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HUMAN RIGHTS AND SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Note by the Secretary-General

1. At its forty-fourth session, the Commission on Human Rights adopted resolution 1988/59 entitled "Use of scientific and technological developments for the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms" under agenda item 15 "Human Rights and scientific and technological developments".
2. In operative paragraph 2 of that resolution, the Commission invited the United Nations University, in co-operation with other interested academic and research institutions, to continue to study both the positive and the negative impact of scientific and technological developments on human rights and fundamental freedoms, and expressed the hope that the United Nations University would inform the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-sixth session of the results of its study on the question.
3. In response to the above-mentioned invitation, the United Nations University, by a letter dated 28 April 1989, informed the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights that the research phase of the project relating to human rights and scientific and technological progress had been delayed. A workshop was convened in July 1989 to agree on a research plan. The final report was expected to be ready in February 1991. The United Nations University stated that it would not, therefore, be possible to provide a report for consideration by the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-sixth session in February 1990.