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Agenda item 52

EFFECTS OF ATOMIC RADIATION

Report of the Special Political Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Heli PELAEZ (Peru)

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 thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly in accordance with General Assembly resolution 34/12 of 15 November 1979.
2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 17 September 1980, 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 examined the item at its 4th and 5th meetings, on 13 and 14 October. It had before it the report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (A/35/451).
4. At the 4th meeting, on 13 October, the representative of Poland introduced a draft resolution (A/SPC/35/L.2), sponsored by Argentina, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Japan, Poland, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America, subsequently joined by Belgium, Peru and Sweden.
5. At the 5th meeting, on 14 October, it was announced that Australia, Bangladesh, Chile, Denmark, Fiji, Finland, Greece, India, Indonesia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway and Uruguay had joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.
6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/SPC/35/L.2 without a vote (see para. 7).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

7. 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, by which it established the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, and its subsequent resolutions on the subject, including resolution 34/12 of 9 November 1979, by which the Assembly, 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, 1/

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 examining and compiling information about atomic and ionizing radiation as well as for analysing its effects on man and his environment,

Noting that, in view of the amount of work involved in completing the forthcoming substantive report and of the desirability that some of the documents under review should undergo further consideration, the Committee decided to submit the report with scientific annexes to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session, rather than at its thirty-sixth session as originally planned.

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 twenty-five 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;

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4. Endorses the Scientific Committee's intention to continue its activity of scientific review and assessment on behalf of the General Assembly;

5. 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;

6. 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;

7. Endorses the Scientific Committee's renewed request that Member States and the United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations concerned should provide further relevant data about doses, effects and risks from various sources of radiation, which would greatly help in the preparation of its next major report to the General Assembly.