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Agenda item 70

EFFECTS OF ATOMIC RADIATION

Report of the Special Political CommitteeRapporteur: Mr. Rafiq AHMED KHAN (Bangladesh)

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 forty-first session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 40/160 of 16 December 1985.
2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1986, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the Special Political Committee.
3. The Special Political Committee considered the item at its 3rd and 4th meetings, on 8 and 9 October (see A/SPC/41/SR.3 and 4). It had before it the report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation. 1/
4. The Special Political Committee also had before it a letter dated 25 August 1986 (A/41/546) from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General informing him that the Government of the People's Republic of China had applied for membership to the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation and had authorized its Permanent Mission to the United Nations and Other International Organizations at Vienna to present its formal application to the Scientific Committee. The letter requested the Secretary-General to transmit the application, which was annexed, to the President of the General Assembly so that the issue could be considered under the item at the forty-first session of the Assembly.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/41/16).

5. Also before the Special Political Committee was a letter dated 22 September 1986 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland addressed to the Secretary-General (A/41/634), transmitting a memorandum in connection with the item.
6. At its 3rd meeting, on 8 October 1986, the representative of Sweden introduced a draft resolution (A/SPC/41/L.3), sponsored by Argentina, Australia, Austria, Canada, China, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Swaziland, Sweden, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. It was announced that Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Oman and Uruguay had joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.
7. At the same meeting, the representative of Sweden, in the course of his statement, introduced a draft resolution (A/SPC/41/L.4), sponsored by Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Peru, Poland, the Sudan, Sweden, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. It was announced that Brazil had joined as a sponsor of the draft resolution.
8. At the 4th meeting, on 9 October, it was announced that Nigeria and Costa Rica had joined as sponsors of draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.3.
9. In connection with the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.4, the Secretary of the Committee made a statement.
10. The representative of Iraq, in the course of his statement, expressed his delegation's reservations on draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.3.
11. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.3 without a vote (see para. 13, draft resolution A).
12. The Committee then adopted draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.4 without a vote (see para. 13, draft resolution B).

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

13. The Special Political Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Effects of atomic radiation

A

The General Assembly,

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

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resolution 40/160 of 16 December 1985, by which it, inter alia, requested the Scientific Committee to continue its work,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, 2/

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 to examine and compile information about atomic and ionizing radiation and to analyse its effects on man and his environment,

Taking note of the decision of the Scientific Committee to submit shorter reports with scientific supporting documents on the specialized topics mentioned in its report 3/ as soon as the relevant studies are completed,

1. Commends the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation for the valuable contribution it has been making in the course of the past thirty-one years, since its inception, to wider knowledge and understanding of the levels, effects and risks of atomic radiation and for fulfilling its original mandate with scientific authority and independence of judgement;

2. Notes with satisfaction the continued and growing scientific co-operation between the Scientific Committee and the United Nations Environment Programme;

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

4. Endorses the Scientific Committee's intentions and plans for its future activities of scientific review and assessment on behalf of the General Assembly;

5. Requests the Scientific Committee to continue at its next session the review of the important problems in the field of radiation and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-second session;

6. Requests the United Nations Environment Programme to continue providing support for the effective conduct of the Scientific Committee's work and for the dissemination of its findings to the General Assembly, the scientific community and the public;

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/41/16).

3/ A/38/142.

7. Expresses its appreciation for the assistance rendered to the Scientific Committee by Member States, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and non-governmental organizations, and invites them to increase their co-operation in this field;

8. Invites Member States and the United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations concerned to provide further relevant data about doses, effects and risks from various sources of radiation, which would greatly help in the preparation of the Scientific Committee's future reports to the General Assembly.

B

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 913 (X) of 3 December 1955, by which it established the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, and its subsequent resolutions on the subject, including resolution 3154 C (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973, by which it increased the membership of the Scientific Committee to a maximum of twenty,

Recognizing the valuable contribution made by the Scientific Committee to wider knowledge and understanding of the levels and effects of atomic radiation,

Conscious of the continued need for the Governments of Member States to commit themselves to giving to the Scientific Committee the greatest possible co-operation in order that its work may be more effective,

Emphasizing, in this connection, that the five permanent members of the Security Council are in a position to make particularly valuable contributions to the work of the Committee,

Noting with satisfaction that the People's Republic of China desires to become a member of the Scientific Committee, 4/

Convinced that the participation of the People's Republic of China will enhance the effectiveness of the Scientific Committee,

1. Decides to increase the membership of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation to a maximum of twenty-one;

2. Invites the People's Republic of China to become a member of the Scientific Committee, requesting the Government of that country to designate one scientist, with alternates and consultants as appropriate, to be its representative on the Committee.
