

generations to come leads to great concern, indeed alarm, among nations. Atomic radiation comes from more than one source. Some, such as natural sources of radiation and the use of X-rays for medical purposes, are less important than others but still cannot be ignored.

Thus it was of great importance to study and better understand the harmful effects of atomic radiation, whatever their source. World opinion was in a state of alarm over this urgent problem. It was fitting that the United Nations should assume responsibility for this research in order to co-ordinate and to further the development of studies already undertaken by many organizations, both national and international.

The Scientific Committee has discharged this task with competence and success. One of the most valuable results of its work will no doubt be that of providing a means whereby not only scientists but also those who are not experts on the subject may understand and appreciate the danger to humanity of radioactive particles in the atmosphere and compare this danger to that of radiation from other sources.

Having examined the work accomplished by the Scientific Committee since the eighteenth session of the General Assembly, my delegation would like to congratulate the Scientific Committee for the comprehensive studies which it has prepared on radioactive contamination of our surroundings by nuclear tests, and on radiation carcinogenesis in man, studies which are in the report adopted by the Scientific Committee at its fourteenth session included in document A/5814 of the nineteenth session of the General Assembly. In our opinion these studies constitute a significant contribution and bring our knowledge on the subject up to date. Moreover, my delegation is pleased that the Scientific Committee, in document A/6123, has expressed its intention to present a comprehensive report to the General Assembly in its next session which will provide such estimates as can be determined of the risk arising from different sources of radiation.

Mr. Chairman, Canada has for a long time been particularly concerned with the question of atomic radiation. Our Department of National Health and Welfare operates a national programme of research and of measurement of radioactive fallout which includes the analysis of atmospheric particles and of the concentration of various radioactive elements found in milk, water, wheat, soil, and human ossification. This information is published every month and distributed to all interested individuals and organizations. A report of Canadian data in August, 1965 shows a certain lowering of several indices of radioactivity in comparison with those of the same period in 1964 and in the case of samplings taken from the atmosphere the index is at its lowest point since 1961.

The decrease in the number of nuclear tests in the atmosphere