

The anxiety which is aroused in Canada by these test explosions is, I believe, shared by peoples everywhere. We take the strongest possible exception to having our present and succeeding generations exposed, through the actions of other States, to the danger of radioactive fall-out. We know that radiation presents a hazard to human health and the more we learn about the extent of its consequences the more disturbed we become.

Insistence on no Further Testing

In my view, this Assembly and world opinion -- and this is the place to focus world opinion -- must insist that there be no further testing of nuclear weapons. The time has come when it is not sufficient merely to express concern and to record blame. We must find means of compelling the countries responsible to cease the testing of nuclear weapons. Whatever success we may achieve in respect of the other grave issues will, I fear, be of little comfort to mankind if we fail to dispel forever the ominous and lowering clouds of radioactivity which hang over this and unborn generations.

In 1959 this Assembly unanimously endorsed far-reaching proposals, initiated by Canada, for strengthening the important contribution which the United Nations Radiation Committee can make to greater understanding of the extent and nature of the biological effects of radiation. At that time, Canada and about twelve other countries extended an offer of assistance to less well-equipped countries for the analysis of samples they might wish to send to our laboratories -- samples of soil, air, bone and so on. Several have availed themselves of our facilities and today I invite other countries to do so. In addition, the recent sharp increase in the levels of radioactive fall-out in the world makes it all the more essential to support the work of the United Nations Radiation Committee.

The radiation hazard alone is sufficient justification for demanding the cessation of nuclear weapons testing. But there is another reason and that is the spectre of the development, as a result of test explosions, of new and even more terrible weapons, for example, Chairman Khrushchov's one hundred megaton bomb, which might be called the Armageddon bomb. The fact that the leaders of this great nation, the Soviet Union, are even thinking of such a bomb shows the need for an immediate change of direction in world thinking. This is the time to call a halt to this sort of business. Let us all do a right about turn and not look any further at such a terrible prospect.

I am sure that it came as a profound shock to the whole world to learn that the critical negotiations which had gone on for so long in Geneva -- for almost three years -- and had borne so much of the hopes of mankind had been abruptly brought to an end by the Soviet resumption of tests, tests which obviously had been planned for a long time. Such was the Soviet response to