



CANADA

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CANADA RINGS THE FALL-OUT TOCSIN

The following statement was made to the Special Political Committee of the United Nations on October 16 by Mr. Paul Tremblay, Canada's Ambassador to Chile and Canadian Representative on the Committee, concerning the report of the UN Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation:

"...When we took up in this Committee, just over a week ago, the question of allocating priorities to the various items on our agenda, I stressed the urgency of giving consideration to the problem of radiation hazards to human health. At that time several other delegations indicated similar concern that the item on the effects of radiation should be taken up urgently, and it was placed first on our agenda. My delegation now has been joined by 22 others in putting forward a resolution on this subject. The number of delegations which are co-sponsoring this resolution, and the broad geographic distribution reflected in the list of co-sponsors, testify to the depth and extent of international concern about the growing menace of radioactive fall-out. This is also underlined by the many expressions of support for the objectives of our resolution which have come from delegations other than the co-sponsors.

"This afternoon I propose to outline somewhat more fully the basis for this widespread apprehension. I should also like to explain the general nature and objectives of our resolution, which reflects the approach to this problem shared by Canada with so many other countries in all parts of the world.

"The concern of the Canadian Government about the hazards of radiation is not a recent development. We have been actively represented on the United

Nations Scientific Committee, whose annual progress report is now before us, since that Committee was established in 1955. At the fourteenth session of the General Assembly, Canada played a leading part in developing the resolution which detailed the current terms of reference of the Scientific Committee, and sought to intensify the efforts being made to advance man's knowledge about the effects of radiation. At the same time, having developed in Canada an extensive system of facilities for analyzing radioactive samples, we offered to share these facilities with other countries not as adequately equipped to carry out these studies. It is gratifying that, since then, 13 other member states of the United Nations and two of the Specialized Agencies have similarly offered to make their laboratories available for analysis of radioactive samples. Several countries already have taken advantage of these facilities for analysis, or are arranging to do so.

CANADIAN CONCERN

"I have mentioned these developments...to emphasize the long-standing and continuing concern of the Canadian Government about the harmful effects of radiation. Our apprehensions of course have been greatly intensified by the recent resumption of nuclear weapons testing in the atmosphere. The Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada, in his statement on October 3 to the General Assembly, stressed what this disturbing development has meant for Canadians. Following the resumption of tests in the atmosphere, the level of radioactive fall-out over one of our major cities - the city of Toronto - multi-

(Over)