

hopeful signs that agreement would soon be reached concerning the resumption of general disarmament negotiations in an appropriate negotiating forum. In these new circumstances, the Canadian Delegation considered that the proposal to convene a world conference might detract from the efforts to negotiate binding disarmament agreements.

The General Assembly adjourned at the end of the year with the question of the testing of nuclear weapons still not apparently any closer to a solution but with some significant signs of progress on the question of disarmament. During the sixteenth session, the Canadian Delegation repeatedly made clear Canada's firm opposition to nuclear testing and its continued conviction that the only lasting solution for world peace must come through detailed negotiations leading to a binding agreement on general and complete disarmament under effective international control and verification.

Effects of Atomic Radiation

Canada has a long-standing record of leadership in and effective contribution to United Nations efforts to promote international scientific research and the exchange of information on the effects of atomic radiation on human health. Since its establishment in 1955, Canada has been an active member of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR).^{*} Moreover, at all subsequent General Assembly sessions Canadian Delegations have been closely associated with successive United Nations efforts to evolve further international exchanges, assistance and co-operation in this important field. Canada's special interest in this sphere of United Nations activities is of course closely related to Canada's determination to explore every possibility of progress in the field of disarmament and the cessation of nuclear tests.

The resumption of nuclear tests in the atmosphere by the Soviet Union, which coincided with the first weeks of the sixteenth session, compelled Canada and other like-minded countries again to consider action which would reflect the concern of all peoples about the harmful effects of a further rise in the level of radio-active fall-out. Thus, there was widespread demand in the General Assembly for a firm stand against nuclear testing and for concrete measures to increase world understanding of the health effects of radiation and the geographical pattern of atmospheric radio-activity.

An item entitled "the Report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation" had already been placed on the agenda of the General Assembly's sixteenth session and was allocated to the Special Political Committee. Under normal circumstances, the General Assembly would have been content to take note of the annual report of UNSCEAR on the progress made in the preparation of its second com-

^{*} The Committee is composed of Representatives of Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czechoslovakia, France, India, Japan, Mexico, the United Arab Republic, the United Kingdom, the United States and the U.S.S.R.