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STATEMENT BY K. H. STANDKE DIRECTOR FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY UNITED

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Coming from the United Nations Headquarters in New York it always gives me great pleasure having the opportunity once in a while to attend science and technology meetings of our various Regional Economic Commissions.

Although science and technology are the very roots and the vehicle for any industrial development, no reference of this nature was made in the Charter of the United Nations. It is, therefore, not surprising that the UN itself and the Regional Commissions have for many years not given high priority to the special role of science and technology and have left the initiative almost exclusively to the specialized agencies like UNESCO, WHO, IAEA etc. However this situation has rapidly changed in the last few years and in addition to the work performed "by the specialized agencies there are increasingly overall considerations on science and technology covering the UN system as a whole. I should like to give a few examples:-

- New Institutional Arrangements within the UN system are trying to keep pace with the new political challenges for science and technology.
- Only two years ago for the first time in the history of the UN a special political forum covering the whole UN system was created in the form of the Committee on Science and Technology to Development.
- Some governments are considering whether or not a special UN science and technology programme, similar to the UNEP, should be created.
- A world science and technology council is visualized in the not too distant future
- Governments are stressing the need to formulate a unified UN science and

I do not know the situation in the COMECON countries well enough but I did learn recently from the Acting Secretary-General of this organization that one of its main concerns is the transfer of technology among its member States, i.e. among socialist countries.

What is the secret of successful management of technology transfer in particular or of R and D management in general?

It is obviously not the number of people engaged in R and D or the amount of money invested. Furthermore, the cultural and historical condition of the ECE region is favorable to the generation of technology compared with the other regions of the world. The same is true for the climatic conditions.

There must be other reasons of a rather organizational nature.

One of the main differences in philosophy between East and West is the different emphasis on the triangle government-industry-university. Without wishing to go any further on this delicate subject, Mr. Chairman, I would suggest that for any future exercises of this nature, which have been strongly recommended, among others by Mr. Ananichev, the secretariat should try to balance as much as possible the seminar participants on the 2 sides from these different categories \*

4« My fourth observation is that in the eyes of the Third World the ECE countries have considered themselves too important for too long a time. They fear that R and D efforts leading to results like sending the man to the moon and coupling astronauts with cosmonauts are not facing the real problems of mankind today. The abuse of natural resources demonstrated by per capita consumption statistics by only a few countries could endanger survival conditions for all others.

5. I do not wish, Mr. Chairman, to deviate the direction of this seminar by witty remarks. I have only attempted to see the ECE problem in a wider, i.e. global context.

One of the possibilities of linking your efforts here with a better understanding of transfer of technology and UN efforts would be your active participation at the proposed UN World Conference on Science and Technology scheduled for 1979. This Conference will be a political one, for obvious reasons, and it will deal like your seminar here rather with the managements aspects of science and technology.

The main items of the proposed agenda are as follows:-

1. Science and technology for development;-

2. Institutional arrangements and new forms of international co-operation in the application of science and technology:-

- (a) building up and expansion of institutional systems in developing countries for science and technology;
- (b) research and development in the industrialized countries on problems of importance to developing countries;
- (c) mechanisms for exchange of scientific and technological information and experiences significant to development;
- (d) strengthening of international co-operation among all countries and the design of concrete new forms of international co-operation-
- (e) promotion of co-operation among developing countries and role of developed countries in such co-operation.

3. Utilization of the existing United Nations system and other international organizations:-\*

to implement the above goals in a co-ordinated and integrated manner.

4. Science and technology and the future:-

to debate on the basis of the report of a panel of experts to be convened on - this subject.

I understand the Senior Advisers" of the ECE will deal - among other issues - with preparation of this Conference on the occasion of their next meeting in September.

We are looking forward to a strong support from the ECE region for this World References.

The main difference between this ECE seminar and similar possible activities of members and the other Regional Commissions is, in short, that here in ECE you have on the two sides which are willing and capable to transfer technology within intuitional co-operation and then you have partners which are on the side not always trying to do so and others which are not always capable.

One is basically a political decision, the other is sheer lack of an adequate ^structure. Both could be overcome.