

radioactive fall-out, a major and increasing source of radiation, it is imperative that this aspect of our studies on the radiation problem should be particularly emphasized. Section II of the resolution which we are co-sponsoring, having to do with the role of the World Meteorological Organization, seeks to amplify the information available about the world-wide incidence and distribution of radioactive fall-out.

#### Role of WMO

The World Meteorological Organization is a Specialized Agency of the United Nations, which has 102 members. Its facilities enable it to collect, co-ordinate and distribute accurate information about atmospheric phenomena in all parts of the world. The Meteorological Organization thus is uniquely suited to assist in increasing the extent and accuracy of man's knowledge about concentrations of radioactive fall-out and the pattern of movements of such concentrations. It is also well equipped to summarize and disseminate such information throughout the world, without delay and on a regular basis.

I have already mentioned the very high concentrations of radioactive fall-out which have been recorded recently in various parts of Canada; and other members of this Committee, I am sure, will be reporting similarly high levels elsewhere. But one of the very disturbing aspects of the current trend toward ever-higher average levels of fall-out is the fact that our information is so incomplete. Over large areas of the world, no regular records of fall-out levels are maintained. It may be that the populations living there are being exposed to equal or greater dangers than are suggested by the levels recorded where statistics are kept. Moreover, until we have comprehensive readings of fall-out levels throughout the world for a considerable period of time, there will be much still to be learned about the movements of fall-out systems, and the duration of concentrations in particular areas. This information clearly is of great importance in assessing the nature and extent of radiation hazards.

... The members of the World Meteorological Organization - and this includes most of the countries represented in this Committee - utilize the facilities of the Organization to have at their disposal, on a day-to-day basis, information about a broad range of atmospheric factors throughout the world. What could be more logical than that the United Nations should turn to the competent Specialized Agency to ask that its international system of meteorological reporting should undertake measurement of one of the factors which is of such vital significance to human well-being - the level of atmospheric radioactivity? The collection and distribution of this data, besides contributing to various aspects of the study of radiation hazards, would also serve to keep world public opinion alert to one of the most critical problems of our time.