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SCIENTIFIC AND TECNNOLOQICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND THEIR
IMPACT ON INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

[Original: Russian]

[21 September 1989]

1. The Byelorussiaa SSR considers that the impact of scientific and technological developments on international security requires the international community's serious attention. Its delegation was one of the sponsors of resolution 43/77 A on this question.

2. The swift scientific and technological progress of recent years is taking on the appearance of a breakthrough. But beside the pleasing prospects which this progress opens up for mankind, the use of the products of the scientific and technological revolution for military purposes casts a worrisome shadow. The qualitative transformation of armaments, raising them to a completely different level, and the impact of this on universal security, are becoming a full-blown problem,

3. The internal dynamics of the modern arms race have in recent years been undergoing substantial changes. It may be stated with reasonable confidence that today's arms race is predominantly concerned with qualitative attributes. The changes taking place in military technology are steadily eroding strategic stability.

4. Hence there is a growing insistent need to renounce the use for military purposes of new discoveries and advances in science and technology. The Byelorussian SSR wishes to reaffirm its support for the proposals to ban the use of scientific and technological advances in new generations and types of weapons of mass destruction, nuclear and non-nuclear, and conventional weapons and weapons systems, in particular those with enhanced destructive capability. A preventive approach is important here, allowing agreement to be reached on how to deal with the problem before it gets out of control.

5. The Byelorussian SSR has been working for years towards a concerted effort by a wide range of States to eliminate the danger of the emergence of new types of weapons of mass destruction; it has been the originator of General Assembly resolutions to that effect.

6. From the Byelorussian viewpoint, a systematic international assessment of scientific and technological advances is now needed, so that recommendations on preventing the use of new technologies in weapons manufacture can be made in good time and the United Nations can be assigned the appropriate functions in that context,

7. The advance of science and technology and its possible consequences are monitored in the Byelorussian SSR by the Science and Technology Department of the Council of Ministers.

8. Technologies whose use in weapons manufacture needs to be prevented as soon as possible are laser, genetic and electromagnetic systems. Agreements to ban the manufacture of such weapons will naturally require corresponding, far-reaching verification measures.

9. The time has come to think seriously about measures to prevent the spread of missile technology.

10. It is also necessary to study the question of banning the use of laser battlefield anti-personnel weapons designed to blind. Such a ban could take the form of either an independent agreement or a protocol to the Convention on "inhumane" weapons.

11. At the same time, the Byelorussian SSR considers it important to emphasise that steps to avert the use of new technology in weapons manufacture would only not impede, but, on the contrary, promote scientific and technological progress and conditions conducive to openness and peaceful international co-operation at the forefront of science and technology in the service of development and economic and social progress for all nations.