

In its simplest terms, what the resolution is designed to do, in addition to approving the various recommendations of the Scientific Committee, is to ask that Committee to examine the possibility of making arrangements, which I hope will be more effective, for the collection and analysis by member states of radiation samples of air, water, soil and food, on the basis of uniform standards; and also for the encouragement of genetic and biological studies of the effects of exposure to radiation.

In its examination of these questions, in consultation with the agencies concerned, the Committee may discover gaps in the technical resources of member states that would prevent them from contributing to this co-operative programme as they would like. If this should be the case, I hope that the agencies concerned will consider the possibility of extending assistance to fill these gaps.

In addition, the resolution asks member states having facilities for laboratory analysis to assist in analyzing radiation samples. The Canadian Government, for its part, is prepared to give assistance of this kind to other member states wishing to avail themselves of Canadian laboratory facilities.

We are prepared to receive from other states radiation samples collected according to methods recommended by the Scientific Committee in consultation with the appropriate Specialized Agencies, and to analyze such samples in the Canadian Government laboratories which handle Canada's domestic sampling programme. If other governments indicate their readiness to participate in such a co-operative programme of collection and analysis, the Canadian Government, as an initial offer, is prepared to receive and analyze on a regular basis samples of air, water, soil and food from 20 to 25 foreign sampling stations in each category.

Once it is known that others are prepared to co-operate in such a programme, these analyses could be undertaken within the space of the few months required to expand existing Canadian laboratory facilities and analytical staff. The Canadian Government is, of course, prepared to undertake that the analytical procedures used in its laboratories will be such as to ensure the comparability of results with those produced by other governments co-operating in a programme of this nature. We believe arrangements of this kind will materially assist the Scientific Committee in its task and we invite other governments to consider how they might participate in such a programme either through the collecting of samples or through providing facilities for analysis.

If, as we hope, there is a widespread response to our offer, as well as offers by other governments to make their facilities available, it is our understanding that the Secretariat of the Scientific Committee would be kept informed step