

information on the levels of a radiation through the whole world instead of just in their respective territories as at present and will thus be in a position to determine the hazards involved on the best and most authoritative available information. The Committee should do more than circulate reports. It should organize systematically the materials received, putting the various contributions in proper perspective. Perhaps its most important work will be to tackle the difficult problem of recommending a research programme to answer the questions which now beset us. In this understanding it will of course be essential to proceed on the basis of information received from national committees.

The Canadian Delegation agrees that it is important to have some sort of deadline in order that, on the one hand, the report will not be unduly delayed, and, on the other, that

we should not be pressed into bringing in a report prematurely on the basis of insufficient data. I should like to make it clear, however, that in our view, a report delivered by 1958 should not be regarded as final and conclusive, particularly in relation to genetic effects, the study of which may well extend over many years and, indeed, several generations.

Through the ages, each new scientific and industrial advance has brought with it new problems. We have only to think of the airplane. While the airplane has done a great deal to bring people and communities closer together, it has created a whole new set of problems relating to such matters as the regulation of international air routes, safety and health standards. Nuclear energy is, in a sense, unique among scientific discoveries in that preventive action against the hazards it may create is now being taken well in advance of its actual widespread development.

CANADA AND THE UNITED NATIONS

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At the current session detailed examination of the covenants was opened in the Third Committee. The preamble was approved, subject to final review, but Article I, which deals with the right to self-determination, proved highly controversial. This article reads as follows:

1. All peoples have the right to self-determination. By virtue of this right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

2. The peoples may, for their own ends, freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources without prejudice to any obligations arising out of international economic co-operation based upon the principle of mutual benefit, and international law. In no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence.

3. All the states parties to the Covenant, including those having responsibility for the administration of non-self-governing and trust territories, shall promote the realization of the right of self-determination, and shall respect that right, in conformity with the provisions of the United Nations Charter."

The Third Committee concluded its debate on November 29, and approved the inclusion of the article on self-determination as Article I of both covenants, over the objection and negative votes of 12 countries, Canada among them.

In the course of the debate the Canadian representative pointed out that self-determination was a collective matter rather than an individual human right and therefore had no place in an international instrument dealing with such rights; that it was to be regarded more as a goal than as a right; and that a comprehensive study of the whole question was needed before constructive action to assert a right of self-determination could be undertaken. The full text of the statement made by the Canadian Representative, Mr. Paul Martin, will be found on page 331.