

Canada, he observed, did not make or possess nuclear weapons, and devoted its considerable atomic energy industry to peaceful uses. However, this country was linked defensively with powers who did possess nuclear weapons, and did not question their justification for so doing; the dilemma facing the nuclear powers should be recognized, and not treated as a miasma exorcisable by rhetoric. He joined the Foreign Minister of Ireland in emphasizing the danger involved in the indiscriminate release of nuclear weapons to countries not now possessing them, but rejected absolute prohibition of any such transfer. Mr. Smith concluded his remarks with a renewed plea for a practical approach to disarmament divorced from Utopian wishful-thinking, and expressed the satisfaction of the Canadian Government at the wide measure of basic agreement already evidenced in spite of obvious differences of approach to the goals of disarmament.

The Canadian Delegation's hope that the differences between draft resolutions tabled could be bridged in a compromise resolution was widely shared. The sponsors of the 17-power draft resolution\* showed a willingness to revise their text. The Soviet Delegation, however, remained adamant in its insistence on an isolated, unqualified, and perpetual ban on nuclear tests, and hope for unanimous support for a resolution had to be abandoned. The Arab-Asian-African group, which had proposed immediate suspension of tests pending agreement on controls, abstained from voting on the 17-power proposal in recognition of the spirit of concession shown by the sponsors.

The final version of the resolution took into account the Secretary-General's emphasis in his memorandum on the importance of the Geneva talks in leading towards progressive openness of information concerning technologies and armaments. It urged the parties in Geneva to make every effort towards the suspension of nuclear tests under effective international control, and enjoined them not to make further nuclear tests while these negotiations were in progress. It urged agreement at the surprise attack conference and expressed determination that recent initiatives, including the technical approach, should continue with a view to a balanced and effective world-wide system of disarmament. On the United Nations role the resolution confined itself to an offer of the services of the Secretary-General to the Geneva conferences, and requested that the records of the First Committee discussions on disarmament be transmitted to the participants in the two Geneva conferences. Finally, it reiterated the proposition that in due course funds made available by disarmament might contribute to the improvement of living conditions throughout the world, especially in the less developed countries.

### Effects of Atomic Radiation

In accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 913 (X) of December 3, 1955 the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation\* devoted its efforts during 1958 to producing a report (dated July 1) summarizing and evaluating the information it had collected concerning the effects of ionizing radiation on man and his environment. The Committee had earlier appointed working groups to draft sections of the report, which was largely prepared at the Committee's fourth session, January 27 to February 28, 1958, and given final approval at the

\*Argentine, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Ecuador, Iran, Italy, Laos, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the United States.

\*The Committee is composed of representatives of: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czechoslovakia, France, India, Japan, Mexico, Sweden, the U.S.S.R., the United Arab Republic, the United Kingdom and the United States.