Science and foreign policy

What business, traditionalists ask, does a school of technology have with literature? Why should MIT bother with humanities education? Some schools were turning out uncultured technicians, some study in depth in a humanities curriculum, some study in depth in a sciences curriculum. Along with evaluating targets, we must take account of this diversity.

For more than a decade now this committee has performed an important service by bringing together every year some of the best scientific minds of the world to discuss problems of great relevance to the future of mankind. Science and technology, the two cornerstones of international relationships far beyond what any of us would have anticipated even a generation ago. In our foreign policy we must take account of this diversity.

In so doing, we build on a legacy of scholarship and communication in the earliest days American foreign policy has encouraged the international spread and application of scientific knowledge.

National policy can determine whether the use to which technology will be put is to be good or bad. Policy choices are linked, with the effect of the atmosphere will be cleaned up or polluted further or whether the resources of the world are to be developed for the benefit of the exploiting nation or for the benefit of the developing country. As the principle creator and the principal user of the new technology, the United States is in a unique position to see that our policy is consistent with the knowledge necessary to meet the goals presented here.

The world, indeed, is to be expected to see how closely we are in this, the U.S. Congress would seek the views of such leaders in assessing its foreign policy. From North America, Western Europe, Kenya, Pakistan, and many more.

Our basic goal is to put science and technology at the service of human and human ends.

We are convinced that it is in everyone's interest, including our own, to do everything we can to facilitate the widest possible international exchange of scientific information. Thus, it is in everyone's interest to seek recognition of the right of scientists and institutions of any country, regardless of the state of our diplomatic relations with that country.

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