

sented in the Assembly. Nevertheless, lengthy negotiations were required to overcome the initial Soviet opposition to any suggestion that the Scientific Committee might play an executive and administrative role or to any proposal removing from governments themselves responsibility for collection and analysis of radiation samples. In the end a resolution embodying the Canadian objectives was co-sponsored by Canada and ten other countries and unanimously approved by the Assembly — in some cases with more enthusiasm than in other cases. In introducing this resolution, I announced that Canada was “prepared to receive from other states radiation samples collected according to methods recommended by the Scientific Committee in consultation with the appropriate Specialized Agencies, and to analyse such samples in the Canadian Government laboratories which handle Canada’s domestic sampling programme. If other governments indicate their readiness to participate in such a co-operative programme of collection and analysis, the Canadian Government, as an initial offer, is prepared to receive and analyse on a regular basis samples of air, water, soil and food from 20 to 25 foreign sampling stations in each category”.

Since that time steps have been taken to make ready in Canada the facilities to meet such requests for analysis as may be received. The Scientific Committee has recently held its seventh session in New York, where further careful consideration has been given to the best means of encouraging relevant biological and genetic studies, of improving physical measures for the study of fallout and of obtaining more data on levels of Sr90 and Cs137 in soil.

In response to the invitation in the Assembly resolution, the Governments of Argentina, Italy, Japan, Norway, the United States and the U.S.S.R. have followed the Canadian lead in offering their laboratory facilities, at the request of other governments, to receive and analyse samples in accordance with the work of the Committee.

Quite separately from the above offer of assistance in relation to the study of radiation, the services of a Canadian radiation technician, Mr. John D. Marr of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, have been provided to the Government of Ghana. Mr. Marr, who is an expert in the Canadian fallout sampling programme for the measurement of radioactivity, arrived in Accra on February 3 to assist in setting up air sampling stations which the Government of Ghana will construct under its radiation-monitoring programme.

Ghana of course is very much interested in this whole question of radiation, as are all African countries

I was interested and gratified last week to learn of the setting up of a committee in Canada to deal with the whole question of radiation under the chairmanship of Dr. Hugh Keenleyside who, members of the Committee know, for many years was in government service here and later served with the United Nations.

I am confident that the work of that committee will be very helpful in furthering the ends that the Government and, I am sure, all Members of Parliament have in mind.