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(Second part)

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Chairman: Mr. GONZALEZ DE LEON (Mexico)

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Human rights and scientific and technological developments

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HUMAN RIGHTS AND SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS (agenda item 15)
(E/CN.4/Sub.2/474 and annex, E/CN.4/Sub.2/1982/16, E/CN.4/Sub.2/1982/17)

Mr. HERNDL (Assistant Secretary-General, Centre for Human Rights), introducing the agenda item, said that between 1973 and 1976, on the basis of a recommendation by the International Conference on Human Rights held at Teheran in 1968, the Secretary-General had prepared a number of studies dealing with the general issue of the problems arising in connection with human rights from developments in science and technology. Those reports dealt, *inter alia*, with human rights problems caused by advances in biology, medicine and biochemistry and those relating to human experimentation and to genetic manipulation of microbes. The balance which should be established between scientific and technological progress and the intellectual, spiritual, cultural and moral advancement of humanity had also been studied. In all the studies, attention had been drawn to the positive impact of recent scientific and technological developments on human rights; at the same time, suggestions had been made regarding the establishment of safeguards to prevent such developments from restricting or impeding the effective enjoyment of those rights.

In its resolution 37/189B, the General Assembly had requested the Commission to give special attention to the question of the implementation 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 General Assembly at its thirtieth session. With regard to further studies of specific aspects of the question, the Commission, in its resolution 10A (XXXIII), had instructed the Sub-Commission to study, with a view to formulating guidelines, the question of the protection of persons detained on grounds of mental ill-health. A preliminary report (E/CN.4/Sub.2/474 and annex) had been prepared by Mrs. Daes, the Rapporteur mandated by the Sub-Commission to undertake the study, and submitted to the Sub-Commission at its thirty-fourth session and to the Commission at its thirty-eighth session.

A further report (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1982/16), including a draft body of guidelines, principles and guarantees for the protection of the human rights of persons suffering from mental ill-health had been examined by the Sub-Commission at its thirty-fifth session, at which it had established a sessional Working Group for the purpose. After considering the report of the Special Rapporteur, as well as that of the Working Group (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1982/17), the Sub-Commission had decided to recommend to the Commission the adoption of a draft resolution recommending that the Economic and Social Council should request the Rapporteur to supplement her latest report and that it should also request the Sub-Commission to establish at its thirty-sixth session a sessional working group to examine the body of principles, guidelines and guarantees, and submit the revised final report to the Commission at its fortieth session.

By resolution 37/188, the General Assembly had urged the Commission, and through it the Sub-Commission, to continue and expedite their consideration of the question to enable the Commission's views and recommendations to be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session through the Economic and Social Council.

The preparation of other studies dealing with the impact of scientific and technological progress on human rights had also been envisaged by the Commission and the Sub-Commission. Thus, a study on guidelines relating to the use of computerized personal files had been initiated. In its resolutions 38 (XXXVII) and 1982/4, the Commission had requested the Sub-Commission to undertake a study on the use of the achievements of scientific and technological progress to ensure the right to work and development. Another study, requested in Commission resolution 1982/7, would deal with

the negative consequences of the arms race for the exercise of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights, the establishment of the new international economic order and, above all, the inherent right to life. In that connection, he recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 37/189 A, had requested the Commission, in its future activities, to stress the need to ensure the cardinal right of everyone to life, liberty and security of person, and to live in peace.

Mr. KOOIJMANS (Netherlands) commended Mrs. Daes on her report (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1982/16), which contained a valuable draft body of guidelines, principles and guarantees for the protection of the mentally ill or persons suffering from mental disorder. The draft was modern in concept in that it took the mentally-ill patient rather than society as its starting point. It was clear that the mentally ill should be regarded, not as outcasts, but rather as a group which required support from within society. In that connection, his delegation welcomed draft article 28, which recognized the right of the patient "to active occupation ... designed to promote his rehabilitation and reintegration into the community".

His delegation also paid tribute to the guidance given by the Special Rapporteur for further elaboration of mental-health law, which was of cardinal importance for the protection of the human and legal rights of the patient.

One important aspect of the legal situation of mentally-ill persons was the restriction imposed on their freedom, which was usually enforced by internment in a mental institution. That serious measure called for legal guarantees, to enable patients to object to, and appeal against, any decision of internment, even in cases where they could not be considered to enjoy full legal capacity. The report warned that it might not always be prudent to give the exercise of those rights to the legal representative because that person might not be entirely impartial. It went without saying that a patient should also have the right to be heard before a competent authority in matters of internment or re-examination.

He noted that with regard to procedural guarantees for mentally-ill persons, the report referred to judgements by the European Court of Human Rights. One case was of particular importance to his delegation since it had been brought against the Netherlands by a Dutch citizen. In its judgement, the Court had formulated three minimum conditions which had to be satisfied in cases of detention of persons of unsound mind. The fact that the individual concerned was of unsound mind, must be established before a competent authority on the basis of objective medical expertise. Furthermore, the mental disorder must be of a kind or degree warranting compulsory confinement, and the validity of continued confinement had to depend upon the persistence of such a disorder.

The report also contained references to specific complaints concerning treatment of prisoners of conscience and other persons inside psychiatric hospitals. In some countries, drugs which were used commonly for treatment of certain types of mental illness had been administered routinely in excessive doses to prisoners of conscience. The persons in question had been detained in psychiatric institutions for the non-violent exercise of their human rights rather than for authentic medical reasons, since they were neither mentally unfit nor a danger to themselves or others. With regard to mental care in South Africa, it was stated that, by introducing the Mental Health Amendment Act of 1976, the South African authorities had imposed a ban on information and free discussion of the prevailing conditions and policies in the mental health services. Was it to be concluded that the South African authorities had something to hide?

His delegation wished to draw the attention of Mrs. Daes to the principles of medical ethics adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 37/194, which might provide some material to be incorporated in the draft body. In particular, the information on forcible confinement in psychiatric institutions for the non-violent exercise of human rights, rather than for authentic medical reasons, required appropriate attention by the Sub-Commission. The principles, which might contribute to the abolition of psychiatric abuse, stated, inter alia, that it was a contravention of medical ethics for health personnel, particularly physicians, to be involved in any professional relationship the purpose of which was not solely to evaluate, protect or improve the physical and mental health of persons detained.

Mr. BYKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that scientific and technological progress was an important factor in the development of human society and served to improve the living conditions of peoples. Scientific and technological achievements offered vast opportunities for speeding up the socio-economic progress of peoples and for realizing basic human rights. They enabled peoples to open up a new chapter in their history and to proceed to tackle such problems as the struggle against hunger, illness, poverty and economic backwardness. In fact, mankind would have made significant progress in the solution of those and other vitally important problems if the achievements of man's genius had been used exclusively for the benefit of mankind. However, the facts showed that there were forces which sought to use man's achievements, not for constructive ends, but for destruction, thereby jeopardizing the most important right of every person - the right to life.

The means of mass destruction had continued to grow, and more sophisticated weapons were being developed. New types of weapons, including neutron and chemical weapons, were being added to the arsenals of certain countries.

The purpose of the United States programme involving the development and production of nuclear weapons and systems for conducting military operations in and from outer space, was to increase the destructive potential of that country's military arsenal, particularly in Europe. The policy pursued by the United States and some of its allies was aimed at achieving military superiority thereby undermining international stability.

Their aggressive and dangerous doctrines such as "preemptive nuclear strike", "limited nuclear war" and "protracted nuclear conflict" were based on the calculation that it was possible to gain a victory in a nuclear war by being the first to use nuclear weapons. That was an irrational calculation because in a nuclear war there could be no victor. One must be blind to the realities of the times not to see that wherever a nuclear conflagration occurred, it would inevitably get out of control and lead to an over-all catastrophe.

In the next five years, the United States intended to spend no less than \$1.5 trillion for military purposes. It also planned to build up offensive weapons through the deployment of hundreds of new missiles with nuclear warheads in Western Europe.

According to a recent issue of Le Monde Diplomatique, the United States had formulated a doctrine under which it was preparing to unleash a preventive, i.e. aggressive, war involving the use of nuclear and chemical weapons. The doctrine had been adopted by NATO countries. In the opinion of the Soviet Union, a nuclear war would inevitably lead to the destruction of entire nations and have catastrophic

consequences for civilization as a whole. His Government considered it necessary to ban the use and threat of the use of nuclear weapons and to destroy such weapons before they destroyed life on earth.

Throughout the post-war period, from the time of the first atomic bombs, the USSR had steadfastly sought ways and means of halting the nuclear arms race. Mankind had no other solution than gradually to reduce and eventually eliminate the nuclear threat.

The arsenals of States also contained other means of mass destruction. It was horrifying to think that only a few kilograms of the tens of thousands of tons of poisonous substances possessed by some countries were sufficient to kill several million people. As a United States Senator had said, the United States already had a stockpile of chemical weapons sufficient to destroy every living thing on earth. In his delegation's opinion, it was necessary to avert that threat and to do everything possible to eliminate chemical weapons. The USSR had always spoken out in favour of banning the development, production and stockpiling of such weapons and advocated their destruction.

The overwhelming majority of the Members of the United Nations and world public opinion supported the adoption of effective measures to prevent nuclear war, including intensification of the negotiations aimed at halting the arms race and achieving disarmament. His Government had made several proposals relating to disarmament, in particular nuclear disarmament, and had taken some unilateral steps in that direction. It had reduced the number of its troops and weapons in Central Europe; it had halted the development of medium-range nuclear weapons and reduced stockpiles of them, and, lastly, it had pledged not to be the first to use nuclear weapons.

His Government would be in favour of the prohibition of any type of weapon on a reciprocal basis. If weapons continued to be stockpiled on an increasingly large scale and if the agreements reached in the arms race were being questioned, the responsibility must be borne by the other side, which was flexing its military muscles with a view to achieving military superiority.

Economists had calculated that each dollar earmarked for military purposes resulted in the loss of nearly 45,000 jobs in the civilian sector. Hundreds of billions of dollars were spent annually in the arms race, an expenditure which was irrational in a world where illness, illiteracy and hunger prevailed. The resources swallowed up in the arms race should be used to resolve socio-economic problems and to improve the living standards of peoples. The channelling of those resources for peaceful purposes would benefit all peoples, including those of developing countries, since it would make possible the provision of greater assistance to help them to overcome the backwardness inherited from colonial times.

Every State should turn its attention to the key question of preserving peace, preventing a nuclear catastrophe and ensuring the right to life. The USSR pursued a policy of defending peace and the right to life, as could be seen by its commitment not to be the first to use nuclear weapons. If other Powers followed its example, that would be tantamount to a prohibition of the use of such weapons and constitute an important safeguard for the right to life.

His Government rejected the pessimistic view that mankind had no other course than to stockpile weapons and to prepare for war. The Soviet Union and the entire socialist community proceeded from the premise that possibilities existed for channelling developments in Europe and throughout the world in a positive direction. That position was reflected in the proposal made in the Political Declaration, signed

by the States members of the Warsaw Treaty at Prague in January 1983, to conclude a treaty on the reciprocal non-use of military force and the maintenance of peaceful relations between the Warsaw Treaty States and the NATO States. The essence of that proposal was the rejection of the use of conventional and nuclear weapons, and the Warsaw Treaty members hoped that the other side would adopt a serious and objective approach to it.

The current situation in the world called for the mobilization of all efforts to achieve tangible results in halting the arms race and to create political and international legal guarantees ensuring the right to life. It was towards that end that all United Nations bodies, including the Commission, should direct their activities. Indeed, without the right to life, all other rights might prove meaningless.

His delegation was convinced that no contradictions between States or groups of States, differences in social structure, way of life or ideology or short-term interests should obscure the fundamental need to guarantee peace and to prevent nuclear war.

In conclusion, he recalled the statement by the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in November 1982 that the difficulties and tension which characterized current international situations could and should be overcome and that mankind could not continue to engage in the arms race and wage wars without jeopardizing its future.

Viscount COLVILLE OF CULROSS (United Kingdom) said that his delegation had noted with interest draft resolution E/CN.4/1982/L.75 and hoped that it would help to sharpen the focus of the Commission's debate, which had become somewhat stylized. In that connection, the report of the Secretary-General requested by the draft resolution would have an important role to play, and he hoped that it would concentrate on concerns of direct relevance to the Commission, namely human rights, civil and political, as well as economic, social and cultural. There was little point in receiving reports or having debates in the Commission which duplicated work in other more appropriate fora such as the First and Second Committees of the General Assembly.

His delegation had no objection in principle to the suggestion that the Commission should consider the item every two years, since that, too, might improve the quality of the debates. However, the establishment of such a biennial schedule for any item clearly must not prevent the Commission from giving full consideration to any reports under the item which it might receive from the Sub-Commission in the intervening year.

In that context, he drew the Commission's attention to draft resolution IX submitted by the Sub-Commission on the work being conducted by the Sub-Commission on a draft body of principles, guidelines and guarantees for the protection of persons detained on grounds of mental ill-health or suffering from mental disorder.

His delegation had demonstrated its interest in the subject, which was currently under discussion in the United Kingdom Parliament. The report prepared by Mrs. Daes, the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission, was under review by the Sub-Commission. His delegation had been looking forward to receiving the Sub-Commission's final report for some time. It welcomed Mrs. Daes's efforts and the priority which the Sub-Commission had given to consideration of her report.

It hoped that the Sub-Commission, as envisaged in its draft resolution IX, would complete its consideration of the report at its next session and submit it to the Commission at the latter's next session. In his delegation's opinion, the Commission should be able to adopt draft resolution IX without a vote, as it had done in respect of draft resolutions on the item in recent years. In conclusion, he hoped that next year the Commission would devote sufficient time to the Sub-Commission's report to enable members to give it the full consideration the subject deserved.

Mr. MANALO (Philippines) said that his Government fully supported the use of scientific and technological developments for the promotion of international peace and security through regional and global co-operation, since there could be no full enjoyment of human rights without peace and economic progress. In his delegation's opinion, that was only possible if a concerted and integrated approach was adopted on both the regional and international levels. It would like to see a compromise reached on a resolution to launch global negotiations as soon as possible so that the framework for the new international economic order could be agreed upon and its implementation pursued.

His Government accepted the imperative that scientific and technological efforts should meet the demands of economic and social development and that the results of such research and development must be properly applied and utilized to accelerate and improve the productive capacity of the Filipinos for their own benefit. Like any developing country, the Philippines subscribed to the idea that science and technology were catalysts of development and that development was the most effective way to achieve the exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Research and development programmes in his country were being pursued in such areas as effective and economical energy sources and power technology; promotion of more efficient use of indigenous raw materials and development and improvement of technologies; increase in food production; solution of the country's major health and nutrition problems; and consideration and enhancement of the environment. Other programmes were aimed at improving the quality of, and access to, basic education, and stress was laid on the upgrading of educational facilities in engineering and the sciences.

His country had participated actively in the promotion of international co-operation in science and technology through joint co-operative research projects, scientific seminars and workshops, training/research visits and exchange of research/academic scientists. In other words, its international co-operation programme in science and technology had been addressed not only to problems and issues relevant to its own scientific development goals, but also to important regional and world concerns. For example, the Philippines had set up a technical assistance council for the benefit of the least developed countries. Furthermore, government programmes and private initiatives had been intensified with a view to removing barriers to the flow of information and considerably improving access to scientific and technological information for the benefit of all.

His delegation hoped that current initiatives relating to disarmament and development would be successful, in order to allow the reallocation of military budgets for peaceful and civilian purposes. In conclusion, he said that his delegation was awaiting with interest the results of the study requested by the Commission concerning the negative consequences of the arms race for the establishment of a new international economic order.

Mr. KONSTANTINOV (Bulgaria) said that the Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind, adopted by the General Assembly in 1975, should be regarded as a positive step towards the promotion of international co-operation in the field of science and technology.

His delegation favoured the approach outlined by General Assembly resolutions 35/130 A, 36/56/A and 37/189, which had reaffirmed the orientation given by the Declaration and provided guidelines for its efficient implementation.

The debates on the item under consideration should focus first on the misuse of the results obtained in science and technology for purposes detrimental to the human race. A striking case of such misuse was the escalation of the arms race, in particular the nuclear arms race. There was no need to prove that such escalation endangered the most inherent right of peoples and individuals alike - the right to life. Therefore, the primordial task of the international community and the Commission should be to consider ways and means of averting the nuclear threat and guaranteeing the right to life. An outstanding example in that respect had been the adoption of General Assembly resolution 37/189 A, of which his delegation had been a sponsor. In his delegation's view, there was no more urgent problem facing mankind than the safeguarding of the right to life, and it would actively assist all activities of the United Nations along those lines.

Secondly, the Commission should stress the positive aspects of scientific and technological progress for the development of mankind. It was both possible and necessary to use the achievements of science and technology in the struggle against hunger and disease in many parts of the world, the eradication of illiteracy and the improvement of productivity. It was also important to note the relationship between scientific and technological progress and the task of restructuring international economic relations on a just and democratic basis.

In accordance with the principles set forth in the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, developing countries should be allowed access to the achievements of science and technology. In that connection, he mentioned paragraph 3 of Commission resolution 1982/4, of which his delegation had been a sponsor.

It was for all States to take effective measures to ensure that science and technology served the material and spiritual needs of all strata of the population. In that regard, it was regrettable to note that one of the negative effects of scientific and technological progress was the ever-increasing unemployment in some countries. It was well known in which countries that occurred and what was at the origin of the violation of the right to work. Misuse of science and technology was possible only when the results achieved in that field were employed for the benefit of selfish private interests. Consequently the effects of scientific and technological developments on the right to work should be studied in depth.

Mr. MARTINEZ (Argentina), noting that the item under consideration had recently been the subject of world attention, recalled that the General Assembly had stressed, in its Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind, the crucial importance of the question for the development of human society.

The modern world afforded broad opportunities for science and technology to contribute to the economic and cultural development of peoples. However, such a revolution was not without risk or danger, since the very instruments used for constructive purposes in peace could become destructive tools of incalculable power. Everyone was subject to the threat posed by the arms race, which diverted man's creative genius and vast sums that could be used to promote the development of peoples. Therefore, the Commission must seek, within its terms of reference, to encourage efforts aimed at finding effective forms of international co-operation which would ensure the effective use of science and technology for the satisfaction of the spiritual and material needs of peoples.

The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities should immediately proceed with the study requested on several occasions by the Commission on Human Rights on the use of the achievements of science and technology to ensure the right to work and development. The current world situation, characterized by recession and unemployment, made it unnecessary to stress the importance of doing everything possible to ensure the right to work. It was clear that worldwide unemployment and underdevelopment jeopardized the very bases of international peace and security, as well as the strengthening and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

In conclusion, he said that his delegation was looking forward to the results of the work of the Sub-Commission's Working Group, which was to study the draft body of guidelines, principles and guarantees for the protection of the mentally ill or persons suffering from mental disorder, prepared by Mrs. Daes, the Special Rapporteur on the question.

Mr. BAYALAMA (Congo) said the principle that the achievements of science and technology should be used for the benefit of mankind had been enshrined in resolution XI of the International Conference on Human Rights (Teheran, 1968) and 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 General Assembly in 1975.

It must be noted, however, that scientific and technological progress was benefiting only part of mankind, which was contrary to the spirit of the relevant international instruments and raised the crucial problem of the establishment of a new international economic order.

The transfer of technology was one of the main means of speeding up the social and economic progress of developing countries, and the stubborn refusal of certain developed countries to promote such development was a flagrant violation of human rights. His delegation unreservedly supported the provisions of paragraph 5 of the Declaration and was convinced that, unless the scientific and technological potential of developing countries was strengthened, human rights would be devoid of meaning for the third world, given the close correlation between the enjoyment of human rights and economic development. In that connection, he referred to paragraph 12 of the Proclamation of Teheran.

It was rather strange to note that, despite the fact that part of mankind lived in abject poverty, disease and ignorance, certain developed countries which claimed to be great defenders of human rights deliberately hindered the economic development of third world countries, thereby perpetuating their domination of those countries.

That selfish attitude was clearly contrary to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which invited the peoples of the United Nations "to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom". For those countries, improvement of their weaponry was more important than the promotion of human rights. Therefore, they spent vast sums on the arms race, although those resources would have enabled the poor countries to cope with the many problems and difficulties facing them. Furthermore, existing nuclear stockpiles threatened all of mankind. The arms race was contrary to the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, which stated that one of the Organization's main objectives was to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war. There could be no victor in a worldwide nuclear war, so that general and complete disarmament was essential.

In order to promote human rights and ensure peace, it was imperative that all countries should enjoy the benefits of science and technology because the underdevelopment of the third world seriously jeopardized international security.

Referring to other areas in which scientific and technological developments were not used for the benefit of mankind, he drew attention to the question of persons detained on grounds of mental ill-health. While, sometimes, the safety of the individual and those around him required internment, in many cases, unjustified use was made of that measure. In that respect, he condemned the apartheid regime in South Africa, which not only arbitrarily interned the mentally ill - particularly blacks - but also provided them with mediocre treatment and detained them in inhuman conditions. All those practices seriously hampered the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms and should be urgently neutralized by effective means. His delegation commended the Special Rapporteur on her report which, despite its complexity, offered a body of guidelines and principles that would make an effective contribution to the solution of the problem.

Mr. OGURTSOV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that one of the most significant international legal documents relating to the item under consideration was the Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind, which called upon all States to promote international co-operation to ensure that the results of scientific and technological developments were 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 his country, everything was being done to ensure that science and technology were used for the benefit of mankind and the promotion of human rights. More than fifty years previously the Byelorussian SSR had eliminated the social evil of unemployment. His country's citizens had the right to work, to choose a profession and to be employed in accordance with their training and education. Broad sectors of the population participated actively in speeding up scientific and technological progress.

Constitutional provisions protected the right to inviolability of the human person, right to life and health, confidentiality of communications, etc. Those measures made it impossible to infringe the rights of individuals or groups. In that connection, he said that there were countries in which scientific and technological means were used to interfere in the private lives of individuals.

The provisions of the Declaration were incompatible with such social evils as unemployment, social inequality and discrimination. Regarding the Declaration as an important instrument for ensuring the use of science and technology in the interests of peace and for the benefit of mankind, his delegation, at the thirty-seventh session of the Commission, had sponsored resolution 38 (XXXVII), which had requested the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to undertake a study on the use of the results of scientific and technological progress for the realization of the rights to work and to development. Such a study would have a practical meaning for both developed and developing countries and promote the implementation of the provisions of the Declaration.

Scientific and technological progress opened up broad and favourable prospects for all mankind, but its results could jeopardize human rights and freedoms. The most dangerous manifestation of the use of such progress against the interests of mankind was the intensification of the arms race, which was increasing the danger of a new world war, thereby threatening the sacred right of every individual - the right to life. Never had the future of mankind and life on earth been so seriously threatened.

The threat of a nuclear catastrophe had become particularly acute as a result of the overt policy adopted by the United States, which provided for the use of nuclear weapons as a tool for achieving political goals.

To remove the threat of nuclear war and to ensure the right to life was the primary task of every State.

The policy of peace flowed from the very essence of socialism. His country was not interested in war; its citizens were well aware of its horrors. During the Second World War, one out of four persons in his country had perished. Byelorussia naturally supported every initiative taken to promote the inalienable right of every individual to life.

In conclusion, his delegation expressed its firm conviction that the essential prerequisites for successful international co-operation in the field of science and technology included the strengthening of international peace and security, peaceful coexistence, an end to the arms race, preservation of international detente, support for the just struggle of peoples for freedom and independence, and restructuring of international economic relations on a just and equitable basis.

Mr. FRAMBACH (German Democratic Republic) referred to the Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind, and stressed the need to ensure that the discussion on the item under consideration would be helpful in bringing about arms limitation and disarmament in order to save mankind from a nuclear catastrophe.

It had been with growing concern that representatives of the Warsaw Treaty States had noted at their recent meeting that the arms race had reached a qualitatively new and particularly dangerous stage embracing all types of armaments, military activities and virtually all regions of the world. They had pointed out that such a policy was diametrically opposed to the legitimate and generally recognized rights of all individuals and nations, particularly their right to life.

The economic burdens entailed by the escalating arms race hampered economic and social development and would lead, in the end, to greater cutbacks in social services, thus curtailing, and even denying, the fundamental civil, social and political rights and freedoms of peoples.

In that connection, his delegation would be pleased if the Commission's deliberations made a valuable contribution to the safeguarding of peace, for it was only in such conditions and in a decent social environment that the enjoyment of fundamental human rights, and in particular the right to life, could be fully ensured.

Notwithstanding those abuses of scientific and technological developments, science and technology offered tremendous vistas for the development of the human race. Members were fully aware of the strides which scientists had made in combating hunger in many parts of the world and in eradicating dangerous diseases. Technological advances were also a major factor in boosting productivity, and careful consideration should therefore be given to all those positive aspects.

In conclusion, he said that the tasks to which he had referred could be successfully tackled only if the policy of confrontation was checked and a return to the policy of detente achieved. It was for that reason that his delegation was a sponsor of draft resolution E/CN.4/1983/L.78.

Mr. VAN ANH (Viet Nam) said that scientific and technological progress provided ever increasing opportunities to improve the living conditions of peoples. The achievements of science and technology were even more important for the developing countries, since they helped to combat poverty and economic backwardness and to accelerate their social and economic development.

However, it was regrettable that the gains of science and technology were being used for the production of weapons of mass destruction. At a time when tremendous financial and human resources were wasted annually on the arms race, more than 450 million people throughout the world were suffering from malnutrition and millions of children were dying from starvation.

It was alarming to note that, since the end of the Second World War, the use of scientific and technological progress for military purposes had continued at an unprecedented level. The colonialist and imperialist forces had used such progress as a means of interfering in the internal affairs of other States, repressing national liberation movements and waging wars of aggression against peoples in many parts of the world.

The barbarous war waged by the United States for nearly 20 years against the Vietnamese people constituted an example of how the achievements of science and technology had been used to deny the right of peoples to self-determination. Similar examples were Lebanon and Namibia.

The peoples of the world were deeply concerned with the continuing threat to international peace and security posed by the arms race, particularly nuclear weapons, which increased the danger of a nuclear catastrophe. Their concern was well founded, since, according to available data, existing nuclear arsenals were more than sufficient to destroy life on earth several times over.

It was no secret that the United States had stepped up the arms race in its efforts to achieve military superiority. It was elaborating various doctrines and methods of conducting a nuclear war, which it described as either limited or global, a quick strike or a "long" war. All those doctrines and methods were based on the calculation of an alleged victory in a nuclear war by being the first to use nuclear

weapons. A psychological climate was being created in which the use of nuclear weapons could become acceptable or admissible. In other words, an attempt was being made to accustom people to the idea of the possibility of nuclear war. Still more serious was the decision to deploy United States medium-range missiles in Western Europe.

Mankind was faced with the danger of a nuclear catastrophe which threatened the right to life, the most fundamental of all human rights. There was therefore no more urgent task at present than safeguarding peace and ensuring the right of all people to life.

In that connection, he referred to General Assembly resolution 37/189, which stressed the urgent need for all possible efforts by the international community to strengthen peace, remove the threat of war, particularly nuclear war, halt the arms race and achieve general and complete disarmament under effective international control.

His country, which had undergone 35 consecutive years of war, was profoundly conscious of the significance of peace and therefore fully supported the peace and disarmament initiatives put forward by the socialist and non-aligned countries, in particular the proposals made by the Warsaw Treaty States in January 1983. His Government greatly appreciated the unilateral commitment of the Soviet Union not to be the first to use nuclear weapons. If all nuclear Powers, and primarily the United States, followed the example of the Soviet Union, the possibility of repelling the danger of a devastating nuclear war would immediately become a reality, even if the major Powers had not yet reached an agreement on disarmament.

The meeting rose at 7.55 p.m.