

of mankind". It is most significant that this and other conclusions were unanimously accepted by the Scientific Committee, and this on the basis of the most objective and strict evaluation of facts.

This circumstance is a cause both for satisfaction and concern. From the clear and unanimous expression of such important conclusions all of us can derive the satisfaction of being well and authoritatively advised on this vital question of the harmful effects of atomic radiation. The nature of this advice, however, particularly when viewed in the light of continued nuclear testing, is a cause for immediate and deep concern for all those who cannot remain indifferent to the additional human suffering which will result from unchecked increases in radioactive contamination of the environment. The proceedings in connection with the adoption of Resolution 1629 at the sixteenth session of the General Assembly indeed made it apparent that no member of this organization maintains a detached or indifferent attitude on this question.

Last year's resolution, which I have just mentioned, was, in some respects, an advance over those of previous years. It sought to encourage the taking of practical steps, both internationally and nationally, to improve and accelerate the exchange of information on the health hazard of radioactive levels in various parts of the world. More particularly, attention was focussed on the problem of learning more about the incidence, concentration and pattern of distribution of radioactivity throughout the world's environment. The resolution, in its second part, for the first time recommended periodic and regular collection of worldwide data on levels of atmospheric radioactivity. The task of setting up a feasible scheme was entrusted to the World Meteorological Organization for study and implementation.

In view of the prompt and effective action taken at the sixteenth session, the General Assembly is this year faced with the task of consolidating advances made in the light of increased and more authoritative knowledge brought together in the Scientific Committee's second comprehensive report, and in the light of useful studies already made by the World Meteorological Organization in regard to its responsibilities in this field. The fact that nuclear testing is still taking place lends urgency and critical significance to the opportunity we now have to move ahead and to build soundly on the foundations of knowledge laid in previous years. It is with these aims in mind that a large and broadly representative group of delegations has tabled a proposed resolution which has been circulated as Document A/SPC/L.83/Rev.1. It is the hope and conviction of the co-sponsors that our resolution will attract the support of all member states. The vital problems with which it is concerned deserve the fullest weight of international attention and care which can be mustered in this organization.

I think it is generally acknowledged that this second report of the Scientific Committee constitutes the most recent and comprehensive document of its kind in its evaluation of the levels of radioactivity to which mankind is exposed, as well as of their effects on human health. Of equal significance is the fact that such a report represents a tangible and useful product of international scientific co-operation carried out under United Nations auspices. I am sure, therefore, that there will be no dissent from the gratitude and appreciation addressed in the draft resolution to the Scientific Committee, and to all those