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HUMAN RIGHTS AND SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 35/130 A of 11 December 1980, the General Assembly reaffirmed the great importance of the Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind, adopted by the Assembly in its resolution 3384 (XXX) of 10 November 1975, and stressed the importance of implementing the provisions and principles contained in the Declaration in order to promote human rights and economic and social development of peoples.
2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its thirty-sixth session a report prepared on the basis of the information received from Member States regarding the implementation of the provisions of the Declaration.
3. Consequently, the Secretary-General, in a note verbale of 2 March 1981, requested all Member States to provide the information described in Assembly resolution 35/130 A. A copy of the Declaration was also sent to all Member States.
4. As at 20 September 1981, 13 replies had been received from Governments. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/41 of 19 May 1979, entitled "Control and limitation of documentation", and General Assembly resolutions 34/50 of 23 November 1979 and 35/10 A of 3 November 1980, the contents of the more lengthy replies received have not been reproduced in extenso. The full texts of these replies are on file in the Secretariat and are available for consultation if desired.

II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

[Original: Russian]

[2 June 1981]

1. In view of the decisive role of scientific and technological progress in mankind's development, ... the Byelorussian SSR co-sponsored at the thirtieth session of the General Assembly the Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind.
2. The Byelorussian SSR believes that all States must promote international co-operation to ensure that the results of scientific and technological developments are used in the interests of strengthening international peace and security, freedom and independence, and also for the purpose of the economic and social development of peoples and the realization of human rights and freedoms in accordance with the charter of the United Nations.
...
3. In the Byelorussian SSR, the provisions of the Declaration are constantly being implemented. The socialist structure creates all the necessary conditions for the acceleration of scientific and technological progress and the use of its achievements for the progressive development of society and the fulfilment of the individual. ...
4. Article 15 of the constitution of the Byelorussian SSR precisely defines the supreme goal and communal aim of social production: "the fullest possible satisfaction of the people's growing material, and cultural and intellectual requirements". It is precisely in these conditions that scientific and technological progress gives mankind more comprehensive economic, social, cultural and other rights.
5. Because of the fast pace of scientific and technological progress in the Byelorussian SSR, ... the people's well-being is steadily improving. From 1976 to 1980, for example, real per capita income grew by 19 per cent and the average monthly remuneration of manual and non-manual workers increased by 20 per cent, while pay for collective farm workers rose by 32 per cent. During the same period, 21 million square metres of new housing was provided, which made it possible to improve the housing conditions of 1.9 million people, i.e., one fifth of the country's citizens.
6. The eleventh five-year plan, covering the period 1981-1985, ... envisages further onward movement of Soviet society in all areas of communal life. On the basis of the high rate of scientific and technological progress predicted for the Byelorussian SSR under the plan, during this period real per capita income will increase and major efforts will be made to create more favourable conditions for

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the work, life, education, health care and leisure activities of the whole population.

7. Under our country's planned socialist system, such social ills as unemployment were eliminated from society long ago - over 50 years ago. The Byelorussian Constitution ... provides that "Citizens of the Byelorussian SSR have the right to work (that is, to guaranteed employment and pay in accordance with the quantity and quality of their work and not below the State-established minimum), including the right to choose their trade or profession, type of job and work in accordance with their inclinations, abilities, training and education, with due account of the needs of society.

8. "This right is ensured by the socialist economic system, steady growth of the productive forces, free vocational and professional training, improvement of skills, training in new trades or professions, and development of the systems of vocational guidance and job placement."

9. The economic integration of the MEA member countries is increasingly playing a role in the achievement of scientific and technological progress in the socialist countries. It facilitates the most effective concentration of forces on major efforts and allows savings through specialized mass production of technology.

10. According to the Byelorussian Constitution (art. 45), citizens of the Byelorussian SSR, in accordance with the aims of building communism, are guaranteed freedom of scientific, technical and artistic work. This freedom is ensured by broadening scientific research, encouraging invention and innovation, and developing literature and the arts. The State provides the necessary material conditions for this and support for voluntary societies and unions of workers, organizes introduction of inventions and innovations in production and other spheres of activity.

11. The constitution further proclaims (art. 21) that the State concerns itself with improving working conditions, safety and labour protection and the scientific organization of work, and with reducing and ultimately eliminating all arduous physical labour through comprehensive mechanization and automation of production processes in all branches of the economy.

12. At present, over 176,000 people are employed in the area of science and technology in the Republic, of whom 36,000 are scientists and teachers of science. A large network of research, design construction and technological establishments has been created.

13. Wide sections of the population take a very active part in the acceleration of scientific and technological progress. Some 400,000 people are members of voluntary scientific and technical societies, and the members of a voluntary group for inventors and innovators number 350,000, of which over 170,000 are manual workers.

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14. Article 43 of the onstitution proclaims: "Citizens of the Byelorussian SSR have the right to education.
15. "This right is ensured by free provision of all forms of education, by the institution of universal, compulsory secondary education, and broad development of vocational, specialized secondary and higher education, in which instruction is oriented toward practical activity and production; by the development of extramural, correspondence and evening courses; by the provision of State scholarships and grants and privileges for students; by the free issue of school textbooks; by the opportunity to attend a school where teaching is in the native language; and by the provision of facilities for self-education."
16. Over 3.5 million of the 9.6 million citizens of the Byelorussian SSR are involved in various types of instruction.
17. The Declaration's provision concerning the need to take measures ... to prevent infringement upon 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, is extremely important. The relevance of that provision of the Declaration is especially obvious in those capitalist countries where a system of complete surveillance and interference in privacy through the use of scientific and technological devices has been created and is expanding.
18. Respect for the individual and protection of the rights and freedoms of citizens is embodied and guaranteed in the Byelorussian onstitution (art. 55). Citizens of the Byelorussian SSR have the right to protection by the courts against encroachment on their honour and reputation, life and health, and personal freedom and property. Furthermore, under article 54 of the onstitution, the privacy of citizens and of their correspondence, telephone conversations and telegraphic communications is protected by law.
- ...
19. Citizens of the Byelorussian SSR are guaranteed inviolability of the person (art. 52 of the Constitution).
20. Equitable international scientific and technological co-operation facilitates scientific and technological progress. The Byelorussian SSR has broad scientific and technological contacts with many countries, including developing countries. Byelorussian specialists are working successfully in many of them and these countries are being provided with modern technology produced in the Byelorussian SSR. Thousands of specialists from developing countries are being educated in specialized higher and secondary educational institutions in the Byelorussian SSR. ...
21. We view the Declaration as an important instrument ... emphasizing the need for the adoption at the national and international levels of effective and urgent measures to eliminate the possible adverse consequences for peace, human rights and the entire world community of scientific and technological development. A

scandalous example of the use of scientific and technological progress against mankind is the arms race and the development of still more systems of weapons of mass destructions.

...

22. The Byelorussian SSR is firmly convinced that essential prerequisites for successful international scientific and technological co-operation and for the application of the results of scientific and technological progress to development are the strengthening of peace and international security, peaceful coexistence, the curbing of the arms race, the preservation and expansion of détente, support for the just struggle of peoples fighting for freedom and independence, the suppression of the aggressive intrigues of imperialism and the restructuring of international economic relations on a just and equitable basis.

BURUNDI

[Original: French]

[1 April 1981]

1. The Republic of Burundi is firmly committed to the Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind, because the Declaration highlights basic principles which could end and prevent any use of the results of scientific and technological progress that might not be in the interests of peace and for the benefit of mankind. ...

...

2. Despite its full support for the principles of the Declaration, which has led it to take all measures necessary to implement them, and although it unflinchingly opposes any reprehensible use wherever it may occur, the Republic of Burundi must draw attention to the discrepancy as regards technological and scientific development which persists between developed and developing countries, of which the Republic of Burundi is one, and which could have an important impact on progress in the many uses of the results of scientific and technological progress.

3. Objective situations arising from this observed discrepancy, together with the influence of countries whose ability to use the advances of science and technology is commensurate with the high level of development of those sectors, are the specific matters which should be given special consideration by the Secretary-General.

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DOMINICA

[Original: English]

[9 July 1981]

1. Dominica is a developing country and has for a long time been a recipient of different innovations in science originating from developed countries. Because of its limited resources and capabilities she was in no position to institutionalize measures to ensure that scientific and technological achievements satisfy the material needs of her population.

2. Times, however, are changing, and Dominica today is responding positively to the winds of scientific and technological drive moving across the third world countries. To challenge her resources and potential, the Government of Dominica has taken the positive step of establishing a full-fledged Council of Science and Technology. The Council oversees and initiates scientific and technological research into local problem areas (agriculture, roads, energy and marine resources). Its activities are not merely academic but are designed to bring practical benefits to the individual citizen. Through the various programmes developed and contemplated it is hoped that the realization of the objectives of such programmes will accelerate the realization of social and economic advancement of the people. As an instrument of Government the Council is committed to the use of scientific and technological achievements, not to interfere with the enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedom of the individual but to provide solutions to problems both at village, town and national levels and expose individuals to benefits of solutions sought to scientific problems.

3. Perhaps a look at some of the programmes being developed might be instructive:

A. Solar distillery

4. This encourages the use of non-conventional energy sources. The use of alternative energy resources is the study of much research in preparation for the future energy crisis. Solar distillery provides an adequate solution to energy needs in the field of laurel or essential oil. Additionally, there is increasing need to produce and utilize (local and export) industrial grade water, solar distillery offers a cheap and efficient method.

5. In our choice of solar energy we are guarding against environmental pollution - a factor of serious concern for humanity.

B. Study on reduction of post-harvest crop losses

6. Post harvest crop losses is a worrying aspect of our agricultural economics. A study is being formalized to deal with this problem and precipitate the desired technological solution.

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C. Medicinal plants

7. A number of plants in Dominica are of pharmaceutical importance. There is a need to characterize these through a study of their physiological constitution. A verifiable objective of this project will be to awaken the individual to the potential for healing in these plants - consequently the peoples' use of them will increase (a direct benefit) and their economic viability will be exploited.

8. The council continues to work to ensure beneficial external and internal technology transfer in Dominica.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

[Original: Spanish]

[15 April 1981]

1. On assuming power on 16 August 1978, His Excellency the President of the Republic outlined his programme of government based on leading the country towards greater technological development as one of the measures designed to achieve growth in the economy and the country's finances, with a view to the diversification of production in many varied ways which, in the future, could allow us increasingly to transcend our status of developing country and thus become a self-sufficient nation.

2. The Dominican Government's energetic action has facilitated the economic rehabilitation which is already being contemplated in the wake of the destruction caused by the forces of nature throughout a considerable portion of the country.

3. Among the actions designed for this purpose are facilities granted to industry, which have allowed new enterprises to emerge, thus creating jobs and reducing unemployment reasonably while boosting productivity.

4. We would mention that the industrial free zones in the country have satisfactorily contributed to the increase in production with the assistance of modern technology.

5. Agrarian reform is another method of achieving the same goal.

6. In this climate of employment and government services benefiting the citizens of the Republic, supported by the protection given to human rights which is so complete that it affects law and order, excellent results have been obtained, not only in line with the relevant principles of our Constitution but also in terms of respect for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the American Convention on Human Rights, to which we are a party.

7. We maintain the spirit of international solidarity and co-operation and can mention, for example, the fact that the delegation of the United States of America and the delegation of the Dominican Republic agreed during the general assembly of

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the Organization of American States held in Grenada that the struggle to implement human rights constitutes mankind's safeguard and the path leading nations to peaceful coexistence and world peace.

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

[Original: English]

[10 July 1981]

1. The German Democratic Republic actively supports the efforts within the United Nations Organization to implement world-wide the provisions of the Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind adopted in resolution 3348 (XXX).

...

2. The policy of the German Democratic Republic has always been aimed at strictly observing and promoting the progress-oriented and humanistic nature of science. The Constitution of the German Democratic Republic, therefore, prohibits in article 17 any misuse of science directed against peace, international understanding, against the life and the dignity of man.

3. The principles concerning the development of science and technology set out in the Declaration have become every-day practice in the German Democratic Republic.

...

4. Also, in international relations the German Democratic Republic recognizes the ever greater importance of scientific and technological co-operation among States. In today's world, economic and social development is inconceivable without the application of achievements of science and technology.

...

5. In accordance with the aims and provisions of the Declaration, the German Democratic Republic advocates the position that the activities of the United Nations related to science and technology should be focused on the struggle against any misuse of scientific-technological achievements for fomenting competitive armament, developing increasingly inhuman weapons of mass destruction and exacerbating neo-colonialist expropriation of developing countries. Questions of disarmament and the safeguarding of peace have a direct impact on the development and application of scientific and technological findings, first of all, with regard to the funds and potentials that could be saved by the implementation of disarmament measures and be use for peaceful purposes. To this particular effect the socialist countries have made several proposals.

6. Finally, the German Democratic Republic holds the view that effective disarmament measures will be an essential basis for the world-wide realization of

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the Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Intrests of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind. Such a position coincides with the most important task of the United Nations, i.e. the maintenance of international peace and security and the promotion of peaceful co-operation among States.

ISRAEL

[Original: English]

[29 June 1981]

1. A new Israeli statute, the Protection of Privacy Law, 1981, published on 11 March 1981, contains provisions relating to protection of privacy in data bases, i.e. centres for the storage of information by means of automatic data-processing systems. These provisions will come into effect six months after the date of publication of the statute.
2. The data that are protected relate to a person's intimate affairs, his personality, status, health, economic position, vocational qualifications, opinions or beliefs. The statute prohibits the managing or keeping of a data base unless it is registered in a special register by a registrar who is given specific powers for the purpose under the statute.
3. An application for registration of a data base must specify, inter alia, the purposes for which the data base is intended. Such purposes must be approved by the registrar, and the base may not be used for any unauthorized purpose.
4. Generally speaking, any person has the right to inspect information about himself in a data base and to require its amendment where incorrect or incomplete.
5. Criminal penalties are laid down for unauthorized revealing of informtion from data bases.

KUWAIT

[Original: English]

[27 April 1981]

1. The Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), established in 1976 on the initiative of His Highness the Emir of Kuwait with the suport and participation of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce, is a public benefit, grant-awarding institution.

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2. Its objectives are the following:

(a) Support through grants, pure and applied research in the natural, engineering, health, food, social, and economic sciences;

(b) Promote and support through grants and project related investments research and development relevant to the Kuwaiti economy;

(c) Support through grants, prizes and awards intellectual development in Kuwait and other Arab countries;

(d) Support through fellowships, workshops, seminars, and conferences the training of Kuwaitis in science;

(e) Promote and support the development of links and co-operative programmes between Kuwaitis and other Arab and international scientific entities.

MALTA

[Original: English]

[17 June 1981]

1. There is absolutely no discrimination whatsoever in schools under the jurisdiction of the Education Department on the grounds of race, sex, language or religious belief. This applies also to the University.

2. All pupils follow courses in science and other subjects which are suitably structured to help them achieve objectives of the Declaration.

3. The contents of the Declaration are being adhered to by the University of Malta. In addition, the teaching in the Faculty of Laws is compatible with the resolutions of the United Nations and courses in the Faculty promote the fullest realisation of human rights. Free circulation and mobility of students is encouraged and admission to courses is based on the students' academic merits.

4. The role of the public libraries is mainly intellectual. They furnish the basic means to supplement the instruction provided by the State and to enhance the requisite knowledge for ensuring scientific, technological progress in Malta and to imbue the Maltese citizens with the sense of using such progress only for the national advancement and the continued existence of international peace and security.

NETHERLANDS

[Original: English]

[22 May 1981]

1. The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Office of the United Nations and other international organizations at Geneva has the honour to inform the Secretary-General that the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands does not intend to provide information regarding the implementation of the provisions of the Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind.

QATAR

[Original: Arabic]

[1 May 1981]

1. The State of Qatar is particularly concerned about the problem of protecting large sectors of its population from social and material inequality and from the harmful effects that might result from the use of scientific and technological developments. In the field of human rights and the transfer and development of technology, the State of Qatar has affirmed in its development plans that concern must be shown for the human person, who is both the means and the end in the process of the development of science and technology which is ultimately designed to ensure his welfare. On this basis, the State of Qatar has, in recent years, been concentrating on raising the level of its nationals to an extent that would enable them to assimilate and adapt technology in furtherance of their country's hopes and aspirations with regard to the achievement of prosperity and welfare.
2. To this end, the State has been consistently promoting academic and technical education.
3. In view of the State's increasing concern about the question of solar energy and the peaceful uses of atomic energy, particularly in the field of the generation of electricity and sea-water desalination, a Centre for Research and Applied Science has been established within the framework of the University of Qatar.
4. In view of the scarcity of potable water, which is impeding the country's endeavours to provide its people with a minimum of food security, the State is undertaking research in connexion with soil studies and modern technological methods of irrigation in order to cultivate the maximum area of land with the minimum amount of water. In the industrial field, petrochemical, fertilizer, iron and steel industries have been established in view of the availability of the raw materials needed for those industries. Plans are also being made for the implementation of other appropriate projects for the investment of the financial surpluses currently available, of which optimum use must be made in the interests of future generations after petroleum resources have been exhausted.

5. In addition to the above, legislation has recently been promulgated under which foreign firms engaged in the transfer of technology and the implementation of new projects under government contracts are compelled to train an adequate number of Qatar nationals in their plants and workshops in order to ensure the absorption of the technology pertaining to those projects. In this field, the State of Qatar is actively participating in the current dialogue between the Arab States and the countries of the European Community, particularly in the Committee on Scientific and Technological Co-operation.

6. Believing that human development is an integral whole and that science, technology and knowledge are the property of the entire human race, the State of Qatar is doing its utmost to build a national technological base for its people in spite of the difficulties that are impeding the transfer of technology from the developed countries.

7. In collaboration with the Arab States and the other developing countries, the State of Qatar is endeavouring to draft a model agreement for the importation of technology into the Arab countries in such a way as to protect the rights of the beneficiaries in the Arab countries and to prevent any exploitation or abuse on the part of the exporters of technology. The State of Qatar believes that the revenues accruing to it and to sister Arab States from their energy resources will help to ensure the welfare and prosperity of present and future generations. The State of Qatar calls upon the Western countries to transfer technology to the developing countries, including the State of Qatar, in keeping with the United Nations resolutions in this respect. In its development plans, the State of Qatar has emphasized that the use of science and technology is conducive to:

(a) The promotion of international peace and security and of the fundamental rights of peoples;

(b) The strengthening and guarantee of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(c) The facilitation and protection of the enjoyment by the entire population of their right to work, education, food, health and economic, social and cultural welfare through the improvement of their standard of living.

ROMANIA

[Original: French]

[28 July 1981]

1. Romania is deeply committed to the humanist principles underlying the Declaration of the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind.

...

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2. Scientific and technological progress and the promotion of fundamental human rights are closely interrelated. Science and technology make an important contribution to the improvement of human life everywhere and to the realization of the ideals of freedom, peace and prosperity for all peoples. Science and peace are inseparable; the achievements of science and technology should serve the cause of détente, understanding and fruitful co-operation among nations.

...

3. The use of the achievements of science and technology for the promotion of human rights is very much affected by the fact that vast material resources and considerable scientific research potential are absorbed by the arms race and by competition to produce increasingly destructive weapons, which pose an enormous threat to world civilization and the human race itself.

4. In such circumstances, the implementation of the Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind requires ... an active struggle to achieve disarmament, détente, peace and co-operation. Rising above any differences in political, philosophical and religious outlook, men of science everywhere have the lofty humanist duty to struggle uncompromisingly so that the product of their thought and the results of their creative efforts are used not for war and hatred among people but to build a better, more just world.

...

5. Romania believes that military spending should be reduced and a large portion of the savings used to develop scientific and technological research, for economic and social progress and to improve the well-being of peoples.

...

6. In line with this view, ... in Romania nearly 200,000 people are involved in research and development activities which are resolutely directed towards the specific needs of industry and agriculture and the increased use of raw materials and energy resources to improve production quality and increase productivity of social labour.

...

7. The programme directive for scientific research, technological development and the introduction of technological advances for the period 1981-1990 and the principal guidelines through the year 2000 envisage appropriate measures to keep mankind in the full flower of its creative powers and an in-depth study of environmental factors and living and working conditions. Particular stress is placed on the improvement of living conditions in urban and rural areas.

8. The country's development plans include important provisions designed to expand the process of integrating educational activities, scientific research and production.

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9. Over 20,000 foreign students study in Romania. The majority come from developing countries and specialize in various fields of science and technology, which will allow them upon returning to their countries to contribute directly to their development.
10. Romania has concluded bilateral scientific and technological co-operation agreements with nearly 80 countries; this provides the legal framework required for a number of important activities in the field of science and technology.
11. In 1970, with a view to stimulating international scientific and technological co-operation, Romania requested the inclusion in the agenda of the twenty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly of an item entitled "The role of modern science and technology in national development and the need to strengthen economic, technical and scientific co-operation among States". This initiative led to the organization in 1979 of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development.
12. Romania hosted the ministerial meeting of the Group of 77 which preceded the Conference and which played an active role in elaborating the Programme of Action adopted by the Conference.
13. In the context of efforts to establish the new international economic order, Romania advocates equitable scientific and technological co-operation truly giving all peoples free access to the achievements of modern science and ensuring the unimpeded transfer of technologies to all countries, primarily the developing countries.
14. Romania finds it extremely anomalous that a whole series of scientific discoveries and achievements have not been disseminated more widely and that they have been subject to a monopolistic policy barring the access of large populations to the benefits of modern civilization. The supreme goal of science should be the improvement of the material, social and spiritual living conditions of all mankind. The realization of that goal requires the elimination of all discrimination in and obstacles and restrictions to the circulation of the assets of scientific knowledge and the free access of all nations, primarily the developing ones, to the fruits of the technological and scientific revolution. Science is called on to play a more active role in the elimination of the phenomenon of under-development, the most productive exploitation of the national riches of peoples, the development of industrial agriculture, the protection of the environment and the improvement of the quality of life of people everywhere.
15. In the light of the foregoing, Romania believes that the consideration at the thirty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly of the agenda item entitled "Human rights and scientific and technological developments" will lead to the identification of new, practical measures for implementing the provisions of the Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind.

SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

[Original: English]

[16 June 1981]

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is prepared to adhere to the principles enshrined in the Declaration proclaimed by the General Assembly on 15 November 1975 in resolution 3384 (XXX), and states that there are no breaches of the provisions of the Declaration here in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

SIERRA LEONE

[Original: English]

[2 June 1981]

I wish to inform you, on behalf of the Minister, that no legislative measures have been introduced as yet by the Government of Sierra Leone to implement the provisions of the Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind.
