

fifth session, June 9-13. The report was based upon 213 reports received by the Committee from twenty-nine governments, five Specialized Agencies, the International Commission on Radiological Protection and the International Commission on Radiological Units and Measurements.

The Committee unanimously agreed upon its report with the exception of one passage in its conclusions. There was general agreement that all steps designed to minimize irradiation of human populations would act to the benefit of human health. However, the majority of the Committee considered that effective control of sources of radiation involved national and international decisions which lay outside the scope of its work. The Soviet Union, with the support of Czechoslovakia and the United Arab Republic, took the position that the data presented in the report enabled the Committee to draw the conclusion that there should be an immediate cessation of test explosions of nuclear weapons.

The thirteenth session of the General Assembly had the above report on its agenda. In addition, pursuant to resolution 1147 (XII) of November 14, 1957, it had for consideration a report from the Secretary-General on the question of strengthening and widening scientific activities in the field of the effects of atomic radiation (agenda item 25).

When the First Committee considered these matters between December 5 and 8 it had before it a draft resolution co-sponsored by Canada and eleven other members of the Scientific Committee* on which substantial agreement had been reached in advance with other members of the Assembly. In addition to commending the Scientific Committee for its valuable report, the draft resolution requested the Committee to continue its work and to report as appropriate, asked the Committee to consult with other agencies and organizations to ensure effective co-ordination, and called upon all concerned to assist the Committee by making available relevant reports and studies and by pursuing such investigations as might broaden world scientific knowledge in this sphere. This resolution was unanimously approved by the General Assembly on December 13.

Peaceful Use of Outer Space

The first proposals for ensuring that outer space would be used only for peaceful and scientific purposes were made by the United States in January 1957, during the debate on a series of disarmament measures before the General Assembly. The United States proposed that the testing of objects projected into outer space should be a matter for international participation, and should come under international inspection. When this concept was discussed in the Sub-Committee of the Disarmament Commission a few months later, the Soviet Union responded by proposing that there be international control over guided rockets, to ensure that all types suitable for use as atomic and hydrogen weapons should be used exclusively for peaceful purposes, provided such control could be instituted simultaneously with the elimination of atomic and hydrogen weapons from the armaments of states. The disarmament proposals presented to the Sub-Committee on August 29, 1957 by Canada, France, the United Kingdom and the United States included a provision that, under the terms of a disarmament agreement, a technical committee should be established to study the design of an inspection system which would make it possible

*Argentina, Australia, Belgium, France, India, Japan, Mexico, Sweden, the United Arab Republic, the United Kingdom and the United States.