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Agenda item 140

### SCIENCE AND PEACE

#### Report of the Special Political Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Jean-Michel VERANNEMAN de WATERVLIET (Belgium)

#### I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Science and peace" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-third session of the General Assembly, at the request of Costa Rica contained in a letter dated 9 March 1988 (A/43/141).
2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 23 September 1988, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the Special Political Committee.
3. The Special Political Committee considered the item at its 21st meeting, on 8 November (see A/SPC/43/SR.21). It had before it the letter dated 9 March 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/43/141).
4. Further, there was a letter dated 13 October 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/SPC/43/2), which also pertained to this item.

#### II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/SPC/43/L.9

5. At the 21st meeting, on 8 November 1988, the representative of Costa Rica introduced a draft resolution (A/SPC/43/L.9) sponsored by Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Cameroon, Colombia, the Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cyprus, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Fiji, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Jamaica, Malaysia, Mauritius, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan,

Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Yugoslavia and Zaire, subsequently joined by Brunei Darussalam and Romania.

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote (see para. 8).

7. The representative of Costa Rica made a statement in connection with the draft resolution.

### III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

8. The Special Political Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

#### Science and peace

##### The General Assembly,

Considering that progress in science and technology profoundly affects international peace and security, economic and social development, respect for human rights and many other aspects of civilization and culture,

Considering also that political and economic decisions have a decisive effect on the direction of scientific research and the use of the results obtained thereby,

Recalling that scientific and technological achievements must be used to advance socio-economic progress and the effective enjoyment of human rights throughout the world,

Considering that the arms race absorbs a substantial proportion of the scientific talent and financial resources used in related research and development, which, in a more peaceful and secure world, could be used to solve other pressing problems facing mankind,

Recalling that resolution 40/3 of 24 October 1985 proclaiming the International Year of Peace recognized the role of science for peace,

Recalling also its resolution 42/13 of 28 October 1987 on the achievements of the International Year of Peace, in which it urged Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the world community to persevere in their efforts, developing initiatives conducive to the objectives of the Year, and expressed the hope that the ideals and objectives contained in the Proclamation of the International Year of Peace would continue to be an inspiration for concerted action,

Affirming that it is necessary to promote greater awareness among scientists world-wide of the usefulness of science to increase international peace, security and co-operation, the social and economic development of mankind, the promotion of human rights and the protection of the environment,

Affirming, in particular, the need for scientists to establish a free and open dialogue between one another, and with political leaders and the public in general, with regard to scientific developments and their present and potential implications for our civilization,

Considering the importance of encouraging scientists to work towards constructive objectives, to improve the climate for arms control and disarmament, and to promote a dialogue on important topics in connection with the positive contributions that scientific knowledge can make to peace, security and ecological balance,

Noting with appreciation the joint efforts made by scientists and members of other professional groups to promote the achievement of those aims through the holding of the First International Week of Scientists for Peace from 10 to 16 November 1986 and the Second International Week of Scientists for Peace from 9 to 15 November 1987,

Considering that the celebration each year of a special week of action devoted to the topic "Science and peace" is an important means of generating and increasing public interest in this topic and of stimulating activities and initiatives leading to the study and dissemination of information on the links between progress in science and technology and the maintenance of peace and security,

1. Decides to proclaim the "International Week of Science and Peace", which will take place each year during the week in which 11 November falls;
2. Urges Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to encourage universities and other institutions of advanced studies, scientific academies and institutes, and professional associations and individuals in the scientific community to hold, during that week, lectures, seminars, special debates and other activities conducive to the study and dissemination of information on the links between progress in science and technology and the maintenance of peace and security;
3. Urges Member States to promote international co-operation among scientists by facilitating exchanges of experts and information;
4. Requests the Secretary-General to draw the attention of Member States and interested organizations to the importance of the International Week of Science and Peace and invite them to report to him on their activities and initiatives in connection with this event, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session.