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Agenda item 39

EFFECTS OF ATOMIC RADIATION

Report of the Special Political Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Ömer E. AKBEL (Turkey)

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-seventh session of the General Assembly (A/8760) by the Secretary-General in accordance with Assembly resolution 2773 (XXVI).
2. At its 200th meeting, on 21 September 1972, the General Committee recommended that this item should be included in the agenda. At its 2037th plenary meeting, on 23 September, the General Assembly approved this recommendation and allocated the item to the Special Political Committee.
3. The Special Political Committee examined the item at its 807th and 808th meetings, on 4 and 6 October. It had before it a draft resolution (A/SPC/L.238) submitted by the following countries: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, France, India, Japan, Mexico, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America. 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 twenty-second session; 1/ (2) commend the Scientific Committee for the valuable contributions it had made since its inception to wider knowledge and understanding of the levels and effects 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) concur in the request of the Committee, contained in paragraph 4 of its report, that it be relieved from

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/8725 and Corr.1).

the obligation to report to the General Assembly before the twenty-ninth session, and note that the Committee was not planning to meet before the end of 1973, unless asked to undertake new tasks in the context of the environmental programme of the United Nations or to respond to any other special demand; (5) request the Scientific Committee to meet before, and report to, the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly, on the understanding that the Assembly would then decide, taking into account the recommendation of the Committee, on the convening of its subsequent session; (6) express its appreciation for the assistance rendered to the Scientific Committee by the International Atomic Energy Agency, the specialized agencies and the non-governmental organizations concerned; (7) note and welcome the readiness of the Scientific Committee to play a role in the future environmental programme of the United Nations; and (8) 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. At the 808th meeting, Mali orally proposed replacing the word "adopted" in operative paragraph 1 by "submitted" and inserting the word "accordingly" after "Requests" in operative paragraph 5. Both amendments were accepted by the co-sponsors.

5. At the same meeting, the Special Political Committee adopted the revised draft resolution without objection.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

6. The Special Political Committee 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 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,

Recognizing that, under its present terms of reference as laid down in General Assembly resolution 913 (X), the Committee can become an element of value in the environmental programme of the United Nations,

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1. Notes with appreciation the report submitted by the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation; 1/
2. Commends the Scientific Committee for the valuable contributions it has made since its inception to wider knowledge and understanding of the levels and effects 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. Concurs in the request of the Scientific Committee, contained in paragraph 4 of its report, that it be relieved from the obligation to report to the General Assembly before the twenty-ninth session and notes that the Committee is not planning to meet before the end of 1973, unless asked to undertake new tasks in the context of the environmental programme of the United Nations or to respond to any other special demand;
5. Requests accordingly the Scientific Committee to meet before the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly and to report to the Assembly at that session, on the understanding that the Assembly will then decide, taking into account the recommendation of the Committee on the convening of its subsequent session;
6. Expresses its appreciation for the assistance rendered to the Scientific Committee by the International Atomic Energy Agency, the specialized agencies and the non-governmental organizations concerned;
7. Notes and welcomes the readiness of the Scientific Committee to play a role in the future environmental programme of the United Nations;
8. 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.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/8725 and Corr.1).