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HUMAN RIGHTS AND SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

MONGOLIA

[Original: Russian]

[17 June 1987]

1. The Mongolian People's Republic attaches great importance to the Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind, adopted by the General Assembly in 1975. The implementation of that Declaration would undoubtedly contribute to the strengthening of peace and the security of peoples and to their economic and social development, as well as to international co-operation in the field of human rights. Yet the goals reflected in the Declaration are still far from being achieved.

2. The main obstacle to the development of peoples is the arms race, especially the nuclear-arms race. Enormous material and human resources and the potential of science and technology are being used to create new systems of weapons of mass destruction capable of destroying all human civilization. Science and technology are also being mobilized to carry out the "star wars" programme. The hundreds of billions of dollars that the arms race devours yearly could be used to solve such global problems as the fight against hunger and disease, the elimination of illiteracy and unemployment, the provision of housing for the homeless, and the like. In today's world, one person in five is illiterate, one in three has no medical assistance, one in six goes hungry, and more than 100 million people have no roof over their heads.

This century of scientific and technological progress cannot resign itself to such a state of affairs. The interests of humanity demand that the achievements of science and technology serve solely the goals of building and developing society and solving urgent socio-economic problems.

As a sponsor of General Assembly resolution 41/115, the Mongolian People's Republic fully supports the appeal made to the Member States to implement the provisions and principles contained in the Declaration in order to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms and to make efforts to use scientific and technological progress to ensure the peaceful economic, social and cultural development of peoples.

3. Mongolia considers that science and technology can and must be directed towards guaranteeing that basic human right - the right to life. Here the United Nations has an important role to play. The right to life has been embodied in the International Covenants on Human Rights, in conventions on this question and in a number of General Assembly resolutions, serving as a foundation for the respect for human rights. At their latest sessions, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights gave particular attention to the question of safeguarding every individual's right to life.

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Mongolia co-sponsored General Assembly resolution 41/113 and fully shares the position set forth therein to the effect that the international community must make efforts to strengthen peace, remove the threat of nuclear war, halt the arms race, achieve general and complete disarmament and prevent violations of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations regarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and the self-determination of peoples, thus contributing to ensuring the right to life.

4. Today, the most important task is to save civilization from a nuclear disaster and build a safe world. The countries of the socialist community are undertaking efforts to strengthen peace and security on earth. That is taking tangible form in their practical initiatives to normalize the international situation and put an end to the arms race. At the forty-first session of the General Assembly, the group of socialist countries sponsored a new initiative to establish a comprehensive system of international security. That was a new confirmation of the socialist countries' desire to avert the danger of nuclear war and strengthen peace and global security.

5. Mongolia has consistently striven to strengthen world peace and security, avert nuclear war and halt the arms race. Together with the other countries of the socialist community, Mongolia has put forward a number of proposals for halting the arms race, preventing the militarization of outer space and safeguarding peace and security. On the proposal of Mongolia, the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session approved the Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace, which proclaims that the peoples of our planet have a sacred right to peace and that the preservation and promotion of that right constitute a fundamental obligation of each State. The strengthening of an atmosphere of confidence and mutual understanding between States, the development of active co-operation between them and the implementation of measures for general and complete disarmament serve as guarantees for exercising that right.

In Mongolia science and technology have been playing an increasingly important part in improving productivity and solving urgent social questions. Scientific and technological achievements are used to develop the national economy and to enhance the material well-being and cultural level of the people.

ZAMBIA

[Original: English]

[3 September 1987]

The Republic of Zambia has ratified almost all the Conventions on Human Rights and the need to allow scientific and technological developments in Zambia to suppress human rights is therefore very slight indeed.
