APPEAL
BY THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM "SCIENTISTS AND PEACE"

Meeting in Bucharest on 4 and 5 September 1981 for the Symposium "Scientists and Peace" in order to discuss, in a wide-ranging and fruitful dialogue, the fundamental issue of the present day — peace, to which all mankind nobly aspires — we, the scientists from many countries of the world and from all continents, aware of the serious hazards which science and its servants may pose to the halting of the arms race, to continuing progress and to the future of the whole world, urgently appeal to scientists, researchers and intellectuals everywhere, and to all peoples, to join forces and co-operate ever more closely in defence of peace the supreme good of mankind.

The world today is witnessing not only the giant strides of science and technology, as evidenced by awesome discoveries affecting all areas of human existence, but also anachronistic actions which go against the interests of mankind, applying the products of science and technology to destructive ends injurious to the peace and freedom of peoples. Our age is one in which mankind is confronted by highly complex problems, with a new, frenzied arms race, unprecedent growth of military budgets, and the manufacture and development of new means of mass destruction, all of which severely aggravate the international situation, weighing more and more heavily on peoples and increasing the danger of conflagrations which may destroy life everywhere on earth and civilization itself, as it has evolved over the millenia.

Let us, in full awareness of the fact that scientists, faced with the alternative of peace or war, have a duty to defend peace, say a firm NO to war and armaments, this being not only our moral responsibility but essential to the continued existence of all mankind. We call on all scientists, whatever their political, philosophical, religious or other beliefs, to work side by side with the peoples of their countries to halt the deterioration in the international situation, the arms policy, so that we may resume and tirelessly pursue the course towards détente, peace and wide-ranging international collaboration !

Let us act now, before it is too late, now, when we have so great a responsibility for the fate of mankind, to end the arms race, to bring about disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament, to create a world without weapons and without wars and to defend the basic right of individuals and peoples — the right to life and to peace.

Let us, as scientists more aware than anyone of the destructive power of modern weapons and the tremendous danger they present to the security of peoples and to the very survival of humanity, join forces more closely and act resolutely against the use of atomic energy for other than peaceful purposes ! Let us do all we can to ensure that the immense potential of scientific and technical research is not used for weapons production but contributes exclusively to economic development and progress in every country, to the preservation of the finest that the human spirit has accomplished and to the creation of new and important values !

In present circumstances, when there exist numerous economic, social and political problems at the world level, it is our special duty as scientists constantly to increase our contribution to the solution of these problems for the well-being of all nations. Let us use our discoveries to close the great gaps between the rich and poor countries of the world, to eradicate the malnutrition and under-development affecting two thirds of the world population, to eliminate the diseases which continue to claim millions of human lives, and to protect the environment and conserve it for the benefit of future generations ! Let us exert every effort to discover new sources of energy and raw materials, to solve the problems of food, water supply, health, and so forth, on which depend the progress and the future of all mankind ! Let us resolutely oppose any obstacle to the movement of the world's scientific and cultural assets, so that all peoples can derive extensive benefit from the awesome accomplishments of science and technology, so that science may truly become the property of all mankind !

Today, international peace and security provide the most favourable conditions for economic and social progress and for the application of what the human spirit has achieved, the daunting modern technical and scientific revolution, to the benefit of all mankind. Consequently, every effort, every action by scientific and cultural associations, civic organizations and private individuals, or by politicians, Governments and parliaments, that will help to defend and consolidate peace, to promote the cause of peaceful international collaboration based on respect for national independence and sovereignty, equal rights, non-interference in internal affairs and mutual advantage must be appreciated and given determined support, so that the legitimate aspirations of the peoples, of all who are aware of their responsibility for the fate of civilization, may be realized.

We call on scientists, and on their national and international associations, to establish suitable forms of co-operation transcending national, ideological or political differences, to the end that science may be used exclusively in accordance with its humanistic calling.

With this in mind, we have established an International Action Committee to organize scientific activities, to expose the dangers created by the frenzied arms race, particularly the nuclear arms race, to inform public opinion about these dangers and formulate concrete measures to avoid them, and to prepare for a world congress of scientists in the service of peace. We appeal to scientists and intellectuals throughout the world to join the Committee in this noble initiative for peace, to do all in their power to make our views known in the United Nations, in the Committee on Disarmament at Geneva and in all international forums where disarmament, peace and international security and co-operation are discussed.

Let us, in realization of our responsibility to science and to mankind and of the fact that we cannot create an acceptable future without a peaceful present, muster our strenght of persuasion and the force of our arguments in order to induce the arms enthusiasts to change their approach, in order to influence Governments, parliaments and politicians to promote policies of peace, understanding and collaboration and to abandon entirely

the use or threat of force, ensuring that all disputes are settled soley by peaceful means, through negotiation.

Let us do all in our power to ensure that the funds spent on armaments, the enormous military budgets, are used for socio-economic development programmes in each country, for helping the peoples of the developing countries in their struggle for progress, and for creating a more just and better world free from the threat of war !

Let us dedicate ourselves to the noble ideals of peace ; let us do our duty to our own consciences, to our contemporaries, to the supreme commandments of mankind ! Let us show mankind a future commensurate to its most cherished aspirations and its creative abilities, let us prove worthy of all the most precious accomplishments of human civilization down through the centuries !

We are firmly convinced that, if we join forces and intensify our co-operation, science will truly become a weapon for living, enabling all peoples to increase their contributions to the heritage of universal knowledge, so that peace, security and collaboration may triumph on earth !

The participants in the
International Symposium
"Scientists and Peace"

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