio-economic reforms aimed at making prosperity as broad-based as possible and at raising the living standard of the people.

(f) Pakistan believes that the rights of individuals, as seen in a broad and futuristic perspective, can be safeguarded only through determined and concerted action by the international community to redress existing injustices and to meet evolving challenges. To achieve this, strict adherence to the principles and decisions of the United Nations, which reflect the overwhelming consensus among nations, is an indispensable precondition.

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1/ Addition to the comments communicated on 31 July 1975.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

/Original: English/  
/2 September 1975/

The most effective forum for dealing with the subject matter of this draft Declaration is the Human Rights Commission, which should be asked to include deliberation of the draft Declaration in its programme of work. The programme of work is now being drawn up under Human Rights Commission resolution 11 (XXXI), pursuant to General Assembly resolution 3268 (XXIX).

Regardless of where the matter is considered, the principal changes that the United States believes should be made to make the draft Declaration acceptable are embodied in paragraphs 1, 2, 3, and 5 of document A/C.3/L.2148, of 3 December 1974, 2/ containing the amendments of the United States.

In general, the United States believes that declarations such as this, even though they are hortatory in nature and of no binding legal effect, should be carefully studied to ensure that the sometimes disparate attitudes and emphases of Members of the United Nations are candidly negotiated and then faithfully reflected in the final document. As it now stands, this draft resolution is a one-sided document that properly emphasizes concern over the impact of science and technology on economic and social development, but fails largely to reflect a proper concern over the impact of science and technology on civil and political rights and individual human freedoms.

Our amendments to the draft Declaration have been proposed in order to achieve a better balance of the interests and concerns involved and thereby to strengthen the draft Declaration as a whole. To achieve this end, we have proposed an additional preambular paragraph that notes explicitly the concern that scientific and technological achievements can entail dangers for individual civil and political rights and for human dignity (para. 5 of the United States amendments). We have also proposed that explicit mention be made of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in preambular paragraph 8, since the Declaration, along with the Charter, is surely one of the fundamental documents in the field of human rights (para. 3 of United States amendments). The proposed amendment to operative paragraph 4 is predicated on the belief that the prevention of social and material inequality should benefit all people, and that no purpose is served by singling out a vaguely-defined group. In this same paragraph, the United States has proposed language that will take into account the need "to protect the rights of the individual or of the group, particularly with regard to respect for privacy and the protection of the human personality and its physical and intellectual integrity," (para. 1 of United States amendments) both topics that have been under intensive study by the United Nations in connexion with its consideration of human rights in the light of scientific and technological developments.

It should be noted that other countries have proposed amendments and that these too will deserve careful study.

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2/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Annexes, agenda item 56, para. 15.