



Sixteenth session
Agenda item 30 (b)

QUESTIONS RELATING TO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

MAIN TRENDS OF INQUIRY IN THE NATURAL SCIENCES, DISSEMINATION OF SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE AND APPLICATION OF SUCH KNOWLEDGE FOR PEACEFUL ENDS

Note by the Secretary-General

1. At its last session, the General Assembly, in resolution 1512 (XV), requested the Economic and Social Council to report further on this question to the present session of the Assembly and to recommend concrete measures including measures relating to: "(a) The possibility of utilizing the present achievements in the natural sciences for peaceful purposes, for furthering the economic progress and welfare of mankind, and especially for accelerating the economic and social progress of the less developed countries; (b) The possibility of extending international co-operation in the exchange of scientific information and experience in the field of the natural sciences." In carrying out this task, the Council was asked to take into account the views obtained by the Secretary-General from Governments and international organizations in response to Council resolution 804 B (XXX), as well as the discussions in the Assembly during the fifteenth session.
2. At its thirty-second session, the Council had before it a revised text of the survey of "Current Trends of Scientific Research" (E/3262/Rev.1) together with the comments of Governments and international organizations thereon. It established a working group to examine and prepare appropriate comments on this documentation. In resolution 829 (XXXII),^{1/} the Council "commends to the attention of the General

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixteenth Session, Supplement
No. 3 (A/4820), paragraphs 444-453.

Assembly the comments on the general recommendations in part III of the Survey as contained in the report of the Working Group ...".

3. The comments of the Working Group appear in the annual report of the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly^{1/} and the Working Group's report to the Council is also available as a background paper (E/3539 and Corr.1). Finally, the comments of Governments and international organizations concerned are likewise available in documents E/3469, E/3488 and Add.1, E/3505 and Add.1, E/3505/Add.1/Corr.1, E/3505/Add.2-4.

1/ Ibid.