

Distr.
GENERALA/4570
10 November 1960ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/FRENCH/
SPANISH

Fifteenth session

LETTER DATED 11 OCTOBER 1960 FROM THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF ISRAEL AND CHAIRMAN OF THE ISRAEL DELEGATION TO
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

In my statement before the General Assembly on 10 October 1960, I referred to the International Conference on Science in the Advancement of New States, held at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovoth, Israel, in August 1960. I quoted in brief from the Declaration adopted by the Conference.

I have the honour to request that the full text of the "Rehovoth Declaration 1960" as attached hereto, in English, French and Spanish, be circulated among all Member States of the United Nations, for their information.

(Signed) Golda MEIR

Minister for Foreign Affairs
Chairman of the Delegation

THE REHOVOTH DECLARATION 1960

An International Conference on Science in the Advancement of New States was convened by the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovoth, Israel from August 15-30, 1960 on the invitation of the President of the Institute.

The Conference was attended by Ministers, high government officials and leaders of educational and development institutions from many countries, including those recently established as sovereign States, as well as by leading scientists, scholars and economists from all parts of the world. Specialized international agencies were also represented.

The Conference directed its attention to two processes which have deeply affected the life of this generation - the swift progress of science and technology and the change in the structure of the international community through the emergence of new States, mainly in Asia and Africa. The participants in the Conference expressed general agreement on the following points:

- (1) The new States have achieved political equality with older established States. But no such equality yet exists in economic, social and cultural progress. Most of the new States suffer from depressed living standards; low life-expectancy; slowness of development in agriculture and industry, and inadequate use of natural resources. The scientific thought and technical skills which could correct this situation are not yet being applied to the new States. Thus, the modern scientific movement is constantly increasing the strength and wealth of advanced countries, while having little corresponding effect in the less developed territories.
- (2) It is urgently necessary to reduce this disparity both on human grounds and in order to further the welfare of States and to create a more harmonious atmosphere of international relations.
- (3) The natural and social scientists participating in the Conference were agreed that science and technology are capable of bringing about swift improvements in the conditions of new States, through improved agricultural methods; water development; the prevention of disease and the promotion of health; improved nutritional techniques; the discovery and evaluation of

resources; the mutual adjustment of resources and population; and the stimulation of industrialization. Emphasis was laid on the need to strengthen scientific education in developing States.

(4) It was further agreed that in many areas of research and application, such as the utilization of nuclear and solar energy and the increased availability of fresh water by artificial processes, developments in the next decade may well have a positive effect on the economic conditions of developing States.

(5) The representatives of new States revealed a strong desire to expand scientific education in their countries, to utilize the best scientific methods relevant to their development problems, and to maintain close contact with scientific thought and action in scientifically advanced countries.

(6) The following lines of thought and action were recommended at the Conference with a view to bringing science and technology to bear more positively upon the problems of developing countries:

(a) The governments of developing States should regard the furtherance of science and technology as a major objective of their national policies and make appropriate provision for funds and opportunities to achieve this end.

(b) In the secondary and higher educational systems of new and developing States accelerated programmes should be undertaken with a view to establishing a body of scientific workers and technical experts.

(c) An early step in the activities of new States should be the undertaking of a thorough survey of natural and human resources as the basis for a development plan with a clear indication of priorities.

(d) Until such time as their own scientific manpower is adequate, new and developing States would be well advised to seek the help of scientific advisers and experts from friendly countries and international agencies to help them develop a scientific practice and tradition.

- (e) Representatives of African States at the Conference pointed out the advantages of a regional approach. There may be cases in which projects of technical assistance and technical education may be applied with advantage by more than one State.
- (f) States which have made advanced scientific progress should, as a matter of policy, be willing to extend scientific aid and advice to States less scientifically advanced.
- (g) Scientific institutions and research workers in scientifically advanced countries should increase their preoccupation with those fields of research and application which are relevant to the problems of new and developing States.
- (h) International agencies, governments and foundations should carry out expanding programmes of financial aid for developing States, with due emphasis on the transmission and diffusion of technical knowledge, the training of technicians and the increase of technical and scientific equipment.
- (i) The Conference recognized that technical assistance will be provided by a growing number of international, national and private agencies. The development and co-ordination of a technical assistance programme from all of these sources to support national development plans is a responsibility of the recipient governments. The Conference recommends that there be a study of the methods used by various agencies in providing assistance and by recipient countries in co-ordinating and utilizing technical assistance, and that the result be used to increase the effectiveness of the programme.
- (j) It was generally agreed that the kind of contact developed at this Conference between the governments of developing States and leaders in various scientific and technological disciplines should be intensified and broadened to include the mutual elaboration of specific plans in furtherance of the objective herein outlined.
- (7) To carry out the purposes and plans outlined under the preceding paragraph, the Conference decides to set up a Permanent Committee which will maintain contact with the participants in the Rehovoth Conference and with other governments and institutions supporting its general aims. The

Permanent Committee will serve as a clearing-house and forwarding agency for requests and suggestions from developing States and from scientific workers and will try to promote fruitful contacts.

The Permanent Committee will consider the convening of a Second Conference at a suitable time, after consultation with Governments, scientists and international agencies, in order to review the progress made on the matters proposed under Section 6 of this Declaration.

The Permanent Committee will report to the Second Conference on its supervision of progress on joint or individual activities and programs.

(8) The Conference decides to publish its proceeding for distribution to governments, scientific institutions and international agencies.

(9) The Conference decides to despatch this Declaration to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to specialized agencies, governments, institutions and foundations concerned with scientific research and with the advancement of developing States.

Rehovoth, August 25, 1960
