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## SELECTED COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

### *Atomic Radiation*

The United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation was set up by the General Assembly in 1955 to receive, assemble, summarize and evaluate information on radiation levels and radiation effects on man and his environment and to indicate the research projects which might require further study. It submits yearly progress reports to the General Assembly, and comprehensive reports were released in 1958, 1962 and 1964.

At its two sessions in February and June 1964, the Committee gave particular attention to the problem of the contamination of the environment by nuclear explosions and the question of malignancies in man caused by radiation. On the contamination problem, the Committee made a detailed review of the most recent information available in order to complete its 1962 survey; with respect to the malignancy question, it agreed that, while no breakthrough in current knowledge had taken place since 1962, recent information had made it possible to give a sounder basis for certain risk estimates made in the past, to confirm some that had been adumbrated, and to propose new ones.

Canada has played an active part in the work of the Committee since its inception and, since 1959, has carried out an extensive fallout-collection programme. Each month a number of collection stations provide information taken from air, precipitation and milk samples, and results from examinations of wheat, soil and human bone are reported as they become available. All this material is sent to the Committee for their study of the problem in its world context.

### *International Co-operation Year*

In 1962, the General Assembly adopted a resolution co-sponsored by Canada designating 1965 as International Co-operation Year. The purpose