

an agreement on disarmament which would include provisions to deal with the frightening problem of nuclear weapons. If, however, there is no significant progress in this field in the immediate future, we will reconsider our position on the temporary measures which are proposed in this resolution."

Effects of Atomic Radiation

The United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation made encouraging progress during 1960 in pursuing the tasks assigned to it by the General Assembly during its fourteenth session. At the fifteenth session, the Committee submitted a progress report to the Assembly which was unanimous in expressing its appreciation of the progress already achieved and its encouragement to the Committee to continue its work during 1961.

The Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation was first established in 1955 by a resolution adopted at the tenth session of the General Assembly. In 1958 the first comprehensive report of the Committee was published, which confirmed that from a genetic point of view all radiation is harmful to man. However, the precise extent of the radiation hazard was not established. Shortly after the publication of the Committee's report, the United Kingdom and the United States announced their intention to negotiate a treaty for the cessation of nuclear tests. They were later joined by the U.S.S.R. in declaring a voluntary moratorium on nuclear tests which constituted a main source of man-made radiation. Nevertheless, the life of the Scientific Committee was extended indefinitely by the General Assembly at its thirteenth session and a second comprehensive report is now in preparation to be submitted in 1962. It is expected that this report will provide useful information on the extent of the harmful genetic and biological effects resulting from various degrees of exposure to radiation.

At its fourteenth session in the fall of 1959 the General Assembly, largely as a result of a Canadian initiative, unanimously adopted an important resolution expressing its continuing concern that scientific research on the effects of atomic radiation be pursued vigorously both at the national and international levels. That resolution invited various Specialized Agencies of the United Nations, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Health Organization, UNESCO, as well as the International Atomic Energy Agency, to encourage genetic, biological and other studies that would assist the Scientific Committee in elucidating the effects of radiation exposure on the health of human populations. The General Assembly also recommended that close collaboration be developed between the Scientific Committee and official as well as private scientific research organizations and individual scientists in all countries of the world. Towards that end, the