

During the 17th Session of the Scientific Committee at Geneva my delegation has noted that the following subjects were discussed:

- (1) Radiation-induced Chromosome Anomalies in Man;
- (2) Effects of Ionizing Radiation on the Central Nervous System;
- (3) Measurements of Environmental Contamination from Nuclear Tests;
- (4) Review of the Assumptions and Parameters used in Estimating Dose Commitments from Nuclear Tests.

We have also noted that the Committee began reviewing the information required to continue its assessment of world wide levels of radiation from nuclear tests; and that this review will be completed at its next session.

On the subject of future work it was decided that at the forthcoming session there should be some discussion of the metabolic information about long lived radionuclides required for the estimation of Dose Commitments.

My Delegation congratulates the Scientific Committee on its work and looks forward in particular to receiving the comprehensive report projected for 1969. I would also like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation concerning the assistance provided to the Scientific Committee by the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Atomic Energy in Agriculture which collected and assembled data on radioactive contamination of the human diet.

Mr. Chairman, in recent years there has been a reduction of the activities of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation. As long as there is no immediate threat of a serious radiation hazard, the scientific community is afforded a good opportunity to give further consideration to suggestions that the reporting requirements of UNSCEAR be revised.

My Delegation was pleased to note that at the last Session of the Scientific Committee Dr. Butler, a Canadian, was elected as Chairman for the 18th and 19th Sessions. Consequently, we particularly welcome the opportunity this year of introducing to the Special Political Committee a draft resolution dealing with the work of the Scientific Committee.

It is a draft resolution very similar to previous resolutions adopted unanimously by the Special Political Committee and the General Assembly. Its purpose is to reaffirm the concern of the General Assembly with the harmful effects caused by atomic radiation whatever its source and therefore to call upon the Scientific Committee to continue its work.