

The hazards which it poses for all our people are the proper concern of the Scientific Committee whose report we have before us. It is not only appropriate but also imperative that, in the light of recent developments, we should place renewed emphasis on all the various lines of study being carried out by the Committee.

It is against this background that I turn now to the proposals we have offered in the 22-power resolution before the Committee.

The preambular paragraphs of our resolution record the deep and universal concern about the increasing levels of radioactive fall-out, to which I have already referred. The second of these paragraphs stresses particularly the apprehension about the cumulative effects of exposure to ever-increasing levels of radiation over a long period of time.

The fourth paragraph of the resolution sets forth a declaration citing the responsibility of all states in respect of any actions by them which would further increase levels of radioactive fall-out, with possibly harmful biological consequences for the present and future populations of other countries.

Bearing in mind particularly the reference, in Paragraph 12 of the Scientific Committee's report, to the implications of recent developments, the resolution goes on to stress the importance of pursuing and intensifying the various scientific studies on radiation levels and effects. It reaffirms the importance of the fullest international co-operation in exchanging results of research on the radiation problem. The resolution also stresses the importance of making available to the Committee the results of research carried out and information acquired by national services, so that its second comprehensive report may be as scientifically authoritative and informative as possible.

We and our co-sponsors have also considered it important that the preparation of the comprehensive report should be expedited as far as possible, in view of the mounting international concern about the effects of radiation. With the same considerations in mind, the resolution in Paragraph 9 invites the Committee to consider whether the information before it would call for the submission of an interim report before the comprehensive report can be made available. The possibility that the facts compiled by the Committee on levels or effects of radiation might warrant such interim reports was, of course, envisaged by the General Assembly when the Scientific Committee was established. Its original terms of reference specifically provide for such a possibility.

The main work of the Scientific Committee is concerned with assessing the biological implications for mankind of exposure to radiation. With so much concern at the present time about