



Saturday, 3 December 1955,
at 10.30 a.m.

New York

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Agenda item 58: The question of Morocco.....	389
Report of the First Committee	
Agenda item 18: Peaceful uses of atomic energy:	
(a) International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy;	
(b) Progress in developing international co-operation for the peaceful uses of atomic energy.....	389
Reports of the First Committee and the Fifth Committee	
Agenda item 59: Effects of atomic radiation:	
(a) Co-ordination of information relating to the effects of atomic radiation upon human health and safety;	
(b) Dissemination of information on the effects of atomic radiation and on the effects of experimental explosions of thermo-nuclear bombs.....	391
Reports of the First Committee and the Fifth Committee	
Agenda item 24: Economic development of under-developed countries:	
(c) Programmes of technical assistance.....	396
Memorandum by the Secretary-General on the confirmation of the allocation of funds under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance	
Agenda item 22: Report of the Director of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	397
Report of the <i>Ad Hoc</i> Political Committee	
Agenda item 36: Financial reports and accounts, and reports of the Board of Auditors:	
(c) United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, for the financial year ended 30 June 1955;	
(d) United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency, for the financial year ended 30 June 1955.....	397
Reports of the Fifth Committee	
Agenda item 54: Registration and publication of treaties and international agreements	397
Report of the Fifth Committee	
Agenda item 50: Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its seventh session.....	397
Reports of the Sixth Committee and of the Fifth Committee	
Agenda item 30: Question of South West Africa:	
(a) Voting procedure on questions relating to reports and petitions concerning the Territory of South West Africa: advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice;	
(b) Report of the Committee on South West Africa	398
Report of the Fourth Committee	

President: Mr. José MAZA (Chile).

AGENDA ITEM 58

The question of Morocco

REPORT OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE (A/3054)

Mr. Echeverri Cortés (Colombia), Rapporteur of the First Committee, presented the report of that Committee.

Pursuant to rule 68 of the rules of procedure, it was decided not to discuss the report of the First Committee.

1. The PRESIDENT (*translated from Spanish*): I put to the vote the draft resolution submitted by the First Committee [A/3054].

The draft resolution was adopted by 51 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.

AGENDA ITEM 18

Peaceful uses of atomic energy:

(a) **International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy;**

(b) **Progress in developing international co-operation for the peaceful uses of atomic energy**

REPORTS OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE (A/3008) AND THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/3056)

2. The PRESIDENT (*translated from Spanish*): I should like to draw the Assembly's attention to the fact that, under rule 154 of the rules of procedure, the Fifth Committee has submitted, for purposes of information, a report [A/3056] on the financial implications of the draft resolutions submitted by the First Committee in connexion with agenda items 18 and 59.

3. Mr. ECHEVERRI CORTES (Colombia), Rapporteur of the First Committee (*translated from Spanish*): This report on the peaceful uses of atomic energy [A/3008] was approved as a whole by 53 votes. The draft resolution before us is undeniably of outstanding importance to mankind, and the First Committee examined it thoroughly after hearing the noteworthy statements of representatives.

4. I am particularly gratified to be able to report that a spirit of co-operation and understanding prevailed in the First Committee during the discussion of this draft resolution, which, with the help of the world's leading scientists, can do much to reassure mankind.

5. It is nearly two years ago, as the representative of Canada, Mr. Martin, remarked, that the President of the United States, Mr. Eisenhower, in his noble and generous speech before the General Assembly [470th meeting], proposed that measures should be adopted for the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes, so that mankind might use both fissionable materials and nuclear energy to achieve progress and well-being.

6. The report submitted on 14 September 1955 by the Secretary-General [A/2967] with regard to the Inter-

national Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, held at Geneva in August 1955, was most helpful to the discussion of this important draft resolution, which holds so much promise for the human race.

7. I shall not refer to the various amendments to the original draft resolution, because they are embodied in the report which you have before you. With regard to the draft resolution before the Assembly, I should like to emphasize the importance of paragraph 3 of section I, in which the Assembly expresses appreciation of the work of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee in preparing and organizing the Conference; of paragraph 7 of section I, in which the Assembly decides to continue the Advisory Committee; and of paragraph 2 of section II, under which all Members of the United Nations or of the specialized agencies are invited to participate in a conference on the final text of the statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

8. It only remains for me to say that nothing but good can be expected of this draft resolution, which will make it possible to use nuclear energy for humanitarian, industrial and agricultural purposes and will enable the world to benefit from forces which until recently have brought nothing but death and destruction.

9. On behalf of the First Committee, I present the report of that Committee [A/3008] and the draft resolution contained therein for the consideration of the General Assembly.

Pursuant to rule 68 of the rules of procedure, it was decided not to discuss the report of the First Committee.

10. The PRESIDENT (*translated from Spanish*): I shall now give the floor to any representatives who wish to explain their votes.

11. Mr. KUZNETSOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (*translated from Russian*): The delegation of the Soviet Union will vote in favour of the draft resolution submitted by the First Committee [A/3008], because, although it omits certain important provisions proposed by a number of delegations, it is nevertheless intended to promote international co-operation for the peaceful uses of atomic energy. At the same time, the Soviet delegation feels compelled to point out that the draft resolution does not include certain important provisions whose adoption would have done even more to stimulate the development of international co-operation in this field.

12. In considering the problem of the peaceful uses of atomic energy, we cannot shut our eyes to the obvious fact that the fullest and most fruitful co-operation in this field will be developed only when all atomic energy is used exclusively for peaceful purposes.

13. This draft resolution confirms the wish expressed by the General Assembly at its ninth session [resolution 810 (IX)] to promote energetically the use of atomic energy to the end that it should serve only the peaceful pursuits of mankind and ameliorate living conditions. The Soviet delegation feels compelled to emphasize the inadequacy of this provision. We believe that only the prohibition of the use and production of atomic weapons and their elimination from the armaments of States can ensure the development of genuinely broad and fruitful international co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy, and that atomic energy must be used exclusively for peaceful purposes, for the benefit of mankind.

14. Accordingly, the Soviet delegation proposed that the General Assembly resolution should include an

appeal to all States to continue their efforts to reach agreement on the prohibition of atomic weapons.

15. Under the draft resolution adopted by the First Committee, only States Members of the United Nations or its specialized agencies will be entitled to participate in scientific conferences on the peaceful uses of atomic energy, and in the conference on the final text of the statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Many delegations, however, have expressed the view that the Agency should be organized on a broad basis; no State should be debarred from participating in it on ideological or any other grounds. All States that express the wish to do so, whether or not they are Members of the United Nations or of its specialized agencies, should be enabled to make their contribution to the noble cause of promoting the use of atomic energy for the benefit of mankind.

16. For that reason, the Soviet delegation proposed in the First Committee that all States should take part in the scientific and technical conferences and in the conference on the statute of the Agency, and that the draft resolution should omit the restrictions I have referred to. That proposal, however, was not approved.

17. The draft resolution before us calls for General Assembly approval of the creation of an international agency for the peaceful uses of atomic energy. Most delegations have expressed the view that the very closest links should be established between the International Atomic Energy Agency and the United Nations. That opinion is fully justified by the fact that the Agency will be dealing with a new problem of the very greatest importance for mankind; it is also justified in view of the close connexion existing between the production of atomic energy for peaceful purposes and its production for military purposes. The production of atomic energy for peaceful purposes is accompanied by the accumulation of dangerous fissionable materials, which can be used for military purposes. To prevent the diversion of such fissionable materials to the manufacture of atomic weapons, there must be appropriate international control of the use of the materials reaching the Agency.

18. In addition, progress in the peaceful uses of atomic energy would be very greatly advanced if there were broad international co-operation among scientists and specialists working in this field.

19. It follows from what I have said that it would be useful for the draft resolution to define the nature of the relationship between the Agency and the United Nations. That would help the Advisory Committee and the Secretary-General, to whom the draft resolution assigns the task of preparing proposals on the matter.

20. Taking into account the wishes expressed by some delegations, the Soviet delegation proposed in the First Committee that the draft resolution should provide for the establishment of the Agency within the framework of the United Nations. Unfortunately that proposal was not accepted.

21. The Soviet delegation considers that the amendments it proposed would have substantially improved the draft resolution, since they were calculated to promote a broader development of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy and to ensure the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes only.

22. The USSR delegation will vote in favour of the draft resolution submitted by the First Committee. At the same time, it expresses its confidence that, at sub-

sequent stages in the study of the problem of the peaceful uses of atomic energy, these points will be given due consideration.

23. Mr. PASTORE (United States of America): Two years ago, the President of the United States, Mr. Eisenhower, presented before this Assembly [470th meeting] his memorable proposal for an international agency devoted to the peaceful uses of atomic energy. The adoption of the draft resolution before us will mark another milestone in our advance towards the establishment of this agency.

24. By stimulating the free exchange of basic scientific knowledge on atomic energy, the international conferences provided for in section I of this draft resolution will lay a firmer foundation for international co-operation in this field. In section II, we have set forth further procedures for negotiations on the International Atomic Energy Agency.

25. The United States believes that the debate which took place in the First Committee was splendid for the fresh and constructive thinking that was brought to bear on this particular subject. It was an excellent example of what can be done in the General Assembly, when the desire for co-operation is present, to reconcile differences and to attain unanimity. The debate indicated that the number of issues still outstanding with regard to the creation of the Agency are limited in number. I am hopeful that the few remaining differences of opinion can be reconciled quickly and without any great difficulty.

26. This Assembly may be assured that the views expressed in the debate here, as well as those included in the comments which Governments are submitting to the United States, will be given fullest consideration. These views will be carefully studied in the course of the negotiations which will soon take place in the expanded group which has been created to consider the Agency statute.

27. We are encouraged by the rate at which various Governments are submitting their comments on the draft statute of the Agency. The United States would like to suggest that those Governments which have not yet done so should send their comments to the Department of State in Washington before 15 December, so that they will be available for consideration by the negotiating group when it meets on 23 January 1956.

28. The establishment of this Agency will be a significant event in the history of international co-operation. It will open a grand new avenue of peaceful international activity.

29. The United States will approach these negotiations in a spirit of goodwill and with an earnest desire to bring the Agency into being as soon as possible. At a time when the settlement of a number of outstanding international problems continues to be delayed by political and ideological differences, it is all the more important that we press towards this agreed goal—a goal which holds so much promise for all mankind. With the creation of this Agency, we may hope, in the words of President Eisenhower, to “open up a new channel for peaceful discussion and initiate at least a new approach to the many difficult problems that must be solved in both private and public conversations if the world is to shake off the inertia imposed by fear and is to make positive progress towards peace [470th meeting, para. 122]”.

30. Sir Pierson DIXON (United Kingdom): The few remarks which I propose to address to the Assembly in explanation of the support of my delegation for the draft resolution before us proceed from the confident assumption that the draft will be unanimously adopted.

31. I think we are all agreed that our debate in the First Committee on the peaceful uses of atomic energy was both encouraging and constructive. I was particularly impressed and heartened by three factors which, in my submission, shaped the course of this debate. The first was the very high and statesmanlike quality of the speeches, which reflected the Committee's awareness of the tremendous importance and significance of the subject before it. The second factor was the eager desire for unanimous agreement which was evident from many of the statements. It was as if we wished to tell the world that, although we do have differences of opinion in the United Nations on many subjects, the immeasurable potential benefits to mankind of the peaceful uses of atomic energy was a subject which demanded the whole-hearted support of the United Nations. The third factor springs from this desire for unanimity. It was what I described in the Committee as the give-and-take of negotiation and discussion, both in the Committee room and in private talks outside.

32. In consequence, the final version of the draft resolution which we adopted in the Committee differed significantly from the draft which was originally introduced. The final draft resolution now before us includes several new and constructive ideas which were voiced in the corridors and in the Committee room itself. It is, of course, rarely possible to give complete satisfaction to every point of view, but the draft resolution which my delegation had the honour to co-sponsor in the Committee does represent very substantial agreement, after fruitful negotiation, on a subject of vast import to mankind, and I have no hesitation in commending its unanimous acceptance to this Assembly.

33. The PRESIDENT (*translated from Spanish*): We shall now vote on the draft resolution submitted by the First Committee [A/3008].

The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 59

Effects of atomic radiation:

- (a) Co-ordination of information relating to the effects of atomic radiation upon human health and safety;
- (b) Dissemination of information on the effects of atomic radiation and on the effects of experimental explosions of thermo-nuclear bombs

REPORTS OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE (A/3022 AND CORR.1) AND THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/3056)

34. The PRESIDENT (*translated from Spanish*): I wish to draw the Assembly's attention to the report submitted by the Fifth Committee [A/3056] on the financial implications of the draft resolutions submitted by the First Committee in connexion with agenda items 59 and 18.

35. Mr. ECHEVERRI CORTES (Colombia), Rapporteur of the First Committee (*translated from Spanish*): This report [A/3022 and Corr.1] shows how carefully the members of the First Committee went into the question of the peaceful uses of atomic energy. Few items have aroused such interest in the

First Committee as that relating to the experimental explosions of thermo-nuclear bombs. The Committee discussed at length the damage resulting from atomic radiation, the harmful biological and genetic effects which radiation produced by the explosion of nuclear and thermo-nuclear bombs might have on the human race, and the disasters to which places near the experimental areas might be exposed.

36. At the request of the representative of India, the First Committee asked the Secretary-General to prepare a working paper embodying data for the dissemination of information on the effects of atomic radiation. The Committee's study of the draft resolution before it was facilitated by the excellent scientific paper submitted by the Secretary-General [A/INF/67].

37. I should like to point out that, at the 780th meeting of the Committee, twenty delegations presented an amendment (A/C.1/L.142) to the eight-Power draft resolution which was before the Committee, increasing from eleven to fifteen the number of nations represented on the scientific committee, and proposing that the committee should consist of Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, France, India, Japan, Mexico, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States and the Soviet Union. That meant that several under-developed countries, which through their scientists could also contribute to the study of the grave dangers attendant upon thermo-nuclear tests, were added to the scientific committee.

38. As representative of Colombia, I must inform the Assembly that all the Latin American countries were gratified that the First Committee should have included three Latin American nations, Argentina, Brazil and Mexico, among the fifteen members of the scientific committee.

39. The task is not easy, and it calls for a joint effort from both small and great Powers. Spiritual and moral ties must be strengthened in face of the great effort that must be made to demonstrate to mankind, by scientific and impartial means, the disasters which may result from atomic explosions carried out without all the precautions advised by scientists. Everyone realizes that the collection, study and dissemination of the information compiled by the scientific committee, with the co-operation of international agencies and on the basis of past experience, will make it possible to arrive at extremely important conclusions and to avoid effects of atomic radiation which could be disastrous to the future of the human race.

40. World public opinion will greet the approval of this proposal as a happy omen that in future the wrath of the elements will not be unleashed without regard to the dangers which might result for the human race.

41. On behalf of the First Committee, I present the draft resolution contained in this report [A/3022 and Corr.1] for the consideration of the General Assembly.

Pursuant to rule 68 of the rules of procedure, it was decided not to discuss the report of the First Committee.

42. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): Before calling on representatives who wish to explain their votes, I should like to point out that the Assembly has before it two amendments proposed by India [A/L.204]. Representatives may accordingly refer also to those amendments when explaining their votes.

43. Mr. ROMULO (Philippines): Atomic energy has become a motive power here in the United Nations. Twice already during this tenth session of the General

Assembly we have made significant advances in this new field for man. Twice, also, we have seen East and West join together here in good partnership in matters relating to atomic energy.

44. We have had a draft resolution on the peaceful uses of atomic energy adopted unanimously in the First Committee and ratified unanimously by the General Assembly this morning. By this we have provided for more conferences like the successful scientific gatherings in Geneva last August; we have recorded the substantial progress towards an International Atomic Energy Agency; and we have taken up the idea of a new international periodical to spread knowledge of the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

45. We now come to the draft resolution sent here by unanimous vote from the First Committee, by which we create a new scientific committee to study the effects of radiation. Here we respond to new concerns of man. Here we entrust one more useful task to this peoples' organization that is the United Nations. The Philippine delegation hopes that this energy, this unanimity, this forward movement may go on to unite our nations even more in good partnership in the field of atomic energy. The Philippine delegation would like to put forward two more thoughts as it explains its vote on this occasion.

46. In the first place, the Philippine delegation suggested in committee that it would be helpful and even effective if the United Nations set up an actual radiation monitoring service of its own. Such a service could man posts in areas where gaps might otherwise appear in the global collection of data on radiation levels and their effects. Many of our countries are still in the earliest stages of atomic development. But, in the interests of harmony, my delegation did not press a formal proposal.

47. I note, however, that the Secretary-General has told us:

"Within the framework of the World Meteorological Organization there is a well-established system of international co-operation and co-ordination in the collection and publication of observations and statistical data concerning meteorological conditions. This organization has not only the experience but also the necessary contacts and networks for such observations as the committee might consider necessary as a basis for a continuous check on the development of radiation around the globe. In varying degree, and in different directions, similar contributions can be made by the World Health Organization, the International Labour Office, the Food and Agricultural Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization [A/INF/67, para. 8]."

48. The Secretary-General has also told us of the decision of his Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, which includes the executive heads of all the specialized agencies, "to set up a sub-committee for questions arising for the specialized agencies and the United Nations in the field of atomic energy [Ibid., para. 9]."

49. It seems to me that, in its paragraphs 3, 4 and 5, the draft resolution before us goes a long way to enable the Secretary-General and the specialized agencies to meet the potential needs for gathering information and maintaining an extra watch on radiation. In addition, the new scientific committee is empowered to develop a summary of the "indications of research projects

which might require further study". Thus the scientists, should they find gaps in the combined national reporting and potential Secretariat and agency networks, might recommend such a measure as the special United Nations monitoring service.

50. But the Philippine delegation desires to emphasize a further clause of the draft resolution, in which the General Assembly

"Calls upon all concerned to co-operate in making available reports and studies relating to the short-term and long-term effects of ionizing radiation upon man and his environment and radiological data collected by them."

The Philippine Government has steadfastly fulfilled all calls made upon it by the United Nations to the best of its ability. Philippine soldiers have shed their blood for the United Nations in Korea. Let me emphasize that under this important clause in the draft resolution, each and every one of us should stand ready, in this problem of atomic radiation, to offer land and whatever facilities we can to assist a United Nations information and monitoring network, should that be desired. For this good United Nations endeavour, whatever the slight cost to national sovereignty, responds to the needs of peoples. Its success can only help us all.

51. In the second place, there is no attempt here to intrude in what might seem like the internal affairs of other nations. But these concerns of atomic energy flow beyond the artificial boundaries set up by man. They blend inevitably into international affairs. So the Philippine delegation desires to observe that it has been suggested of late that great new co-operative endeavours might develop if international leaders were to observe a test thermo-nuclear explosion. It has been contended, in opposition, that the Bikini atomic test demonstrations in 1946 failed to induce good co-operation. Time has raced on in this atomic age. More countries than one have now demonstrated the ability to manufacture nuclear weapons. Perhaps national pride has been satisfied. Perhaps national security may see a nearer balance.

52. I speak to the Powers now exploding test atomic devices. Would it perhaps be helpful if those Powers invited this new scientific committee to observe such tests on a previously agreed basis of reciprocity? Reciprocity there should be. From the detonation of the first atomic bomb in warfare, the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada have made available internationally great quantities of information about such explosions. The United States was the host Power at Bikini. These efforts we appreciate. They sought the common good. We hope that the Soviet Union will also be a host Power as the United States was at Bikini.

53. If such reciprocal observation could now be arranged without too serious an infringement of the security of the Powers concerned — as I hope — some possible results might be the following.

54. First, the Powers concerned would show once more the sincerity of their effort to solve this problem of radiation and, beyond that, inevitably the problem of the control of nuclear weapons. Secondly, the Powers concerned would have the opportunity to display the care and the safeguards I am sure they employ to shield mankind from adverse effects of nuclear explosions. Thirdly, the Powers concerned would jointly demonstrate the dread power of such weapons, perhaps spurring us once again to greater efforts for peace and, at the least, helping to deter each and every one further

from the miscalculations that might precipitate atomic war. Fourthly, the Powers concerned might stimulate our scientific committee into new thinking on radiation monitoring, limitation and control — and, beyond that, inevitably on the problem of the control of nuclear weapons.

55. So might the Powers concerned aid us to continue this forward march of the United Nations in the field of atomic energy. So might there be more of the good partnership, in this field, in our cause of peace.

56. The Philippines delegation will vote for the draft resolution now before the Assembly.

57. Mr. MENON (India): I am a little uninformed as to the procedural position which we are in at this moment. I invite the attention of the General Assembly, and of the President, to the two amendments submitted by my delegation [A/L.204] to paragraph 2 of the operative part of the draft resolution presented by the First Committee [A/3022 and Corr.1]. My understanding of the explanation of a vote is that it is in regard to a vote which is no longer in question. This matter has not been voted upon, but my delegation has not raised a procedural point of order in order to facilitate the business of the Assembly. I make these observations in order to make it clear that, at the present moment, my delegation is addressing itself merely to these amendments standing in its name.

58. When the Government of India asked for the inclusion of this item in the agenda, it did not do so for any political motives or purposes, nor did it think that there would be any political implications in regard to this. So far as we are concerned, this is a matter concerning the whole of humanity. My Government's approach is humanitarian; humanitarian not in the sense of charity or anything of that kind, but in the sense that it regards this matter as concerning human interests as a whole, and not party, or group, or national political interests. The Government of India has been concerned with the results of atomic radiation in its own national context, and has appointed national committees to study them for some time and to put forward their views from various standpoints.

59. So that, when I request this Assembly to consider these amendments, to which I shall draw specific attention in a moment, I want to ask the representatives to accept in all sincerity that we have no political motive in moving these amendments. We are requesting the Assembly to accept these amendments, first, because they accord with the purposes of the draft resolution; secondly, because they accord with the other parts of the draft resolution; and, thirdly, because they accord with the needs of the world and of the topic which we are discussing.

60. In the course of the debate in the First Committee, I drew the attention of the Committee to the various occasions on which the original sponsors of the draft resolution before it had referred to the world-wide implications of the draft and the necessity for world-wide collection of information, etc.

61. Now, if the Assembly will look at the draft resolution submitted by the First Committee, it will notice that the first paragraph of the preamble refers to "problems relating to the effects of ionizing radiation upon man and his environment". It is common knowledge that these words, and various others, are the result of continued conversations and exchange of ideas, and it

was agreed by all concerned that it was a very happy result.

62. We are not dealing here with countries, nations, frontiers, political groups, or with the various other alignments that may exist in the world; we are dealing with the effects of radiation "upon man and his environment". In fact, this phraseology was used in order that our inquiry should not exclude what is usually called, perhaps mistakenly, the sub-human kingdom of nature; that is to say, it should not exclude plants, animal or sub-animal life. The words "man and his environment" give the widest definition of this planet as a whole. I do not know whether they do not include even bodies outside this planet, because the whole universe is man's environment, and that is why the words were put here. And unless we are going to make that an empty phrase, any limiting phraseology in the draft resolution would be an error. Therefore I hope that the Assembly, in considering these matters, will give attention to the basic purposes which have been recognized in the draft and which have been incorporated in it — not incorporated by accident, but as a result of the alteration of original statements.

63. The next paragraph of the preamble says: "Believing that the widest distribution should be given to all available scientific data". It does not say "the widest possible distribution"; it says "the widest distribution". That is to say, there should be no limit to this except in so far as our capacity or our knowledge are limited.

64. The last paragraph of the preamble says: "Believing that the peoples of the world...". There is no restriction here about countries, groups, parties or anything of that kind.

65. In the amendments that are now before the Assembly, there is no attempt to introduce anything of a contentious or tendentious character. There is nothing in these amendments which is contrary to the Charter, or to any of the decisions which we have made, or to the structure of this Organization. And that is why my delegation, after very careful consideration, introduced words which would not have any such significance. Amended, paragraph 2 (a) of the operative part would read:

"To receive and assemble in an appropriate and useful form the following radiological information furnished to it: (1) reports ..."

66. We are appointing a committee of countries and inviting them to send their leading scientists, with alternates and advisers. In the course of the debate, I think that it was the representative of the United Kingdom who expressed the hope — which, I am sure, found an echo in the hearts and minds of all other delegations — that these representatives would be very capable and highly qualified persons, most eminent men, for this purpose. Now I think that the Assembly may well be confident that this highly respected body, in this study of the radiological information furnished to it, with the assistance of the Secretary-General and of the machinery that this Organization has available to it — and, what is more, with the vigilance that the representatives in the General Assembly have asked for — would use whatever came to it in a responsible way. Therefore there is no necessity to build a barrier in any form.

67. I have no quarrel with the use of the original words in other contexts, because, whatever may be the individual views of my delegation, we are bound by

general decisions, and I am prepared to respect them, although we would offer our differences of views in the course of the debates on this issue.

68. The amendment we propose to operative paragraph 2 (a) would substitute the words "furnished to it" for the words "furnished by States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies".

69. To the best of my recollection, even today there are groupings of humanity — nations, if you like to call them that — anyway, there are territorial groupings of humanity which are not covered by this draft resolution but which are the recipients of or participants in organizations connected with the United Nations.

70. I do not want to take the time of the General Assembly by going into the details of this, but would request representatives to consider the first Indian amendment and also the second amendment, which is consequential upon the first. This amendment would delete all the words after the word "dissemination" in operative paragraph 2 (f).

71. It is my view that, because of the obligation that rests on the Secretariat as an organ of the United Nations, we cannot restrict the Secretary-General in the publication of documents, unless they are secret documents. I doubt very much whether we could restrict the publication of documents which are useful to humanity by any limiting phraseology.

72. Therefore, I repeat, these two amendments are not of a political character. They are in keeping with the other phraseology and with the purposes of the draft resolution.

73. What is more, within the last few days we have heard much about universality in another context. I do not want to complicate matters by introducing any argument of this character. I think we might make a beginning somewhere and therefore, in moving these amendments, I should like to request those who, in the heat of the debate in the First Committee, made decisions against their inclusion, to consider whether this time they cannot let them go through. If they cannot subscribe to this, perhaps they will not oppose them; and not opposing them would mean that they were willing to take a wider view of man and his environment. It would mean that man and his environment would not be limited by our national system or by our friends, but by the human race. I do not see how either logic or common-sense or one's own integrity could allow one to oppose the idea that from man and his environment cannot be excluded any people who are covered by these words.

74. I submit that great causes and limited outlooks go ill together, and it is said that magnanimity is seldom the least of all virtues. I therefore request the General Assembly to consider these amendments and I ask those delegations which, in the heat of the debate and in the context of all the other arguments that went on, were not able to accept them, to reconsider their position and at least to withdraw their opposition to the inclusion of these words.

75. I want to place it on record that the amendments, if accepted, would not in any way change the decisions of the General Assembly in regard to any other matters. This is a task that is to be undertaken outside the context of the other resolutions, and we could no more deal with atomic radiation in a way which limited the world than we could with meteorological measurements,

disease germs or climatic conditions and things of that character.

76. I could have referred to other matters, but I did not want to introduce anything that could be regarded by any stretch of the imagination as contentious. I therefore submit these amendments for your consideration.

77. The PRESIDENT (*translated from Spanish*): I repeat that the explanations of vote may refer both to the draft resolution of the First Committee and to the amendments presented by the Indian delegation. Naturally, when we come to the vote, we shall take the Indian amendments first.

78. Mr. WADSWORTH (United States of America): We have just taken in this body an important step to bring the benefits of the atom to the world. Now we are called upon to make an effort to understand its potentially harmful effects. The potential hazards of radio-activity have been recognized for a long time, and over the years scientists have learned a good deal about the problem. However, we need more knowledge, and particularly more wide-spread dissemination of this knowledge in terms which are understandable to all. This is absolutely essential if the world is to reap the full advantages of the peaceful atom.

79. The United States attaches the greatest importance to this problem, and will, of course, lend its full support to the scientific committee to be established by this resolution. The representative of my Government will be a scientist eminent in the field of radiology, and he will be assisted by highly qualified experts in the scientific specialities involved in the tasks to be undertaken by this committee. We hope that the committee will convene as early as possible next year and will begin quickly to organize its plan of work.

80. Let me turn now briefly to the amendments introduced by the delegation of India [A/L.204]. These are the same amendments which, after thorough debate, were rejected by the First Committee. As other representatives pointed out in the First Committee, these amendments have the effect of reopening political issues on which this Assembly has already taken decisions. I stress that they have that effect, because the statement of the representative of India made it perfectly clear that he had no political motives in reintroducing the amendments.

81. However, the United States delegation does not believe that this is an appropriate occasion to reconsider an issue of this nature. The draft resolution is the product of careful study and lengthy debate, and we believe it should be adopted as it stands. The United States will therefore oppose the amendments.

82. Now I should like to make a brief comment on the action of the Fifth Committee [A/3056] in approving the payment of travel and *per diem* expenses to the representatives who serve on this scientific committee.

83. The United States believes that these payments, particularly the payment of *per diem* expenses, would not be consistent with the governmental character of the committee. In our view, although it is to be a committee of scientists, it nevertheless will be a governmental body. It is to be composed of fifteen States, and the scientists who represent these States will be designated by their Governments, and not by the General Assembly or by the Secretary-General. Therefore the payment of expenses to such representatives out of United Nations funds may tend to confuse their status and create the impression that they are serving

either as advisers to the Secretary-General or even in their personal capacities, neither of which happens to be the case. Moreover, we believe that it would establish an undesirable financial practice for other governmental committees of this type.

84. For these reasons, the United States hopes that the Fifth Committee may wish to review this action when it votes on the final budget on second reading. In any event, it is important that, whatever budgetary action is taken, no confusion should be created as to the governmental character of this committee.

85. Sir Pierson DIXON (United Kingdom): When I first addressed the First Committee on the subject of the effects of atomic radiation, I spoke of the lack of scientific knowledge on the subject which had led to a deep-rooted anxiety that recent discoveries in the field of atomic energy might be disturbing the course of nature and affecting the biological development of the human species. I drew attention to the need for the United Nations to set up machinery which would establish the facts in a field particularly vulnerable to speculation.

86. Many of the thoughtful speeches which were made in the Committee at the time referred to the prerequisite of establishing a committee of scientific experts which, as a result of their labours, would be able to establish the facts. We all agreed that this was the best way in which the United Nations should set about its important task, and the result of our efforts was a draft resolution adopted unanimously, of which the text is given in the report of the First Committee [A/3022 and Corr.1]. The specific functions of the proposed scientific committee are described in the draft resolution, and I do not think that I need elaborate on them again.

87. As regards the two amendments of the delegation of India [A/L.204] to the draft resolution, my delegation does not feel able to vary the position it took in the Committee, when we were not able to support them.

88. The other document before us now is the report of the Fifth Committee [A/3056] on the financial implications of the First Committee's draft resolution on this question.

89. The United Kingdom delegation regrets that the Fifth Committee rejected the advice of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. The Advisory Committee had recommended that the \$43,000 which was the estimated cost of travel and subsistence for the fifteen members of the scientific committee should, in accordance with United Nations principle and practice, be borne by the Governments represented on the committee and not by the United Nations. My delegation entirely agrees with this conclusion. We also consider that, since the members of the committee will be representatives of Governments, it would be an unnecessary misuse of United Nations funds to bear these expenses on the United Nations budget.

90. We very much hope, therefore, that when this item comes before the Fifth Committee, on the second reading of the budget, the Committee will, on reconsideration, decide to recommend that the charge be removed from the United Nations budget.

91. Mr. KUZNETSOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (*translated from Russian*): The Soviet delegation voted in the First Committee for the draft resolution on the effects of atomic radiation, and will vote for it today. We consider that this text, although

it does not include certain important provisions proposed by some delegations, will have a useful influence on the development of international co-operation in the study of the effects of atomic radiation on man and his environment. However, we feel compelled to point out that the draft also has a number of serious weaknesses, to which we drew attention in the First Committee when the matter was under consideration in that body.

92. One serious weakness of the draft resolution is the fact that the General Assembly, in its decision on the effects of atomic radiation, will not be taking a stand on the request put forward by many countries that tests of atomic weapons should be discontinued, since detonations of such weapons give rise to radio-activity constituting a danger to human beings and their environment.

93. The Soviet delegation considers that, in examining the question of the effects of atomic radiation, the General Assembly, bearing in mind the danger to human life of the radiation resulting from the detonation of atomic bombs, should call on States, particularly those possessing nuclear materials and the means for producing atomic weapons, to continue their efforts to reach agreement on the prohibition of atomic, hydrogen and other weapons of mass destruction and, as a first step, of experiments with such weapons.

94. Another serious defect of the draft resolution adopted by the First Committee is the restriction which it imposes on the development of international co-operation for the collection and dissemination of information on levels of ionizing radiation and radio-activity in man's environment. In this field, the draft provides for co-operation not among all States, but only among States Members of the United Nations or its specialized agencies, although the problem of the effects of atomic radiation is undoubtedly of vital importance to all States. Atomic radiation recognizes no frontiers, and spreads whether or not a country is a Member of the United Nations or of its specialized agencies.

95. To limit co-operation in the collection and dissemination of information on atomic radiation to States which are Members of the United Nations or its specialized agencies can only be prejudicial to international co-operation in this field and to the development and strengthening of friendly relations among nations with a view to the maintenance of international peace and security. The differences in the social and economic structures of States should not be used to prevent any State concerned with the effects of atomic radiation from making its contribution to international co-operation in this field; the greater the number of States co-operating, the more fruitful will the results of such co-operation be.

96. Accordingly, the Soviet delegation supports the Indian delegation's amendments [A/L.204] to subparagraphs (a) and (f) of paragraph 2 of the operative part of the draft resolution.

97. A number of delegations have argued in favour of expanding the proposed scientific committee with a view to achieving a fuller representation of the main areas of the world. In this connexion, it would appear highly desirable that scientists from the People's Republic of China and from Romania should take part in the committee's work. In the absence of the People's Republic of China, the scientific committee will be deprived of any information on atomic radiation from that large and important area of the world.

98. A number of delegations suggested in the First Committee that the functions of the proposed scientific committee should be expanded; that it should be responsible not only for the collection and dissemination of information on levels of ionizing radiation and on the effects of such radiation on man and his environment, but also for the collection, analysis and dissemination of information on the problem of protecting man from the effects of atomic radiation and on ways and means of treating radiation sickness.

99. The importance of the problem of protection against the dangerous effects of radiation and of devising suitable treatment for radiation sickness can scarcely be overestimated. The dissemination by the committee of the results of research in this field would be an important contribution to the solution of problems connected with the injurious effects of ionizing radiation on man and his environment. In addition, international co-operation in this field would help to develop the peaceful uses of atomic energy for the benefit of mankind.

100. In order to eliminate the weaknesses I have referred to in the draft resolution on the effects of atomic radiation, the Soviet delegation introduced a number of appropriate proposals for consideration by the First Committee. The adoption of these proposals would have greatly facilitated the development of international co-operation in respect of the problems connected with atomic radiation. The adoption of these proposals at future stages in the consideration of the effects of atomic radiation by United Nations organs will undoubtedly help to promote more effective international co-operation in this field.

101. The PRESIDENT (*translated from Spanish*): In accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, we shall vote first on the amendments submitted by India [A/L.204] to subparagraphs (a) and (f) of paragraph 2 of the operative part of the draft resolution presented by the First Committee [A/3022 and Corr.1].

The amendment to paragraph 2 (a) was rejected by 28 votes to 21, with 8 abstentions.

The amendment to paragraph 2 (f) was rejected by 30 votes to 22, with 7 abstentions.

102. The PRESIDENT (*translated from Spanish*): We now have to vote on the draft resolution of the First Committee [A/3022 and Corr.1]. If no one asks for a vote on this draft resolution, I shall consider it as adopted.

The draft resolution was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 24

Economic development of under-developed countries:

(c) Programmes of technical assistance

MEMORANDUM BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE CONFIRMATION OF THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS UNDER THE EXPANDED PROGRAMME OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (A/3053)

103. The PRESIDENT (*translated from Spanish*): At the request of the Technical Assistance Committee, which examined and adopted the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance for 1956 and authorized the allocation of funds for putting it into effect, the Secretary-General has submitted to the General Assembly the draft resolution which is now before us [A/3053].

If there is no objection, I shall take it that the draft resolution is adopted.

The draft resolution was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 22

Report of the Director of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

REPORT OF THE *Ad Hoc* POLITICAL COMMITTEE (A/3057)

Mr. King (Liberia), Rapporteur of the Ad Hoc Political Committee, presented the report of that Committee.

Pursuant to rule 68 of the rules of procedure, it was decided not to discuss the report of the Ad Hoc Political Committee.

104. The PRESIDENT (*translated from Spanish*): As no representative has asked for the floor to explain his vote, we shall proceed to vote on the draft resolution submitted by the *Ad Hoc* Political Committee [A/3057].

The draft resolution was adopted by 38 votes to none, with 17 abstentions.

AGENDA ITEM 36

Financial reports and accounts, and reports of the Board of Auditors:

(c) United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, for the financial year ended 30 June 1955;

(d) United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency, for the financial year ended 30 June 1955

REPORTS OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/3051 AND A/3033 AND CORR.1)

Mr. Méndez (Philippines), Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee, presented the reports of that Committee.

Pursuant to rule 68 of the rules of procedure, it was decided not to discuss the reports of the Fifth Committee.

105. The PRESIDENT (*translated from Spanish*): The draft resolution submitted by the Fifth Committee in connexion with agenda item 36 (c) [A/3051] was adopted in committee without objection. I take it, therefore, that the Assembly also adopts it without objection.

The draft resolution was adopted.

106. The PRESIDENT (*translated from Spanish*): We come now to the draft resolution submitted by the Fifth Committee in connexion with agenda item 36 (d) [A/3033 and Corr.1]. As no representative has asked for the floor to explain his vote, we shall vote on that draft resolution.

The draft resolution was adopted by 45 votes to none, with 8 abstentions.

AGENDA ITEM 54

Registration and publication of treaties and international agreements

REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/3058)

Mr. Méndez (Philippines), Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee, presented the report of that Committee.

Pursuant to rule 68 of the rules of procedure, it was decided not to discuss the report of the Fifth Committee.

107. The PRESIDENT (*translated from Spanish*): The draft resolution submitted by the Fifth Committee [A/3058] was adopted unanimously in committee. I take it, therefore, that the General Assembly also adopts it unanimously.

The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 50

Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its seventh session

REPORTS OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE (A/3028) AND THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/3052)

108. Mr. TAMMES (Netherlands), Rapporteur of the Sixth Committee: Since 1949, the year of its first session, the International Law Commission, created by the General Assembly for the promotion of the progressive development of international law and its codification [*resolution 174 (II)*], has submitted to the General Assembly a report on the work of its yearly sessions.

109. The report submitted at the present session of the General Assembly [A/2934] covers the Commission's seventh session, held in Geneva from 2 May to 8 July 1955. The General Assembly referred the report to the Sixth Committee for consideration.

110. A summary of the observations on the subject made in the Sixth Committee may be found in the report of that Committee [A/3028], which I have the honour to present herewith to the General Assembly.

111. The report of the International Law Commission is divided into four chapters, the first of which deals with the organization of the Commission's seventh session.

112. Chapters II and III deal with the régime of the high seas and the régime of the territorial sea respectively. Chapter II is followed by an annex containing draft articles relating to the régime of the high seas. In these two chapters the Commission, for the information of the General Assembly, sets forth the progress which has been made on the relevant subjects. Both chapters were furnished to Governments, and chapter II was furnished to a number of organizations for their comments. In these circumstances, the Sixth Committee did not find it necessary to make any recommendations to the General Assembly with respect to them.

113. In chapter IV, the International Law Commission recommends to the General Assembly certain amendments to articles 12 and 10 of the Commission's Statute. The Sixth Committee adopted two draft resolutions, numbered I and II, approving those amendments. If the General Assembly adopts them in its turn, then, under article 12 of the Statute, the European Office of the United Nations will be the regular place of meetings of the Commission, and, under article 10, the term of office of the members of the Commission will be extended from three to five years.

114. In the course of the debates on the proposed amendments to the Statute, the question was raised whether article 11, dealing with the filling of casual vacancies in the membership of the Commission, should also be amended. The Committee, acting on this question, adopted its draft resolution III, under which the General Assembly would invite the International Law

Commission to give its opinion on the matter, and decide to include the question in the provisional agenda of the eleventh session.

115. The Sixth Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of its draft resolution IV, on the publication of International Law Commission documents in accordance with principles laid down in that text.

Pursuant to rule 68 of the rules of procedure, it was decided not to discuss the report of the Sixth Committee.

116. The PRESIDENT (*translated from Spanish*): Before giving the floor to representatives who wish to explain their votes, may I point out that the Assembly has also before it the report of the Fifth Committee [A/3052] on the financial implications of the draft resolutions, proposed by the Sixth Committee [A/3028], and an amendment submitted by Mexico [A/L.203] to draft resolution IV. In explaining their votes, representatives may refer also to this amendment.

117. Mr. CASTAÑEDA (Mexico) (*translated from Spanish*): I should like to say a few words in submitting my delegation's amendment [A/L.203] to draft resolution IV of the Sixth Committee.

118. The amendment merely suggests a slight change in the wording of operative paragraph 3, replacing the words "to give instructions to the Secretary-General" by the words "to express its views for the guidance of the Secretary-General".

119. The purpose of this amendment is to bring the wording of the paragraph into line with the terminology normally used in resolutions of this kind. Furthermore, my delegation thinks that the word "instructions" is too rigid. A more flexible expression seems to be called for, in view of the fact that the principal responsibility for putting the draft resolution into effect will devolve on the Secretary-General. In any event, my delegation is confident that the Secretary-General will duly heed the wishes and points of view expressed by the International Law Commission.

120. Mr. TAMMES (Netherlands): I should like to speak briefly in support of the amendment submitted by Mexico [A/L.203] to draft resolution IV.

121. In the Sixth Committee, the Netherlands delegation was generally in favour of the draft resolution as it now appears. Nevertheless, we had our doubts as to the propriety of the words, in operative paragraph 3, "to give instructions to the Secretary-General". As was observed during the discussion in the Committee, it is doubtful whether the International Law Commission is qualified to give instructions to the Secretary-General. On the other hand — and this view was also put forward in the Committee — the phrase "to express its views" is scarcely more apt, because it seems to question the right of the International Law Commission to make the final decision on the publication of these documents. By the inclusion of the phrase, "for the guidance of the Secretary-General", the wording of paragraph 3 would be more balanced and much more satisfactory than it is now.

122. My delegation, therefore, whole-heartedly supports the amendment proposed by the delegation of Mexico.

123. The PRESIDENT (*translated from Spanish*): We shall now proceed to vote on the first three draft resolutions recommended by the Sixth Committee [A/3028].

Draft resolution I was adopted by 55 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

Draft resolution II was adopted by 46 votes to 4, with 4 abstentions.

Draft resolution III was adopted by 57 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

124. The PRESIDENT (*translated from Spanish*): We come now to draft resolution IV, to which an amendment has been submitted by Mexico [A/L.203]. In accordance with the rules of procedure, we shall vote first on the amendment.

The amendment was adopted by 56 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

125. The PRESIDENT (*translated from Spanish*): We shall now vote on draft resolution IV, as amended.

The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted by 43 votes to 2,¹ with 11 abstentions.

AGENDA ITEM 30

Question of South West Africa:

- (a) Voting procedure on questions relating to reports and petitions concerning the Territory of South West Africa: advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice;
- (b) Report of the Committee on South West Africa

REPORT OF THE FOURTH COMMITTEE (A/3043)

Mr. Massonet (Belgium), Rapporteur of the Fourth Committee, presented the report of that Committee.

Pursuant to rule 68 of the rules of procedure, it was decided not to discuss the report of the Fourth Committee.

126. The PRESIDENT (*translated from Spanish*): As the General Assembly has a number of draft resolutions before it, I would ask the representatives who wish to explain their votes to do so before the voting begins and, in so doing, to refer to all the points under discussion.

127. Mr. ESKEKUND (Denmark): I wish to explain my vote on draft resolution V.

128. My delegation would like the last paragraph of the operative part, paragraph 3, to be amended.

129. This year, the Fourth Committee did not deal with the substance of this draft resolution. The draft resolution was carried over from the ninth session, when the General Assembly decided [501st meeting] to await the opinion of the International Court of Justice on the voting procedure. It seems to me, however, that circumstances have changed in various ways since last year. That is why I should like to propose that paragraph 3 of draft resolution V should be amended to read as follows:

"Expresses the hope that the Government of the Union of South Africa may be able to reconsider the matter."

130. I very much hope that this amendment is adopted, since that will enable my delegation to vote in favour of the draft resolution as a whole.

131. If, however, the necessary two-thirds majority is not obtained for that amendment, I propose the following

¹ Subsequent to the meeting, the French delegation informed the Secretary-General that it wished to have it placed on record that it had voted against draft resolution IV.

amendment to the paragraph: that the words "the President of the General Assembly" should be replaced by the words "the Secretary-General". I think that, on the whole, it would be preferable for the Secretary-General, rather than the President of the General Assembly, to carry out the task referred to in the paragraph. Of course, this task is of importance — even of very great importance, but it is not in the very high political sphere where it would be reasonable to expect the President of this august body to have the responsibility.

132. My delegation will not be able to vote in favour of paragraphs 1 and 2 of the draft resolution in its present form. I wish to inform the General Assembly of that fact, not because it will have any great influence, but because I think that it is only fair to do so at the time when I present an amendment.

133. The PRESIDENT (*translated from Spanish*): The suggestions of the representative of Denmark will be taken into account in due course.

134. The Assembly will now proceed to vote on the first four draft resolutions recommended by the Fourth Committee [A/3043].

Draft resolution I was adopted by 54 votes to none, with 4 abstentions.

Draft resolution II was adopted by 44 votes to 2, with 11 abstentions.

Draft resolution III was adopted by 47 votes to none, with 8 abstentions.

Draft resolution IV was adopted by 50 votes to none, with 9 abstentions.

135. The PRESIDENT (*translated from Spanish*): We now come to draft resolution V. We shall vote first on the first Danish amendment, which would replace paragraph 3 of the operative part by the following:

"Expresses the hope that the Government of the Union of South Africa may be able to reconsider the matter."

The result of the vote was 9 in favour and 8 against, with 35 abstentions.

The amendment was not adopted, having failed to obtain the required two-thirds majority.

136. The PRESIDENT (*translated from Spanish*): We shall now vote on the second Danish amendment to the same draft resolution, under which the words "President of the General Assembly", in paragraph 3 of the operative part, would be replaced by "Secretary-General".

The amendment was adopted.

137. The PRESIDENT (*translated from Spanish*): I shall now put draft resolution V, as amended, to the vote.

The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted by 45 votes to 7, with 4 abstentions.

138. The PRESIDENT (*translated from Spanish*): We shall now vote on the remaining five draft resolutions.

Draft resolution VI was adopted by 45 votes to 2, with 9 abstentions.

Draft resolution VII was adopted by 43 votes to 2, with 9 abstentions.

Draft resolution VIII was adopted by 45 votes to 1, with 10 abstentions.

Draft resolution IX was adopted by 32 votes to 5, with 19 abstentions.

Draft resolution X was adopted by 34 votes to 6, with 14 abstentions.

The meeting rose at 1.40 p.m.