

If the great powers cannot reach agreement on this issue, prospects for general and complete disarmament will be dim indeed. They can and must resolve their differences in this field if they are to fulfil their obligation to mankind. The General Assembly should clearly express itself in this sense.

### Radiation

I revert now to the hazards to human health created by nuclear testing. The second comprehensive report to the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation brings out the danger very clearly in the following statement (and I quote from this scientific report):

"As there are no effective measures to prevent the occurrence of harmful effects of global radioactive contamination from nuclear explosions, the achievement of a final cessation of nuclear tests would benefit present and future generations of mankind."

That is the objective language of a scientific report tabled just a few months ago. The dangers involved are immediate. They affect us now and, what is even more important, they will affect future generations.

In order to assess these dangers properly, the Assembly must continue to insist on a co-operative world-wide study. Last year's resolution on the subject reaffirmed the desirability of continuing full international co-operation through the Scientific Committee. The latest report of the Committee constitutes an authoritative and up-to-date assessment of the exposure of mankind to radiation and of its harmful effects.

In the resolution of last year, the General Assembly called for a study of a world-wide synoptic reporting scheme of atmospheric radiation levels. I have been greatly encouraged by the progress made by the World Meteorological Organization in preparing such a scheme. It is our hope that its implementation on a world-wide basis will soon be initiated.

### Problem of Want

Now I come to another question. Disarmament deserves high priority in our deliberations because it seeks to remove the means of waging war. The Acting Secretary-General has emphasized in his Annual Report the need to eradicate the basic causes of war -- poverty, famine and disease. The economic and the social work of the United Nations goes along so quietly that it does not always receive the public attention it deserves. And yet success in raising living standards in the less-developed areas and in expanding and stabilizing world trade may, in the long run, determine the question of war and peace.