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SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND THEIR IMPACT ON  
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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HUNGARY

[Original: English]

[11 October 1989]

1. The Government of the Hungarian People's Republic welcomes the opportunity to express its views on the question of "Scientific and technological developments and their impact on international security" introduced in General Assembly resolution 43/77 A of 7 December 1988.

2. The qualitative aspect of the arms race, having a direct bearing on international security, has yet to be addressed by the international community. Quality, unlike quantity, is difficult to grasp and to assess and this is particularly true in defining and attempting to compare qualitative characteristics of specific weapons or weapons systems. Yet, the task has to be done, since the pace of scientific and technological developments, especially in the military sphere, tends to undermine disarmament efforts and to erode the existing security environment by distorting security perceptions, which appears to be the catalyst of the arms race. Hungary has, on numerous occasions, stressed the significance of the indivisibility of security, implying that security cannot be sought individually, at the expense of others. New scientific and technological developments applied to the military sphere have the effect of widening the gap between participants of the international arena and this also contributes to the undermining of the international security situation.

3. The sophistication of armaments may also result in diminishing the role of the "human factor" in security related decision-making and can thus be counterproductive to the intents of those possessing these weapons. In the emerging new international era where the political means of ensuring national and international security is gaining importance over military factors, such a development is inadmissible.

4. Monitoring future scientific and technological developments having military applications and evaluating their impact on international security has therefore become imperative today. This requires the widest co-operation of States, especially of those that take the lead in scientific and technological research and development. Openness is also needed to assure the correct interpretation of intentions as research and development take place and to maintain and enhance predictability, a prerequisite of strategic stability.

5. The position of the Government of Hungary coincides with the view contained in General Assembly resolution 43/77 A, which stressed the importance of "ensuring that scientific and technological developments are not exploited for military purposes but harnessed for the common benefit of mankind". This, of course, cannot in any way impede research and development for peaceful purposes.

6. Access to sophisticated technology is often limited by barriers erected because of the danger of diverting modern technology to military purposes. Hungary is aware that such a danger exists, but at the same time believes that appropriate

measures agreed upon by the users of sophisticated technology can preclude diversion to military objectives. We, for our part, are ready to co-operate in working out methods to prevent diversion and are prepared to accept controls in this field.

7. In the view of the Government of Hungary, a group of qualified experts could start work on establishing guidelines for defining technologies that can be used solely for military purposes, as a first step. The experts could also work out agreed guidelines for dual-use technology, including measures that would preclude their use for military purposes. Such distinguishing could facilitate access to technology and this could, in turn, be complemented by gradually eliminating transfer limitations for know-how and technology related to so-called life-sciences, infrastructure, environment protection and equipment used in controlling efficient production.

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