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Statement by Mr. W.B. Nesbitt, Q.C., M.P.,
Vice-Chairman of the Canadian Delegation
in the Special Political Committee,
December 15, 1960

Agenda Item 24 - Report of the
United Nations Scientific Committee
on the Effects of Atomic Radiation

Mr. Chairman:

The Government and people of Canada have long been concerned about the hazards of radiation. This concern has found expression in the development within Canada of an extensive system of radio-active sample analysis. It has also found expression in active Canadian support for international efforts to increase man's knowledge of radiation. During the past five years the focal point for international consideration of this complex question has been the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, on which Canada has had the privilege and responsibility of serving since its establishment.

The annual progress report of the Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation which has been circulated in Document A/4528 and which is the subject of our present debate gives even the layman an insight into the complexities of the problems to which the scientists on the Committee and their collaborators have had to address themselves. It is clear that co-operation among scientists, both national and international, with the encouragement and assistance of governments and of inter-governmental organizations, is essential to achieve the desired results. It is therefore gratifying to note from the lucid report before us that in pursuit of the Scientific Committee's work increasingly fruitful collaboration is taking place among the Specialized Agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency, international non-governmental and national scientific organizations and individual scientists, and that active co-operation has been increasingly forthcoming from