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PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PRINCIPLES AND NORMS OF INTERNATIONAL
LAW RELATING TO THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

[Original: Russian]

[9 September 1989]

1. The approach of the Byelorussian SSR to this topic has already been set out in detail in replies by the Republic to earlier letters from the Secretary-General (A/40/446/Add.1, A/41/536, A/42/483/Add.1 and A/43/529/Add.1). The following additional information is hereby submitted.
2. The Byelorussian SSR regards it as axiomatic that the new international economic order must be rooted in the primacy of international law. The concrete form taken by the new order must rest on the solid body of accepted principles and norms that govern international economic relations.
3. In the view of the Byelorussian SSR, one of the primary ways to make progress towards the creation of the new international economic order is by giving practical effect to the relationship between disarmament and development. In this context, it believes, the retooling of military industry, which, as a result of practical moves by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and a number of other socialist countries to give effect to the notion of reasonable sufficiency, is becoming a priority topic, requires intensive scrutiny.
4. Another important topic in the establishment of the new international economic order is the settlement of the question of developing countries' external indebtedness and the solution of the debt crisis on the basis of the supremacy of international law.
5. The Charter of the United Nations, and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order adopted further to the relevant provisions thereof, afford the legal basis for a uniform understanding of the principles and norms of international law relating to the new international economic order.
6. The codification and progressive development of the fundamental principles and norms of international law relating to the new international economic order forms an integral part of the effort to guarantee international economic security, which is important for the improvement of international economic relations.
7. The Byelorussian SSR considers that work on the codification and progressive development of the principles and norms of international law relating to the new international economic order should be conducted within the organizational framework of the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly, which is best equipped to deal with this matter.

COLOMBIA

[Original: Spanish]

[12 September 1989]

1. As a developing country which has supported the progressive development of the principles and norms of international law, Colombia believes that this exercise must extend to the economic sphere, especially at a time when traditional relations have brought about a major economic and social crisis, particularly in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. Obviously, this question must be approached from a global standpoint and dealt with in the light of the actual situation and prospects of developing countries and the characteristics of each region. The developing countries, and the granting of preferential treatment to them, must be mentioned in formulating principles if the latter are to serve as a framework for guaranteeing opportunities for the recovery and well-being of the economies and peoples of the third world. It is also essential to foster respect for the principles of self-determination and rejection of the use of force or threat of force in any of its manifestations or dimensions which might restrict political independence or prevent the exercise of the sovereign right of States over their natural resources, including over their prospecting, working, use and/or marketing.

2. We believe that, more than a simple declaration, the principle of the common heritage of mankind must be a practical measure that extends its benefits to the entire international community, with particular emphasis on the developing countries. From this perspective, a genuine philosophy of the common heritage of mankind (for example, the sea-bed and ocean floor beyond the limits of national jurisdiction) could be developed and become the medium par excellence facilitating the transfer of technology and training and thus making the implementation of the principles of international co-operation a reality. To use this principle for the benefit only of those who possess technology and other factors of production and marketing is to widen the existing gap and, above all, not only to endanger the peoples of developing countries and their democratic systems of government, with all the tragic consequences that this entails, but also to engulf us all in an irreversible process whose consequences will be most unfortunate.

3. At this point in time, formal equality in the terms for negotiating any economic process is not only inadequate but also limits development expectations. The introduction of new forms of compensation and facilities which would lead to a reformulation of the terms themselves, and the results they yield, must therefore necessarily be accompanied by fairness. This proposal must not be construed as accepting benefits that would be harmful to the other parties, or as reflecting unilateral interests. Rather, it should be seen as acknowledgement of a reality that must form the basis for future undertakings to consolidate a range of principles or norms relating to a new international economic order.

4. Lastly, it is our belief that these and other related questions can be reviewed in a working group in which all interested countries would be entitled to participate and whose results, follow-up and guidelines must come within the framework of the activities of the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly. Representatives of international organizations concerned with economic issues might also participate in such a group.
