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Agenda item 33

EFFECTS OF ATOMIC RADIATION

Report of the Special Political Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Mohammed MAHJOUBI (Morocco)

1. The item entitled "Effects of Atomic Radiation: Report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation" was included in the provisional agenda of the twenty-fifth session (A/8000/Rev.1) by the Secretary-General in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2496 (XXIV).
2. At its 188th meeting, on 17 September 1970, the General Committee recommended that this item should be included in the agenda. At its 1843rd plenary meeting, on 18 September 1970, the General Assembly adopted this recommendation and allocated the item to the Special Political Committee for it to examine and report on the question.
3. The Special Political Committee examined the item at its 692nd meeting, on 2 October. It had before it a draft resolution submitted by the following countries: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czechoslovakia, France, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. Subsequently Argentina, Morocco and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics also sponsored the draft resolution (A/SPC/L.179). By this draft resolution, the General Assembly would: 1. note with appreciation the report adopted by the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation at its twentieth session (A/8078); 2. commend the Scientific Committee for the valuable contribution it had made since its inception to wider knowledge and understanding of the effects and levels of

atomic radiation; 3. request the Scientific Committee to continue its work, including its co-ordinating activities, to increase knowledge of levels and effects of atomic radiation from all sources; 4. note the intention of the Scientific Committee to hold its twenty-first session in June 1971; 5. draw attention to the invitation made by the Committee to States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency to submit available data that would enable it to assess the effects of peaceful uses of nuclear energy on the radiation exposure of human populations; 6. express its appreciation of the assistance rendered to the Scientific Committee by the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the non-governmental organizations concerned; 7. recommend that all parties concerned should continue their co-operation with the Scientific Committee; 8. commend the Scientific Committee on the discussion which it had had on the contribution that might be made to the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment and recommend that the Secretary-General fully utilize the relevant experience of the Committee in the further preparations for this Conference; and 9. request the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Scientific Committee with the assistance necessary for the conduct of its work and the dissemination of its findings to the public.

4. The Committee also had before it a report of the Secretary-General (A/SPC/L.180) on the administrative and financial implications of the above-mentioned draft resolution.

5. Some delegations expressed appreciation of the contribution to the study of the effects of atomic radiation made by the World Health Organization.

6. At the same meeting, the Special Political Committee unanimously adopted the draft resolution.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

7. The Special Political Committee recommends that the General Assembly should adopt the following draft resolution:

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 913 (X) of 3 December 1955, which established the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, and its subsequent resolutions,

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Reaffirming the desirability of the Scientific Committee continuing its work,
Concerned about the potentially harmful effects on present and future generations resulting from the levels of radiation to which man is exposed,

Conscious of the continued need for compiling information about atomic radiation and for analysing its effects on man and his environment,

Taking into account that in its future reviews of environmental contamination, the Committee will also give detailed attention to that resulting from peaceful uses of nuclear energy,

Noting that the Scientific Committee has discussed the contribution that might be made to the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment to be held in 1972,

1. Notes with appreciation the report adopted by the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation at its twentieth session;^{1/}

2. Commends the Scientific Committee for the valuable contribution it has made since its inception to wider knowledge and understanding of the effects and levels of atomic radiation;

3. Requests the Scientific Committee to continue its work, including its co-ordinating activities, to increase knowledge of levels and effects of atomic radiation from all sources;

4. Notes the intention of the Scientific Committee to hold its twenty-first session in June 1971;

5. Draws attention to the invitation made by the Scientific Committee to States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency to submit available data that would enable it to assess the effects of peaceful uses of nuclear energy on the radiation exposure of human populations;

6. Expresses its appreciation of the assistance rendered to the Scientific Committee by the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the non-governmental organizations concerned;

^{1/} A/8078.

7. Recommends that all parties concerned should continue their co-operation with the Scientific Committee;

8. Commends the Scientific Committee on the discussion which it has had on the contribution that might be made to the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment and recommends that the Secretary-General fully utilize the relevant experience of the Committee in the further preparations for this Conference;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Scientific Committee with the assistance necessary for the conduct of its work and the dissemination of its findings to the public.
