important conclusions all of us can derive the satisfaction of being well and authoritatively advised on this vital question of the harmful effects of atomic radiation. The nature of this advice, however, particularly when viewed in the light of continued nuclear testing, is a cause for immediate and deep concern for all those who cannot remain indifferent to the additional human suffering which will result from unchecked increases in radioactive contamination of the environment. The proceedings in connection with the adoption of Resolution 1629 at the Sixteenth Session of the General Assembly indeed made it apparent that no member of this Organization maintains a detached or indifferent attitude on this question.

Last year's Resolution, which I have just mentioned, was in some respects an advance over those of previous years.

Secondly, it sought to encourage the taking of practical steps, both internationally and nationally, to improve and accelerate the exchange of information on the health hazard of radioactive levels in various parts of the world. More particularly, attention was focussed on the problem of learning more about the incidence, concentration and pattern of distribution of radioactivity throughout the world's environment. The Resolution, in its second part, for the first time recommended periodic and regular collection of worldwide data on levels of atmospheric radioactivity. The task of setting up a feasible scheme was entrusted to the World Meteorological Organization for study and implementation.

In view of the prompt and effective action taken at the Sixteenth Session, the General Assembly is this year faced with the task of consolidating advances made in the light of increased and more authoritative knowledge brought together in the Scientific Committee's second comprehensive report, and in the light