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Addendum

The summary of the national paper of Suriname, received after the issuance of document A/CONF.81/6 (Vol.III), is presented below:

SURINAME

[Original: English]

1. It has become increasingly evident in the past decades that the transfer of technology to developing countries does not only or even primarily imply the introduction into those countries of more or less modern machines, equipment and other industrial products manufactured in the developed countries. Of greater significance is that the developing countries should learn or be enabled to participate actively in the adaptation of the existing technology and its further development. In this respect those countries should adopt a technology policy attuned to a realistic socio-economic plan. As far as Suriname is concerned, it can be stated that expansion of the package of produced goods, which is presently strongly dominated by bauxite, alumina and aluminium, is an urgent necessity. It is recommendable to devote more attention to the great agricultural and forestry potential.
2. Too often the technical assistance needed by the developing countries for the above-mentioned process is terminated when the respective experts have submitted their reports. In most cases it would be useful, if not necessary, to follow up the advice given by implementation in the form of pilot plants set up as joint-ventures.

3. The colonial past of many developing countries, including Suriname, accounts, to some extent, for their lag in the field of science and technology. But it would seem that there are also other obstacles in these countries, such as the insufficiently developed confidence in their own capacities and capabilities, the absence of a life-style which is conducive to an accelerated development of science and technology, the frequently little efficient and slow functioning of the central governments, and the insufficient purchasing power of the domestic market. Not less important are the obstacles originating from the policy of the developed countries, such as the reluctance of industries operating in these nations to contribute to the transfer of dynamic technology, the sale of static technology in package form which excludes any possibility of choice, the protective measures against products originating from developing countries, and, in particular, their continued hard and business-like attitude towards the developing countries which are still so strongly dependent on the developed countries, notably in the field of science and technology. The elimination of these obstacles is of essential importance to the developing countries. In this respect they must be guided by the consideration that both internally and externally there is much more need for action rather than for words.
4. Like in many other developing nations, in Suriname the number of institutions active in the field of science and technology is small. It may be added that the relative institutes in many of these countries are faced with a shortage of expert personnel (due, inter alia, to the emigration of middle-level and higher cadres) and financial resources. Moreover, there is insufficient cooperation between these institutions; also their effectivity is below the mark. Much would be gained if the respective institutes were to be combined into one national coordinating institution or placed under the supervision and control of one national coordinating body. This institution or body, under state supervision, should have ample authority and be charged with the responsibility for all scientific and technological research that is needed for the accelerated socio-economic development, as well as with the integration of science and technology in as many sectors of society as possible. In addition, it should have to make a considerable contribution to the national scientific and technological education.
5. Due to a variety of causes the research carried out in the developed countries and addressed to the problems of the developing countries often produces little effect. It is therefore recommendable that this research be transferred, as much as possible, to the developing countries themselves, to be carried out under the auspices of the afore-mentioned national institutions c.q. bodies. These institutions or bodies should, through the intermediary of the international organizations, be subsidized by the developed countries, as a result of which they could offer better working conditions and circumstances than is done at present; aside from local staff they should also recruit experts from the developed nations.

6. The brain and skills drain to the developed countries of cadres that have been trained by the developing countries to be used for their own benefit, has assumed alarming proportions. It is of greatest importance for the developing countries to put a check on this loss of talent. It will be necessary to take drastic measures to reach this end, not only with respect to the remuneration of these cadres, but also and perhaps particularly in respect of the working environment. Realization of the proposals sub 4 and 5 could make a considerable contribution to the success of these measures.
7. In order to make the increasing flow of publications and other information on scientific and technological matters relating to the problems of development fully accessible to workers in developing countries, the establishment of a global documentation centre is strongly recommended. This centre should operate in close collaboration with national and regional documentation centres.
8. In the developing countries there is often insufficient knowledge of the forms and modes in which the international organizations can render assistance. Hence it is necessary that these organizations give ample information relating thereto by means of manuals etc.
9. It is recommendable that the U.N. should undertake the creation of a technology transfer code, which will protect the developing countries against the frequently detrimental practices of industrial enterprises from the developed nations. In addition, it is of importance that the U.N. should render assistance to the developing countries in a variety of ways for the training of their scientific and technological cadres.