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EFFECTS OF ATOMIC RADIATION

Report of the United Nations Scientific Committee
on the Effects of Atomic Radiation

1. The United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation was established by resolution 913 (X) of 3 December 1955 at the tenth session of the General Assembly. It consists of the following Member States: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czechoslovakia, France, India, Japan, Mexico, Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.
2. The Committee held its twenty-first session at United Nations Headquarters from 14 to 23 June 1971. Professor B. Lindell (Sweden), Professor F.H. Sobels (Belgium) and Professor L.R. Caldas (Brazil) served as Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur, respectively.
3. During that session the Committee, after taking note of General Assembly resolution 2623 (XXV), discussed, on the basis of reviews prepared in the Secretariat, recent information on genetic effects of radiation, induction of cancer by radiation, effects of radiation on the immune response, population doses from medical and occupational exposure, and environmental radiation, and decided to include these subjects in its report to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session.
4. The Committee expressed satisfaction at the amount of data on releases of radio-activity into the environment from peaceful uses of nuclear energy and of radio-isotopes that was being received since its twentieth session from States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies or of the

International Atomic Energy Agency. The Committee stressed that further information of the kind outlined in its report to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session,^{1/} if received before the end of the year, would be of great value in the preparation of its report to the Assembly at its twenty-seventh session.

5. The Committee agreed that that report would be submitted to the General Assembly without scientific annexes. However, the decision was taken on the understanding that these annexes would be made available in a separate United Nations publication which would be issued at the same time as the report to the General Assembly, and would contain a reprint of that report.

6. The Committee noted with approval the basic paper that, on its behalf, had been prepared for, and submitted to, the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment and wished to stress the many ways in which the principles discussed in the paper could valuably be extended to problems of assessment of, and protection against, various other forms of environmental contamination. The Committee recommended to the secretariat that the paper be published in an appropriate journal so as to make it available to the scientific community.

7. Professors L.R. Caldas (Brazil), F.H. Sobels (Belgium) and A. Nelson (Sweden) were elected Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur, respectively, to serve at the twenty-second and twenty-third sessions of the Committee.

8. It was recognized that it would be necessary to hold one session in 1972, and it was requested that arrangements be made for the twenty-second session to be held from 13 to 24 March at United Nations Headquarters.

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Session, Annexes, agenda item 33, document A/8078.