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Agenda item 33

EFFECTS OF ATOMIC RADIATION

Report of the Special Political Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Lamech E. AKONG'O (Uganda)

1. The item entitled "Effects of atomic radiation: report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation" was included by the Secretary-General in the provisional agenda for the twenty-fourth session (A/7600) on the basis of General Assembly resolution 2382 (XXIII) of 1 November 1968.
2. At its 180th meeting, on 17 September 1969, the General Committee recommended the inclusion of the item in the agenda. At its 1758th plenary meeting, on 20 September, the General Assembly approved this recommendation and referred the item to the Special Political Committee for consideration and report.
3. The Special Political Committee considered the item at its 643rd and 644th meetings, on 16 and 17 October. The Committee had before it a draft resolution submitted by Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czechoslovakia, France, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Sweden, the United Arab Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America (A/SPC/L.171 and Add.1 and 2). By this draft resolution, the General Assembly would: (1) note with appreciation the latest report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation^{1/}; (2) commend the Scientific Committee for the valuable contributions it had made since its inception to wider knowledge and

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/7613).

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 next session in September 1970 and to report further to the General Assembly; (5) express its appreciation for the assistance rendered to the Scientific Committee by the specialized agencies of the United Nations, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the non-governmental organizations concerned; (6) recommend that all parties concerned should continue their co-operation with the Scientific Committee; (7) request the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Scientific Committee with the assistance necessary for the conduct of its work and dissemination of its findings to the public.

4. At the 643rd meeting of the Committee, the representative of the United States suggested that the Scientific Committee might consider the possibility of including in any future substantive report to the General Assembly a short summary of its findings that would be couched in layman's language. While this summary would be part of the report itself, it could also be issued separately and given wider circulation than the original document.

5. This suggestion was supported by several delegations, and the Chairman, noting that no formal proposal had been made, stated that their views would be included in the record.

6. At its 644th meeting, the Special Political Committee unanimously adopted the draft resolution.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

7. The Special Political Committee therefore recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Effects of atomic radiation

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,

/...

Reaffirming the desirability of the Committee continuing its work,
Concerned about the potentially harmful effects to 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,

1. Notes with appreciation the latest report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation^{2/};
2. Commends the Scientific Committee for the valuable contributions 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 next session in September 1970 and to report further to the General Assembly;
5. Expresses its appreciation for the assistance rendered to the Scientific Committee by the specialized agencies of the United Nations, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the non-governmental organizations concerned;
6. Recommends that all parties concerned should continue their co-operation with the Scientific Committee;
7. 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.

^{2/} Ibid.