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COORDINATION OF THE POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SPECIALIZED  
AGENCIES AND OTHER BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM:  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

Letter dated 5 July 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the  
Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed  
to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit, enclosed herewith, information on "The effects of the sanctions on scientific-technological development of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia" (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as an official document of the Economic and Social Council under agenda item 3 (a).

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC  
Ambassador  
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

THE EFFECTS OF THE SANCTIONS ON SCIENTIFIC-TECHNOLOGICAL  
DEVELOPMENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA

1. The sanctions of the international community imposed against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, unprecedented so far, have caused extensive damage to the country's overall development. Unlike any other sanctions imposed before, they affect areas that constitute a basis of international cultural communication (science, culture, sports), which in their essence and goals have always been considered of global importance, and such sanctions have not been applied against even the most notorious anti-democratic regimes nor in conflicts involving war in Europe and elsewhere.

2. From the very beginning, the sanctions have been one-sided, unjust and unfounded. They have dealt an additional blow to an economy already in recession and have placed the impoverished health sector, science, culture and sports in an extremely precarious position. They have hit hardest the most vulnerable social groups and hindered the process of the society's transition towards democracy. Furthermore, the isolation of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia adversely affects the overall development of the Balkans, disrupts natural, inevitable integration processes, and slows down social and economic transformations in the entire region of south-eastern Europe.

3. The enforcement of Security Council resolution 820 (1993) of 17 April 1993 virtually sealed off hermetically the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Close to 30 Security Council resolutions, often based on fabricated and false arguments, have culminated in a series of bans, retaliation and repressive measures placing Yugoslavia in the position of an international pariah. Many precedents were set and norms of international law in the broadest sense have been violated in the process.

4. Today, it is clearer than ever that education, science, culture and communication in an interdependent world require an unimpeded comprehensive development which is impossible if confined to national borders.

5. The international community has suspended the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia from participation in the work of the General Assembly and its subsidiary bodies as well as from participation in that of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). Recently, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has also made a decision on Yugoslavia's non-participation in some of its bodies. Yugoslavia has been completely

suspended from the European Centre for Medium-range Weather Forecasts and the Conference on the European Energy Charter.

6. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is currently confronted with the blockade, suspension, moratorium and cancellation of the following forms of international legal instruments in the field of scientific, technological and technical cooperation, with extremely negative consequences for scientific and technological development:

(a) International agreements, contracts, programmes: most international multilateral and bilateral agreements have been suspended, postponed or put on hold. For example, owing to the failure to grant a new national programme, with an estimated loss of US\$ 8 million in technical assistance (direct technical assistance and participation in the regional programme for Europe), participation in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was prevented. Likewise, as negotiations on the Poland and Hungary Assistance for Restructuring of the Economy Programme (PHARE) I programme with the European Union (EU) have been discontinued, the financing of a project worth approximately 45 million European currency units (ECUs) (allocated for the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia) has not materialized. Financial and other losses are much higher if numerous bilateral scientific and technical cooperation programmes with major industrialized countries are also taken into account;

(b) Projects: all projects with partners in the field of scientific, technological and technical cooperation have been discontinued, postponed or frozen. As a result, projects of special importance for the development of an efficient market economy in Yugoslavia cannot be implemented; there is no access to world know-how and it is impossible to exchange relevant materials, equipment and experts; it is impossible to obtain assistance (financial, technical etc.). For example, in the case of the United States of America alone approximately 100 joint projects have been cancelled. At the same time, the funds approved for those projects and credited to the accounts, and amounting to \$550,000 have been frozen. The financial support for the realization of 60 ongoing projects for which the funds had already been allocated by the American side (amounting to US\$ 400,000 for 1992) failed to materialize. For 1993, an additional US\$ 200,000 would have been approved for the remaining projects. As of May 1991, not a single project had received any funds, although a substantial number of projects had been professionally acclaimed and approved. An annual average was 10-20 approved projects, totalling US\$ 150,000-200,000. Similarly, projects in cooperation with other Western European countries (Italy, Germany, France, Spain and the Netherlands, in particular) and Eastern European countries (Russian Federation, Czech Republic, Poland etc.) have also been cancelled;

(c) International installations and databases: the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has been either excluded from or denied access to data of the most sophisticated international installations and databases (CERN, EARN, OLIS, BITNET, EURONET, RESIS, DIALOG, ECHO, CEN, EUROBASE, HOSTOM, DIS), which resulted in the discontinuation of communication with Europe and the rest of the world and Yugoslavia's inability to obtain necessary information to adapt its production, technical and scientific standards. That will undoubtedly reverse scientific and technological development and make it impossible for us to join in international trends. Moreover, Yugoslavia cannot participate in

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international meetings. The works of Yugoslav experts cannot be published in international publications. There is no exchange of publications and other scientific and technological information. There are difficulties in the protection of patents, licences etc.;

(d) Equipment: since the import of equipment into the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has been prohibited, Yugoslav scientific institutions as well as the economy as a whole have been unable to obtain equipment (spare parts, chemicals) for the purposes not only of upgrading their technical capacities but also of maintaining existing capacities, which were largely supplied from developed countries. A total of approximately 16 million pieces of equipment are lacking. In view of the crucial role of equipment in scientific and particularly technical-technological development, it is only natural that the quantity and quality of research and the efficient application of scientific achievements have declined;

(e) Advanced professional training: almost all forms of scientific training of Yugoslav experts abroad have been discontinued (particularly the most important forms such as specializations, postgraduate studies etc.), since those were based mostly on international agreements and contracts (government agreements, joint Yugoslav-United States scientific funds, the Trans-European Mobility Scheme for University Studies (TEMPUS) and the Fullbright programme). At least 500 Yugoslav scientists and young experts were taking advantage of the benefits of professional training abroad on the basis of various inter-State agreements (over 100 with the United States, 50 within the Fullbright programme, 30 with international organizations, 25 with Japan etc.);

(f) Brain drain: in the wake of such hardships, a growing number of young scientists left the country, and this has had adverse effects on the work of some institutions in the country (owing to the departure of their scientists) and on future plans (involving newly graduated students, specialists that are needed in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia). According to the results of polls, from universities and prestigious scientific institutes alone (at the end of 1991, in 1992 and at the beginning of 1993), 476 experts (professors, doctors, postgraduates, assistant professors, mechanical engineers, electrical engineers, technologists) have left. A large number of newly graduated students and high-school graduates have emigrated.

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