

The Scientific Committee, Mr. Chairman, has assembled a capable group of scientists from 15 countries who have succeeded in giving scientific answers to scientific questions and thus in producing a series of comprehensive and authoritative reports. It is the only international body able and ready to assess the effects of radiation on a regular basis. The Scientific Committee's latest report is a further valuable and useful contribution to scientific knowledge of the effects of radiation, especially the genetic risks of ionizing radiation. It will be invaluable to national and international authorities required to consider this subject.

Those considerations lead us to believe that the Committee deserves congratulations for its work and should be requested to continue it. In saying this we realize that the Committee may have reached a new stage in the study of the subjects committed to its charge. We understand, for example, that the Committee will discuss the scope of its future activities during its next session and will make recommendations on this subject. In particular it may wish to consider whether to recommend some change in the requirement for it to report annually to the General Assembly. We would welcome such a review of the Committee's activities and reporting responsibilities.

May I, in conclusion, Mr. Chairman, draw the attention of the Committee to the paragraphs of the resolution which commend the World Meteorological Organization for its work in monitoring and reporting the levels of atmospheric radio-activity, express appreciation for the assistance rendered to the Committee by the Specialized Agencies of the U.N., the IAEA and the non-governmental organizations concerned, and request the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Committee with the necessary assistance for the conduct of its work. I am confident that representatives here of all members of the Scientific Committee would wish to join me in expressing our gratitude for the efforts of the Secretary-General and his staff in providing this assistance. Finally, Mr. Chairman, the co-sponsors hope that all member states will continue to give appropriate attention and full support to the work of the Committee in the future.