

energy, the prospect of its widespread use for peaceful purposes underlined the need for a systematic and thorough survey of the radiation problem. The essential requirement of international co-operation was recognized by the United States Government in the summer of 1955 when its Delegation to the San Francisco Conference commemorating the tenth anniversary of the United Nations suggested that the United Nations was the organization ideally suited to inquire into this problem of atomic radiation.

At the tenth session of the General Assembly, the United States Government proposed that there should be established an international committee of scientists which should study the question and report to the United Nations not later than July 1, 1958. Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia and the Scandinavian countries gave their immediate support to this proposal by co-sponsoring the United States resolution which was unanimously approved by the Assembly on December 3, 1955. By this resolution a Scientific Committee was established; it consists of scientists representing the Governments of Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, France, India, Japan, Mexico, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States and the U.S.S.R. The Committee will receive and assemble information furnished by members of the United Nations, its Specialized Agencies, and national scientific organizations, on levels of radiation and on scientific observations and experiments concerning the effects of ionizing radiation upon man and his environment. This information will be reviewed and evaluated by the Committee which has been requested to make yearly progress reports and to develop a summary of the information to be received. From time to time, the Committee will transmit, as it thinks appropriate, documents on and evaluations of information received by the Secretary-General for publication. The Assembly asked the Committee to recommend uniform standards for sample collection and radiation counting procedures; and to furnish indications of research projects which might require further study. Two Specialized Agencies, WHO and ILO, which are concerned with the problem of atomic radiation, have been requested by the Assembly to maintain close liaison with the Scientific Committee on any matter coming within the Committee's terms of reference.

Collective Measures

The Collective Measures Committee was established by the "Uniting for Peace" resolution adopted by the Assembly on November 3, 1950. While re-affirming the primary responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of peace, this resolution of November 3, 1950 reiterated the Assembly's responsibilities; it decided also that if there were a breach of the peace and the Security Council failed to act because of the application of the veto by one of its permanent members, the Assembly should immediately consider the situation and recommend appropriate collective measures, including the use of armed force if necessary.

In its first two reports¹, the Committee had recommended to the General Assembly a number of collective measures of a political, economic and military nature which might be taken in case of emergency and had suggested various procedures and courses of action which might then be followed. The third report² of the Collective Measures Committee was considered by the ninth session of the General Assembly in 1954. It consisted mainly of a statement of principles summarizing the recommendations of the two earlier reports; it suggested also that the Assembly should re-affirm these principles which might be summarized as follows: (a) the greatest possible number of states should

¹Documents A/1891 (VI), A/2215 (VII).

²Document A/2713 (IX).