

obtained from these studies. The progress already made in my own country in undertaking research of this kind leads me to conclude that other member nations will have initiated similar projects. For this reason, if only to avoid costly and unnecessary duplication of effort, it would seem desirable at this stage to provide machinery for the compilation of scientific data now available to individual member states which may not have yet been widely circulated.

And now, Mr. Chairman, I should like to comment very briefly on four points, arising out of the statement made yesterday by the United States Representative, which I feel should be mentioned in order to make clear the position of my delegation which would be prepared to support a proposal along these lines.

First, the Committee envisaged is to consist of qualified scientists nominated by governments. We agree fully that a committee of this kind should be small. On the other hand, in a field of such complexity, it would be unreasonable to expect any one individual from any nation to be sufficiently knowledgeable to deal intelligently with all the intricate questions that might come before the Committee. We, therefore, would like it understood that the scientific representatives on the Committee could feel free to call in alternates and consultants as necessary.

Secondly, I should like to call the Committee's attention to the terms of reference of the special body to be established. It is suggested, quite appropriately in our view, that the special Committee will undertake what will in effect be a survey. This is the logical first step to enable governments to assess the situation in the light of the facts as they will have been established. The Governments will then have information on the levels of 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 undertaking it will of course be essential to proceed on the basis of information received from national committees.

I come now to my third point which relates to the date of July 1, 1958, or earlier, by which the Committee is expected to provide a summary of the reports received. 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.