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HUMAN RIGHTS AND SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Report of the Secretary-General

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\* A/38/150.

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 35/130 A of 11 December 1980, the General Assembly, inter alia, stressed the importance of implementing the provisions and principles contained in 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, in order to promote human rights and economic and social development of peoples, and requested the Secretary-General to submit to it 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.
2. In a note verbale of 2 March 1981, the Secretary-General requested all Member States to provide the information described in resolution 35/130 A.
3. At its thirty-sixth session, the General Assembly had before it a report of the Secretary-General (A/36/429 and Add.1 and 2), which contained replies from the following Member States: Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Dominica, Dominican Republic, German Democratic Republic, Israel, Kuwait, Malta, Netherlands, Qatar, Romania, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Sierra Leone.
4. In its resolution 36/56 of 25 November 1981, the General Assembly, inter alia, requested the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to take into account in their programmes and activities the provisions of the Declaration, and invited those Member States, specialized agencies and other organizations that had not yet done so to submit their information in accordance with resolution 35/130 A.
5. In a note verbale of 31 March 1982, the Secretary-General requested those Member States that had not yet done so to submit their information in accordance with resolution 35/130 A. On the same date, a note verbale was sent to the specialized agencies and other relevant organizations of the United Nations system.
6. At its thirty-seventh session, the General Assembly had before it a report of the Secretary-General (A/37/330 and Add.1) containing communications from the following Member States: Austria, Cuba, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Jordan, Liberia, Pakistan, Philippines, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The report also contained replies received from the United Nations University, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization, the World Bank, the International Telecommunication Union and the International Atomic Energy Agency.
7. In its resolution 37/189 B of 18 December 1982, the General Assembly, inter alia, invited those Member States, specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that had not yet done so to submit their information in accordance with resolution 35/130 A.

8. In accordance with resolution 37/189 B, a note verbale was sent on 31 March 1983 by the Secretary-General to those Member States, specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that had not yet complied with the previous request addressed to them.

9. As at 5 August 1983, substantive replies had been received from the following Governments: Afghanistan, Cyprus, Indonesia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Suriname and Thailand. A summary of the replies received will be found in section II of this report.\*

## II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

### AFGHANISTAN

[Original: English]

[4 June 1983]

1. Although Afghanistan is not highly developed in science and technology, it attaches great importance to the use of scientific and technological progress in the interests of peace and the benefit of mankind.

2. Scientific and technological progress, if used in the interests of humanity, make it possible to save mankind from hunger and disease, to facilitate labour, to raise productivity and promote social and material progress. But, unfortunately, there are countries that are using scientific and technological progress for escalating the arms race and building up weapons of mass destruction. They are actively engaged in power politics and the aggravation of international tension.

3. The peace-loving countries are consistently working for broader international co-operation in various fields of science, technology and industry and for the elimination of all artificial restrictions and discrimination in world trade. But there are countries that impose restrictions on the transfer of technology, especially highly developed and sophisticated technology, to other countries for peaceful purposes.

4. The present situation of the contemporary world requires fruitful co-operation, particularly in solving global problems associated with scientific and technological progress. Joint efforts of the States are necessary in order to use scientific and technological achievements to promote peaceful social, economic and cultural development and progress. Scientific and technological progress can also play an important role in the establishment of a new international economic order.

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\* The full text of all replies received is available for consultation in the file of the United Nations Secretariat.

5. Afghanistan fully supports the Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind. It believes that its implementation will help further to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms.
6. All nations, particularly industrially developed nations, should take honest and sincere steps towards the real implementation of the provisions of the Declaration and refrain from any acts involving the use of scientific and technological achievement for the purposes of violating the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other States, waging aggressive wars and suppressing national liberation movements.
7. Afghanistan will continue to take proper measures, including legislative measures, to ensure that the utilization of scientific and technological achievements will serve the interests of our toiling peoples and those of all humanity and will result in the promotion of human rights and the fundamental freedoms and the dignity of the human being.

CYPRUS

[Original: English]

[30 June 1983]

1. The Government of Cyprus is totally in agreement with the Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind.
2. In its effort to participate actively in research, it is engaged in industrial applied research projects, mostly in the field of energy.
3. The introduction of modern technology is viewed by the Government of Cyprus as one of the main engines of economic progress and modernization. Special efforts are made in Cyprus so as to ensure that the fruits of technological advance are spread evenly among all classes of the population. Technology should be used for the benefit of mankind and not for destructive purposes. Cyprus fully supports the efforts aiming at the diversion of resources from arms production to peaceful uses. Therefore, the United Nations should continue its efforts to create more effective mechanisms for the transfer of technology to developing countries.
4. Further, Cyprus is fully aware that technological developments may have a detrimental effect on the full and unhindered enjoyment of human rights. Human rights, however, are guaranteed by the Constitution of Cyprus, and the independent judiciary provides a guarantee that there will be no misuse of technology.

INDONESIA

[Original: English]

[14 July 1983]

In Indonesia, scientific and technological progress is being used in the interests of peace and for benefit of mankind. Furthermore, Indonesia does not develop and use science and technology in the interests of war.

LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA

[Original: Arabic]

[1 May 1983]

1. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has always emphasized the need for equality and peaceful coexistence among peoples and has consistently upheld the primary right of the small developing countries to live in peace and on a footing of equality with the major Powers. Accordingly, it fully supports the Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind.

2. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya strongly opposes any use of scientific and technological progress achieved by human ingenuity for the enslavement of individuals or peoples. It condemns the manner in which some colonialist nations are flagrantly violating individual freedom and the right of all people to live in peace and prosperity. It further condemns the colonialist and racist countries and, primarily, the Zionist and South African racist régimes for their acts of repression in violation of the rights of the peoples of Palestine and Namibia to freedom, self-determination and a life of peace within their homelands.

3. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya believes that scientific and technological progress should be used for the benefit of the whole of mankind irrespective of race, sex or colour. It applies scientific and technological progress in various economic and social fields in the interest and for the welfare and happiness of the Libyan citizens.

4. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya is fully prepared to exchange scientific research and know-how, together with any scientific and technological applications, with other countries, especially the countrirs of the third world.

5. In international forums, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has always expressed, and continues to express, its categorical rejection of the use of technological progress as an instrument for the intimidation and domination of smaller peoples struggling for freedom. We believe that the seas and oceans should be used for the benefit of mankind as a whole and not merely by naval fleets that threaten the security and happiness of peoples.

6. The philosophy of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya is fundamentally and primarily based on the concept of the full freedom of peoples to decide their own destiny without interference from any Government, party or political grouping.

7. Regarding education, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya emphasizes the citizen's right to the free choice of his preferred field of specialization without any compulsory orientation towards a particular field of study. The community provides all types of education while leaving the individual free to study the academic subject of his choice.

8. In accordance with its philosophy, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has been putting an end to the monopolization of science and technology, which should be placed at the disposal of all.

9. The major Powers have a heavy obligation with regard to the application of the lofty principles of the Declaration, for it is they who are principally and primarily called upon to respect its provisions with a view to re-establishing harmony in human relations and putting an end to the law of the jungle whereby survival belongs to the strongest, capable of using science and technology for the destruction of the planet and of the human race.

#### NIGERIA

[Original: English]

[9 June 1983]

Nigeria adheres to the principles enunciated in General Assembly resolution 36/56 of 25 November 1981 in that national scientific and technological activities are geared primarily to the improvement of the quality of life of all citizens of Nigeria without any discrimination as to race/ethnicity, sex, religion or whatever. Similarly, the results of this effort are disseminated and utilized freely by the Nigerian populace without in any way infringing on the fundamental human rights of any citizens. The scientific and technological activities in Nigeria support the provisions enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (General Assembly resolution 217 A (III)). The National and Technological Act of 1980 emphasizes the development and application of science and technology to the enhancement of the well-being of everybody in the country in the interests of peace and tranquility among nations.

#### SAUDI ARABIA

[Original: English]

[12 April 1983]

The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has carefully observed and implemented the provisions of the Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind.

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SURINAME

[Original: English]

[4 August 1983]

The Government of the Republic of Suriname endorses the view contained in General Assembly resolution 3384 (XXX) of 10 November 1975. In Suriname, scientific and technological developments are being applied in the interests, and not to the detriment, of the people. Owing to its priority scheme, the Government of Suriname has not yet taken the necessary 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.

THAILAND

[Original: English]

[30 June 1983]

The Government of Thailand stated that, in accordance with the Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind, it has carried out its research policy and planning pursuant to the following principles:

- (a) Research must be implemented to promote the welfare, capacity and well-being of the people;
- (b) Research must be conducted to solve economic, cultural and environmental problems in order to maintain national integrity and culture;
- (c) Research must enhance technical knowledge that may lead to the development and evolution of science and technology.

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