

concerned in the Geneva discussions to continue their present voluntary suspension of tests and to other states to desist from such tests". Subsequently, the President of the United States announced at the close of 1959 that his Government would consider itself free to resume testing when the moratorium on tests expired on December 31, 1959. He explained that no future tests would, however, be carried out without advance notice. The United Kingdom Government somewhat later announced that it would maintain its moratorium on tests so long as the Geneva talks continued to be successful.

Under a separate but related item the Assembly considered a draft resolution introduced by the Delegation of Ireland to draw attention to the dangers inherent in the possible spread of nuclear weapons to states other than those now possessing them. The text ultimately adopted by a large majority, including Canada, recognized that an increase of this kind could aggravate international tension. It therefore invited the ten-nation Disarmament Committee to consider and report to the Disarmament Commission on "appropriate means whereby this danger may be averted, including the feasibility of an international agreement subject to inspection and control".

Effects of Atomic Radiation

Pursuant to the decision taken at the thirteenth session of the General Assembly to continue its existence, the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, of which Canada is a member, held its sixth session in New York from March 23 to April 1, 1959. The report of its deliberations included valuable conclusions and recommendations concerning its future work. In particular the report showed the Committee's intention to centre its discussions in the immediate future on radiation fall-out and radio-biological questions. It was the Committee's hope that the value of its work on these questions would be increased by the continued receipt of useful data from governments.

On July 9 the Secretary of State for External Affairs pointed out in the House of Commons that "in the Canadian Government's view it is desirable that support be given to the efforts of the Committee to enlarge and improve the data available to it". Accordingly, when the Committee's report was considered at the fourteenth session of the General Assembly, the Canadian Delegation took the lead in proposing a resolution designed to fill, as a matter of urgency and importance, the gaps that remain in man's knowledge of the nature, levels and effects of atomic radiation. From the outset the Canadian suggestions enlisted a wide measure of support from virtually all the main geographical areas and political groupings represented in the Assembly. It became necessary, however, to overcome Soviet opposition to any move to have the Scientific Committee play an executive and administrative role or to remove from the governments themselves responsibility for collection and analysis of radiation samples. After lengthy negotiations, a compromise formula was eventually found without derogating from the essential objectives.

The resultant resolution, co-sponsored by Canada and ten other countries, received the unanimous approval of the Assembly on November 17. It provides for joint studies by the Scientific Committee, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other interested Specialized Agencies with a view to stimulating the flow of information and data on fall-out and radiation levels. In addition it encourages genetic, biological and other studies on the effects of radiation exposure on the health of human population.

Introducing the resolution in the Assembly, the Secretary of State for External Affairs noted that, even should it be possible to reach the desired