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ATOMIC RADIATION

Text of Statement to be made by the Canadian Representative,
Ambassador Paul Beaulieu, in the Special Political Committee,
on Monday, October 16, 1967

UNSCEAR, the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, has provided, in its twelve years of existence, a valuable service to the international community in assembling radiological information provided by United Nations Member States, in summarizing this information and reporting on the effects of radiation on man, as well as in evaluating and suggesting research projects meriting further study in the field of radiation.

The potential radiation hazard stemming from possible future development or use of nuclear weapons emphasizes the continuing need for the existence of UNSCEAR, comprising as it does a group of recognized scientists from various regions of the world.

At the June 1966 meeting of UNSCEAR in New York, the Secretary-General mentioned two problems to which the Committee should address itself and which still require consideration. Firstly, there is a need to take steps which will reduce the flow of information on world levels of radiation to that which is directly relevant to the assessment of radiation exposure of man. The Secretariat, Member States and the Specialized Agencies concerned could help this process, in accordance with agreed criteria, by predigesting and thereby reducing the data submitted to the Committee.

The second problem raised by the Secretary-General was that the Committee was running out of biological subjects needing review, and that therefore it was not advisable to prepare another comprehensive report for some time. Subsequently, at the 17th Session of UNSCEAR in Geneva, it was decided to make the next comprehensive report to the General Assembly in 1969.