

plied by about one thousand times. There were, at the same time, sharp increases in fall-out readings at several other points in Canada.

"I would like to place before the Committee today just a few figures to illustrate how sharply fall-out levels have jumped. In the week ending September 10, the highest fall-out level recorded anywhere in Canada was 20 disintegrations per minute per cubic metre of air. During the following week, however, there were readings of 90 units at Ottawa, 100 units at Montreal, 260 units at Windsor and 470 units at Toronto.

#### LATEST FALL-OUT READING

"Even higher levels were reached during the week of September 18 to September 24. The average reading for that week at Fort William was about 280 units, and this included peak daily readings of 1,000 units and 600 units. Montreal, the largest centre of population in Canada, had an average reading of 207 units for the week - that included three consecutive daily readings of more than 350 units. Ottawa also had very high fall-out readings during the same period; the average for the week was 246 units, and two consecutive daily readings were above 500 units. At Windsor a reading of 570 units was recorded on September 22, and the average for the week there was 185 units.

"I am sure the Committee will agree with me that this is most disturbing information. Nor are we certain what further increases in radiation levels may be expected as a result of the tests which have been carried out, for past experience has shown that a large portion of the radioactive fall-out is likely to be delayed. Moreover, several further atmospheric tests have been carried out since the fall-out levels which I have quoted were recorded. Every possible effort must be exerted to ensure that there is no further intensification of the already sharply increased levels of radioactive fall-out.

"It is true that Canada is one of the countries geographically located in the latitudes which, on the basis of evidence so far available, seem to have received some of the heaviest concentrations of radioactive fall-out. I am sure, however, that the anxiety aroused in Canada by the effects of recent tests explosions is shared by peoples of every nation represented in this Committee. There are too many grim uncertainties about this matter of radiation hazards to human welfare for any of us to be complacent. Intensity of radioactive fall-out varies from one locality to another, and from one week to the next. Concentrations build up in particular areas. The long-term effects of exposure are by no means clearly established; some of these effects may not appear for many years. It is thus not only ourselves and our children who face the consequences of ever higher levels of radiation; generations yet unborn also may suffer, to an extent which it is not now possible to measure. Another ominous aspect of the increase in levels of radioactive fall-out is the evidence that some individuals are more susceptible than others to harmful consequences of radiation.

"Whatever disagreement or doubt there may be about the level of radiation which would pose an immediate menace to human well-being, the fact that

all radiation does present a potential hazard, and that higher levels increase this hazard, is beyond dispute. Everything we learn about the nature and extent of the consequences of radiation reaffirms the gravity of the problem. The fact that we have still so much to learn about its long-term effects cannot fail to add to our apprehension.

"It is with these sombre considerations in mind... that my delegation has participated in formulating the expressions of international concern which are found in the resolution we have put before this Committee. As the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada, Mr. Green, said when he addressed the General Assembly, we take the most vigorous exception to having our own and succeeding generations exposed, through the actions of other states, to the dangers of radioactive fall-out. We must register in the most unequivocal terms the anxiety felt among members of this world organization, and the populations represented here, about the growing threat to which mankind is being exposed. By any standard for the conduct of international relations, it cannot be accepted that any state by its actions should cause populations of other states, and their descendants, to be exposed to these incalculable risks. We firmly believe it to be a responsibility of this Assembly to make this point sharply and clearly.

"It is essential, therefore, that we should not pass lightly over this item concerning the annual progress report of a scientific body established by the General Assembly to study the effects of atomic radiation. In dealing with it, we must take account of current developments which have such direct and important implications for the studies which that body is carrying out. If we failed to do so, we should be ignoring the views of the Scientific Committee itself. As its report states, the Committee recognizes that the resumption of nuclear test explosions increases the urgency for the intensification of relevant scientific studies.

#### CZECH PROPOSAL CHALLENGED

"It is difficult for my delegation to understand how the distinguished representative of Czechoslovakia could suggest, as the resolution submitted by his delegation does, that, despite the present disturbing circumstances, we should treat this item concerning radiation hazards in a routine and, indeed, almost casual manner. Item 24 is, after all, the only item on the agenda of the sixteenth session which deals specifically with the consequences of atomic radiation. I am sure the Committee will agree with me that, as representatives of our peoples - the very men, women and children directly threatened by the radiation menace -, we cannot do less in this Assembly than to take the kind of positive and substantive action which they expect of us. We must, therefore, seize the opportunity afforded by the consideration of this item to ensure that the focus of world opinion is held on this grave problem.

"Before I pass on to the scientific proposals contained in our resolution, I should perhaps comment briefly on one possible misconception about the nature of its objectives. It is not our intention - and in this I am sure I speak for all co-sponsors -

(Continued on P. 5)