



**Economic and Social
Council**

GENERAL

E/CN.4/1988/29
23 November 1987

ENGLISH
Original: ENGLISH/FRENCH/ARABIC/
SPANISH/RUSSIAN

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Forty-fourth session
1 February - 11 March 1988
Item 15 of the provisional agenda

Human Rights and Scientific and Technological Developments

Report of the Secretary-General

Contents

	<u>Page</u>
Introduction	2
I. <u>Replies from Member States of the United Nations</u>	3
Australia	3
Bolivia	3
Bulgaria	4
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	6
Czechoslovakia	8
Haiti	11
Mexico	11
Qatar	12
Sudan	14
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic	14
II. <u>Reply from the United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development</u>	17
III. <u>Replies from non-governmental organizations</u>	17
Arab Labour Organization	17
Christian Democratic International	17

Introduction

1. In its resolution 1986/10 of 10 March 1986, the Commission on Human Rights requested the Secretary-General, in the light of comments and views of Member States, to submit the report on the implementation of this resolution to the Commission at its forty-fourth session. Two earlier reports on the subject had been submitted in 1984 and 1986 respectively under Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1983/41 and 1984/27. */
2. By a note verbale dated 3 June 1986, the Governments of States Members of the United Nations were invited to supply their comments and views on the subject. Requests for information and views were also sent, on 3 June 1986, to United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.
3. As at 23 November 1987, replies had been received from the Governments of Australia, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Haiti, Mexico, Qatar, Sudan and Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. Replies had also been received from the United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development, the Arab Labour Organization and the Christian Democratic International, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.
4. The replies received will be found in sections I-III of the report.

*/ See documents E/CN.4/1984/33 and Add.1-2 and E/CN.4/1986/27 and Add.1.

I. Replies from Member States of the United Nations

AUSTRALIA

[Original: English]

[21 October 1986]

1. Australia is committed to the principle of establishing a safer, more stable world. During 1986, the International Year of Peace, Australia has taken positive steps, at both a national and international level, to pursue this objective.
2. A budget was established to support a programme of activities by both the Government and the Australian public. A National Consultative Committee on Peace and Disarmament was established to assist the Foreign Minister in giving effect to the IYP programme, and to act as a channel of communication on peace issues between community organizations and the Government.
3. A portion of the budget was allocated to community groups and individuals for IYP projects. Government and community projects include a seismic symposium, a human rights symposium on the right to peaceful protest, visits by distinguished overseas visitors to attend a series of disarmament and arms control seminars and public meetings, and continuing support for peace education.
4. To give recognition to Australian individuals and organizations who have made an outstanding contribution in working towards the goal of peace, a system of Australian Peace Awards has been established. The IYP programme also includes a national communication programme to inform the Australian community of the Government's work in peace, arms control and disarmament, and to raise community awareness of the issues involved.
5. Australia plays an active role in pursuing arms control and disarmament measures, at both a national and international level, whenever possible. This includes participation in international conferences such as the Conference on Disarmament, the Disarmament Commission and the General Assembly. Australia has had a major role in working for a comprehensive test-ban treaty, a South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone, and the banning of the production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons.

BOLIVIA

[Original: Spanish]

[24 June 1986]

6. The peace-loving Constitutional Government of Bolivia fully endorses the form and content of the aforementioned resolution [1986/10], particularly paragraphs 2 and 3 thereof, which read:

"Stresses once again the urgent need for the international community to make every effort to strengthen peace, remove the growing threat of war, particularly nuclear war, halt the arms race and achieve general and complete disarmament under effective international control 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;

Stresses further the foremost importance of the implementation of practical measures of disarmament for releasing substantial additional resources, which should be utilized for social and economic development, particularly for the benefit of the developing countries."

7. With regard to paragraph 7 of the resolution, my Government agrees with the request to the Secretary-General "to submit the report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Commission at its forty-fourth session".

BULGARIA

[Original: French]
[28 January 1987]

8. The People's Republic of Bulgaria considers scientific and technological progress to have an immense potential for improving living conditions, settling the global problems of humanity and stimulating the social and economic development of society. The exploitation of the achievements of modern science and technology creates genuine possibilities of extending and effectively guaranteeing human rights and fundamental freedoms and of strengthening peace and international security. It is to that effect that the 1975 Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind [A/RES/3384(XXX)] gives a more precise definition of the principles to which States should adhere.

9. The People's Republic of Bulgaria is profoundly concerned at the fact that certain forces are seeking to employ the achievements of human civilization to intensify the arms race, particularly in the sphere of nuclear weapons, to attain military and strategic supremacy and to pursue their policies from a position of strength. In this regard, the People's Republic of Bulgaria, which was among the co-sponsors of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1986/10, shares the position stated therein, namely that the efforts of the international community should be aimed in particular at strengthening peace, removing the growing threat of war, halting the arms race and achieving general disarmament.

10. Bulgaria is firmly opposed to the attempts by certain reactionary forces to utilize scientific and technological advances as means of political and economic blackmail and pressure and to push humanity to the brink of nuclear disaster.

11. Bulgaria fully supports the position expressed in resolution 1986/10 to the effect that the defence of the individual's most basic right, the right to life, is an essential condition for the enjoyment of the entire range of civil and political and economic, social and cultural rights. The new escalation of

the arms race, especially the programme aiming at the extension of that race to outer space, raises once again, and with full force, the question of war and peace, of the future of human civilization. Only peace can guarantee the right of every individual, of all peoples, to life. Proceeding from this principle, the People's Republic of Bulgaria firmly supports all initiatives and proposals aimed at strengthening peace and international security and promoting friendly relations among all peoples. It believes that the United Nations can play a vital role in this respect.

12. The People's Republic of Bulgaria adheres to the position of principle that scientific and technological advances should be used solely for the purposes of the peaceful social and economical development of society. Militarization not only prevents the strengthening of peace and international security and the promotion of friendly relations among all peoples, but also leads to the non-productive reorientation and the squandering of huge scientific and technological potential. Rational use of the enormous resources devoted to military ends, including in the spheres of science and technology, would help to resolve such burning global issues as those of drought, famine, disease and illiteracy, would speed up States' social and economic development and would create conditions constituting genuine guarantees for the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

13. The People's Republic of Bulgaria has instituted a system of legal, political and economic measures precluding the elaboration, dissemination and propagation of doctrines and concepts aimed at provoking war. One example is article 63 of the Bulgarian Constitution, which states that:

"1. Every citizen must contribute to the preservation and consolidation of peace.

2. Incitement to, and propaganda for war constitute serious crimes against peace and humanity and are therefore forbidden and punishable by law."

14. In keeping with the view that humanity's most vital current task is to eliminate the risk of war, particularly nuclear war, and to preserve peace, the Bulgarian Government pursues a consistent and highly-principled foreign policy aimed at the halting of the arms race and the achievement of general and complete disarmament under effective international control, the strengthening of international security, and the development of peaceful co-operation among States. That is why Bulgaria wholeheartedly supports the idea expressed in United Nations General Assembly resolution 41/92 of the establishment of a comprehensive system of international security embracing, as an integral component, the social and humanitarian sphere.

15. Bulgaria is also actively working for the strengthening of good-neighbourly relations in the Balkans and for the transformation of this area into a nuclear- and chemical-weapon-free zone.

16. Bulgaria will continue to participate in international co-operation for the purposes of strengthening peace and international security, ensuring the effective enjoyment and the safeguarding of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and intensifying friendly relations among States.

BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

[Original: Russian]
[21 May 1987]

17. The Byelorussian SSR attaches great importance to the interrelationship between human rights and scientific and technological progress. In the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, it is an unfailing sponsor of resolutions aimed at the application of the results of scientific and technological progress in the interests of peace and for the benefit of humanity.

18. In the information it submitted in response to the United Nations Secretary-General's Note G/SO 214 (12-1-3), of 21 March 1986, the Byelorussian SSR reported on the implementation in the country in General Assembly resolutions 40/111 and 40/112 on human rights and scientific and technological progress.

19. The Byelorussian SSR was also among the sponsors of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1986/10. It was gratified to see the provisions of that resolution, particularly the reminders of the historic responsibility of the Governments of all countries of the world to remove the threat of war from the lives of people, to preserve civilization and to ensure that everyone enjoys his inherent right to life, and of the pressing need for urgent measures towards general and complete disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, for the sake of life on earth.

20. The attainment of those aims is the objective of the proposals by the Soviet Union and other socialist countries for the establishment of a comprehensive system of international peace and security. A comprehensive system of international security must have disarmament as its core. The task of creating a world free from nuclear weapons and from violence requires concrete and immediate measures in this sphere. Such a world could be achieved through the conclusion of agreements on:

The complete destruction of nuclear arsenals by the end of the current century;

The prohibition of the placing in space, which is the common property of humanity, of weapons of any kind;

The prohibition of the development of new types of weapons of mass destruction;

The prohibition of chemical weapons and the destruction of stocks thereof;

Cuts in conventional weapons and forces.

21. A sincere, realistic and genuinely humane programme for saving humanity from weapons of mass destruction was formulated in the historic Statement by M.S. Gorbachev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU, on 15 January 1986. That programme in essence initiated a fundamentally new stage in the struggle to eliminate the threat of war and build a non-nuclear world.

22. That was also the aim of the proposals which the Soviet Union put forward at the Soviet-United States Summit at Reykjavik and which enabled new and valuable milestones to be reached in the struggle against nuclear weapons and for the preservation of life on earth.

23. Another provision of the above-mentioned resolution of great importance for peace and the safeguarding of human rights is the call to States that have not yet done so to take effective measures with a view to preventing any propaganda for war, in particular the formulation, propounding and dissemination of propaganda for doctrines and concepts aimed at unleashing nuclear war.

24. In the Byelorussian SSR, propaganda for war is forbidden by the Constitution. Thus, article 28 of the Constitution states that "In the Byelorussian SSR, propaganda for war is prohibited". The Byelorussian Criminal Code provides that such propaganda shall incur criminal liability.

25. The Byelorussian Constitution provides the country's citizens with extensive opportunities for defending the right to life and peace. Proof of this is the broad range of anti-war activities by citizens, who invariably support the Soviet State's efforts to eliminate the threat of nuclear disaster that, through the fault of imperialism, hangs over humanity and to ensure that the results of scientific and technological progress are used exclusively in the interests of international peace and for the benefit of humanity, for the economic, social and cultural development and the greater well-being of the people.

26. As a sponsor of the 1975 Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind and of a number of General Assembly and Commission on Human Rights resolutions on the question of human rights and scientific and technological progress, the Byelorussian SSR considers that these most important decisions must be fully implemented by all States in the interests of peace and of the progress of humanity, of broad masses of the working people.

27. The decisions and the new version of its Programme which the CPSU adopted at its twenty-seventh Congress set the targets of raising the well-being of Soviet citizens to a qualitatively new degree and ensuring a level and pattern of consumption of material, social and cultural benefits serving to the maximum the aims of forming a harmonious and rich personality and of creating the prerequisites for the full development of Soviet people's capacities and talents in the interests of society.

28. Essentially as a result of the application of scientific and technological advances, the national income of the Byelorussian SSR rose by 32.5 per cent during the past five years. Per capita real incomes rose by 12 per cent. The wages of manual and non-manual workers rose by 15 per cent, while the remuneration of collective-farm workers rose by over 50 per cent. Social consumption funds increased by 26 per cent, to total 508 roubles per inhabitant of the Republic. Housing conditions improved for one in every five Byelorussians.

29. The fact that Byelorussian policy is one of peace derives from the very essence of socialism, namely a constructive society. Byelorussia has no social forces interested in war. Furthermore, the Byelorussian people is

fully aware of the horrors of war: one in four of the inhabitants of the Republic perished during the Second World War. We naturally support any steps aimed at securing every individual's inalienable right, the right to life.

30. The Byelorussian SSR is firmly convinced that the essential prerequisites for successful international scientific and technological co-operation and the utilization of scientific and technological advances for development are: the strengthening of peace and international security; peaceful co-existence; the curbing of the arms race; the maintenance and development of international détente; support for the just struggle of peoples for freedom and independence; and the re-building of international economic relations on a just and equitable basis.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

[Original: English]

[20 August 1986]

31. The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic believes that, being one of the most important factors for the development of human society, scientific and technological development must serve to strengthen international peace and security and improve living conditions. Great achievements in the development of science and technology create ever greater possibilities of satisfying the spiritual and material needs of every individual as well as of mankind as a whole. The development of science and technology creates new possibilities for using as yet unknown sources of energy, learning about outer space and using it for peaceful needs and for the timely averting of calamities. It creates conditions for a successful solution of such present-day urgent problems as famine, disease, poverty and economic dependence.

32. Czechoslovakia is convinced that, as a result of the creative activity of human genius and energy, scientific and technological development can and must fully serve man, contribute to his growing prosperity, his living in peaceful conditions, his development, indeed an all-round enrichment of man and the realization of his rights and freedoms.

33. Nowadays, the issue concerning the purpose for which the achievements of scientific and technological revolution will be used is one of the most topical ones. Present-day science and technology make it possible to create all material conditions on earth for the prosperity of society, for an all-round development of personality.

34. However, science and technology are not always used for the benefit of mankind. Particularly in recent years science and technology have been used for military purposes to an ever greater extent. More and more sophisticated, i.e. destructive, weapons are being developed which are scheduled to endanger life on earth, in the seas, even in outer space. But the deadly trend in the orientation of science and technology cannot be ascribed to the wanton and uncontrolled development of science and technology. Mankind finds itself on the verge of nuclear self-destruction these days. The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic is convinced that, first of all, the most aggressive forces of imperialism are to be blamed for this state of affairs which, inspired by a vision of military superiority, drives mankind into new senseless escalation of the arms race. In their efforts to gain superiority over the whole world, these forces keep extending their arsenals of weapons and realizing new

programmes for the development and production of new types of weapons. Implementation of such programmes is closely connected with the escalation of various aggressive doctrines.

35. Czechoslovakia is adamantly convinced that nuclear war can and must never be unleashed, that there can be no winners and no losers in such a war, that - in view of its very nature - nuclear war cannot contribute to the achievement of any rational objectives. That is why there must be a very strong incentive to eliminate the threat of such a war, to ban the development and testing of weapons of mass destruction and destroy completely all stockpiles of nuclear weapons. In this sense, the mere idea of unleashing new spiralling and escalation of the arms race is absolutely unacceptable.

36. The United Nations as well as individual States bear the historical responsibility, in view of the growing danger of nuclear war, for the adoption of urgent measures to safeguard the most fundamental and natural human right - the right to life. By its attitude towards the issue of strengthening the peace, averting nuclear war and safeguarding the right to life, every State shows its real position on human rights. It is impossible to stand up for human rights, and, at the same time, to proceed from the admissibility of killing millions of people, of destroying the whole of human civilization. Respect for human rights and planning a nuclear war and intensifying military threats are completely incompatible, conflicting ideas.

37. The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic consistently condemns the very idea of the acceptability of nuclear war under any pretext. It believes that the international community is able to and must, through joint efforts, prevent the development of further senseless escalation of the arms race, that there is no other reasonable alternative than that of the gradual decrease and then of the complete elimination of the danger of nuclear war. There is a realistic way to achieve this goal contained in the complex programme for the complete liquidation of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction by the year 2000, presented by the Soviet Union in January 1986. The programme contains a realistic plan for gradual elimination of nuclear weapons within the next 15 years, by the end of the twentieth century; it also proposes to liquidate such barbarous weapons as chemical ones. Together with the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, the programme also envisages a considerable reduction of conventional weapons and armed forces. The programme aims at halting the arms race on earth, preventing the militarization of outer space, improving the international atmosphere and developing peaceful, mutually advantageous co-operation. It is a source of great expectations. It represents a concrete, far-reaching contribution of the Soviet Union to meeting the tasks and achieving the aims of the International Year of Peace (1986) proclaimed by the United Nations. The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic fully supports these peace proposals presented by the Soviet Union. It is deeply convinced that if the United States of America and other Western countries approach these issues with the same degree of responsibility as the USSR and other socialist countries, they will make a major contribution to the improvement of the international atmosphere, to the successful solution of international problems of vital importance and to the preservation of peace for our generation and for the generations to come.

38. The introduction of active measures aimed at halting the arms race and at disarmament is also an indispensable prerequisite for the solution of ever more urgent global problems - the devastation of environment, the need to

discover new sources of energy, the struggle against economic backwardness, starvation and disease. The principle of "armaments instead of development", enforced by militarism, must be replaced by the opposite: "disarmament for development". Czechoslovakia supports the requirement that every limitation and reduction of military arsenals, every step towards the elimination of nuclear weapons brings more security for nations and, moreover, makes it possible to find more means to improve the living conditions of people. Putting an end to the waste of the colossal means spent on armaments would make it possible to spend them exclusively for peaceful purposes.

39. A number of facts document the impact on human rights of the use of science and technology for military purposes. Nowadays, hundreds of billions of dollars are spent annually for military purposes, while every third person in the world is not guaranteed elementary medical care, every fifth person is illiterate, 60 million people die annually of starvation and millions of people suffer daily from the bitter consequences of unemployment and inflation. Respect for human rights is incompatible with such a situation.

40. The Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind requires that all States use the achievements of science and technology for the benefit of peace and security, freedom and independence, the economic and social development of nations, and the realization of human rights and freedoms.

41. The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic considers the issue of a ban on the use of the achievements of science and technology to interfere in the private life of citizens and violate fundamental human rights and freedoms is an important aspect of the relationship between the scientific and technological progress and human rights. In this connection, the provision of the above-mentioned Declaration concerning the need for measures to extend the benefits of science and technology to all strata of the population and to protect them both socially and materially from possible harmful effects of the misuse of scientific and technological developments, is of great importance. The topical character of this provision of the Declaration is obvious, particularly in those Western countries where the system of spying on the private life of citizens and interference in it by scientific and technological means has been established and is being further "improved".

42. The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic is an enemy of principle of competition in the field of production and stockpiling of weapons of mass destruction. It consistently endorses the use of the achievements of scientific and technological development exclusively for the benefit of peace, freedom and independence of nations and not for aggressive purposes and for interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States, to the detriment of the economic and social development of nations, fundamental human rights and freedoms. It considers that the achievements of scientific and technological development should be more promptly and efficiently used for the benefit of all nations and that they can help to solve the most important and urgent problems of mankind.

HAITI

[Original: French]
[13 November 1986]

43. In order to guarantee the right to life and international security and to institute a new economic order, the United Nations must strive for the establishment of new relationships between the States of the international community. Those new relationships should preclude the enrichment of the rich and the impoverishment of the poor. The first requirement is to halt the headlong arms race: then the billions of dollars that are spent each year would serve to provide the Third World countries and the least developed countries with equipment and technology. Such technology transfers would enable these small States to establish the infrastructure necessary for their economic development.

44. Similarly, the developing countries should be able to set the prices of their strategic products, their commodities. The present-day international situation is based on a flagrant contradiction: millions of people are dying of hunger at the same time as billions of dollars are being channelled into the over-arming of the major Powers. Genuine change on the international scene can only come through pursuit of the course we have outlined or of one like it.

45. Science transcends national frontiers: it should be universal and enable all States without distinction to take advantage of the benefits of technology. Then there would be substance to the talk of human rights, of the rights to life, to education, to work and to development.

MEXICO

[Original: Spanish]
[13 November 1986]

46. Mexico's diplomatic activity in support of nuclear disarmament has been intensive. One of the principal objectives of Mexican policy in this respect is to obtain the cessation of the arms race so that the resources currently utilized to perfect nuclear weapons are channelled into economic development, principally that of the developing countries.

47. That was made clear by the President of the Republic in his message to the sixth World Congress of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, when he said that, while the scientific and technological advances of recent decades had led to incomparable progress for human civilization, they had paradoxically also been employed to manufacture and perfect heavy armaments capable of putting an end to all forms of life on our planet.

48. For that reason, the President of Mexico has joined his efforts to those of the Heads of State or Government of Argentina, Greece, India and Sweden and of the First President of Tanzania within the Group of Six to promote a Peace and Disarmament Initiative that aims at creating between the two major Powers an atmosphere of dialogue conducive to the conclusion of disarmament agreements.

49. On 28 January 1985, in its Delhi Declaration, the Group of Six made an urgent appeal to the leaders of the United States and the Soviet Union for immediate halts to the testing of nuclear weapons of whatever type and to the production and deployment of nuclear arms and their delivery systems. The Group also drew attention to the grave consequences of extension of the arms race to outer space.

50. Significantly, the Declaration states the following: "For centuries, men and women have fought for their rights and freedoms. We now face the greatest struggle of all - for the right to live, for ourselves and for future generations".

51. Moreover, a message which the Group of Six sent to the leaders of the two great Powers on 8 April 1986 says that "the resources that are today being squandered on the manufacture and perfecting of nuclear arms should be used to combat hunger and poverty, illiteracy and disease".

52. As a follow-up to this initiative, the second summit meeting of the Group of Six was held at Ixtapa, Mexico, on 6 and 7 August of this year. It proclaimed humanity's right to peace and reiterated the participants' commitment to protecting the right to life in order that the human race might endure.

53. At that meeting, the Group of Six emphasized that the protection of this planet is a matter for all the people who live on it and that it is unacceptable that a few countries should alone decide the fate of the whole world.

54. The Group further declared that security is not improved by increasing the capacity for destruction through the accumulation of weapons, but that, on the contrary, true security is better ensured through the reduction of armaments.

55. In order to facilitate the immediate cessation of nuclear testing, the Group made a concrete offer of assistance in the establishment of adequate verification arrangements.

56. International peace and coexistence can only be based on the rule of law and on compliance with freely accepted rules.

57. The Government and people of Mexico cannot but add their voice to the universal call for development and peace. Mexico therefore reaffirms its undertaking to continue co-operating in the efforts to achieve nuclear disarmament.

QATAR

[Original: Arabic]
[2 September 1986]

58. The State of Qatar believes that the giant steps that have been taken in the field of science and technology constitute the most important elements in the process of human progress, since they have offered unlimited opportunities in numerous fields such as the discovery of new sources of energy, the conquest of space, protection of the environment and the prediction and

prevention of natural disasters. They have also made a considerable contribution to the campaign against hunger, disease and economic backwardness. The importance of science and technology is evident from 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 resolution 3384 (XXX), and also from other instruments promulgated by the United Nations in connection with human rights, such as the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security (General Assembly resolution 2734 (XXV)), the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace (General Assembly resolution 33/73), the Declaration on the Prevention of Nuclear Catastrophe (General Assembly resolution 36/100), the Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace (General Assembly resolution 39/11), as well as General Assembly resolutions 36/92 I of 9 December 1981 on the non-use of nuclear weapons and prevention of nuclear war, and 37/100 C of 13 December 1982 and 38/73 G of 15 December 1983 on a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons.

59. Scientific and technological developments are used not only for the benefit of mankind but also for purposes of destruction. The arms race, which is propelling the world towards a nuclear catastrophe, has reached a stage at which the international community is living in fear of annihilation at any moment, since the nuclear arsenals of States now contain about 50,000 nuclear warheads with a total destructive force almost 1 million times greater than that of the bomb that destroyed Hiroshima, i.e. an average of 3.5 tons for every person on earth. If that force were ever unleashed, the continuation of civilization would be in doubt.

60. The primary task of the leaders of the super-Powers should be to endeavour, not to achieve nuclear supremacy, but rather to pursue a policy aimed at preventing any catastrophe and scaling down international tension and the arms race. Every effort should also be made to eliminate chemical weapons.

61. The development and stockpiling of weapons of mass destruction have not helped to solve the problems of mankind, such as the economic development of States, protection of the environment and the need to satisfy the basic requirements of mankind in regard to food, education and health. In fact, the expenditure of hundreds of billions of dollars each year for military purposes is a matter to be deplored, since the resources diverted to those purposes should be used to further the economic and social development of mankind. Accordingly, scientific and technological developments should be used solely to promote the cause of peace, freedom, independence and economic and social development, and not for purposes of aggression or interference in the internal affairs of States. The State of Qatar believes that the resolution adopted by the United Nations on the use of scientific and technological progress in the interests of peace and for the benefit of mankind should be implemented with a view to promoting world peace and safeguarding the most fundamental of all human rights, namely the right to life.

SUDAN

[Original: Arabic]
[18 September 1986]

62. The right of peoples and individuals to a free, secure and decent life is one of the fundamental and inalienable rights proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations.

63. The Sudan is making every effort, at the regional and international levels, to promote and strengthen international co-operation in various fields, to further the cause of peace and to eliminate the growing threat of war.

64. In keeping with its consistent policy of rejecting war and calling for the establishment of peace in all parts of the world, the Sudan views with satisfaction the present rapprochement between the two super-Powers, which are endeavouring to establish a framework of understanding with a view to limiting the possibility of nuclear conflict in such a way as to eliminate any threat to international peace and security and halt the arms race which, if uncontrolled, would constitute a catastrophe for mankind.

65. The scientific and technological developments witnessed in our present age are an indication of man's creative ability, as can be seen from his historic evolution. Moreover, man is still endeavouring to improve and enhance his environment with a view to ensuring the optimum degree of human well-being. It is essential that this tremendous progress in the field of science and technology should be used for the benefit of mankind and the well-being of all the peoples of the world and, in particular, for the promotion of development in the developing countries.

66. The Sudan is endeavouring at all levels to secure the rejection of war and recognition of the need to settle all conflicts by peaceful negotiation and to prohibit the use or threat of use of military force and any form of propaganda for war. The Sudan also reaffirms its resolute position in regard to the need to control nuclear armament, which poses a constant threat to the existence of the human race.

UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

[Original: Russian]
[14 November 1986]

67. The question of the use of scientific and technological advances is one of the most topical and urgent now confronting humanity. The rapid development of science and technology is opening up unprecedented opportunities for harnessing the forces of nature and improving material conditions so as to promote the flourishing of society and the harmonious development of the individual's personality. The constructive significance of the advances in question is underscored in the Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind which the United Nations General Assembly adopted in 1975 and in a number of resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights.

68. In the Ukrainian SSR, scientific and technological advances are transformed into a directly productive force that plays a decisive role in increasing the pace and the efficiency of the development of all sectors of the economy, in steadily raising the material and cultural levels of living of all sectors of the population, and in expanding the guarantees for the exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Further intensive use of the results of scientific and technological progress is provided for in the plans for the development of the Ukrainian economy for the period 1986-1990, which aim at the implementation of profound social and economic transformations.

69. As is, however, repeatedly pointed out in the 1975 Declaration and in other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights, scientific and technological advances may also be used to intensify the arms race and suppress national-liberation movements, to the detriment of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Events have justified that warning. As a result of the unbridled nuclear arms race and of the fanning of international tension, humanity today finds itself face to face with an historic choice between reconciling itself to a steady slide towards nuclear self-destruction and, by joint efforts, preventing the disaster and setting a course towards lasting and guaranteed peace.

70. For this reason, the Ukrainian SSR consistently advocates on the international scene that the results of scientific and technological progress should be used exclusively in the interests of strengthening general peace and security and the freedom, independence and economic and social development of peoples and of guaranteeing and materializing the entire range of every person's economic, social, cultural, political and civil rights, including the inalienable human right to life.

71. These efforts are underpinned by deeds. The Ukrainian SSR is a party to such international legal instruments concerning the limitation of the arms race as the 1963 Treaty banning nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water, the 1970 Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof and the 1972 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction and it unswervingly complies with its obligations under them.

72. Together with other members of the socialist community, the Ukrainian SSR has repeatedly made proposals in the United Nations for the strengthening of universal peace and the limitation of the arms race in other spheres. These proposals include those for the complete cessation of nuclear-weapon tests, the banning of chemical weapons and the elimination of stockpiles thereof, the prevention of the extension of the arms race to outer space, and so on. The Ukrainian SSR is among the socialist countries that have jointly sponsored the proposal for the establishment of a comprehensive system of international peace and security that has been submitted to the General Assembly for consideration at its forty-first session.

73. The arms race also has pernicious consequences for the securing of social, economic and cultural rights, since it diverts enormous material and intellectual resources from the fulfilment of the urgent tasks of building for peace and enhancing the well-being of broad sectors of our populations. All

this, as representatives of the Republic have pointed out in various international forums, casts doubt on the prospects for resolving all humanity's other problems, including the problem of the social and economic development of developing countries.

74. That propaganda for war is inhuman and illegal is glaringly obvious. Accordingly, the Ukrainian SSR constantly strives at both the international and the national levels to expose the unfoundedness of the various doctrines and concepts that seek to prove the "lawfulness" of the use of nuclear weapons and the "admissibility" of nuclear war.

75. The use of the results of scientific and technological progress for inhuman purposes is fraught with unpredictable consequences and opens up a direct route to the ruin of civilization. The nuclear and space age requires a special sense of responsibility and new approaches to the realities around us.

II. Reply from the United Nations Fund for Science and Technology
for Development

76. The United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development will be giving full consideration to the pertinent resolutions of the United Nations organs in its work.

III. Replies from non-governmental organizations

ARAB LABOUR ORGANIZATION

[Original: Arabic]
[24 March 1987]

77. The Arab Labour Organization (ALO) submitted a report */ which contained information bearing on the matter: the general report of the Secretary-General of the ALO to the fifteenth session (1987) of the annual conference of ALO, which comprises as usual general coverage of ALO activities, including activities connected with human rights and scientific and technological developments.

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC INTERNATIONAL

[Original: French]
[3 July 1987]

78. Resolution on scientific and technological progress

"The Political Bureau of the Christian Democratic International, meeting at Brussels on 26 June 1987,

Bearing in mind United Nations General Assembly resolutions 41/113 and 41/115 [of 4 December 1986] concerning the significance of scientific and technological developments for respect for human rights,

Aware that, unless its application is subject to moral and ethical standards and the yardstick of the common good, scientific and technological progress can pose serious threats to the human race,

Concerned at the existence of two dangerous schools of thought in this regard, one of which holds that science should enjoy complete freedom and that scientific research and experimentation should be accorded all necessary facilities and full legal protection, and the other of which holds that the attainment of political and ideological objectives is important enough to justify the instrumentalization of man and nature,

*/ The report is kept in the files of the secretariat and can be made available for consultation upon request (Arabic only).

Declares that Christian democratic forces must do everything in their power, at both the national and the world levels, to ensure that the results of scientific and technological progress are favourable to the individual and to society and to promote the universal establishment of the principles of liberty, justice and peace,

Draws the attention of its supporters to the obligations that this problem places upon them in their activities."