

All mankind is concerned that knowledge of the biological and other effects of radiation and of the present extent of the hazard should be enlarged. We must also realize that even if the nations agree to stop testing nuclear weapons, the problem of radiation will not vanish. The large and growing use of radiation in medicine; the atomic era in industry with the possibility of accidents, for example in power stations soon to become a familiar sight in many lands; the risks connected with the disposal of radioactive waste; all these and similar perils unforeseeable now, will be with us henceforth. They will present complex problems demanding constant observation, study and precaution.

There is an urgent need to fill the substantial gaps which continue to exist in our knowledge of the phenomenon of radiation. In a matter which is of such concern to human life and future generations, all member states have an equal interest in ensuring that research into the biological effects of radiation is based on the fullest and most reliable information. For this purpose, scientists must have at their disposal data on radiation from fallout and other sources which would be as nearly as possible world-wide in its scope and collected by standardized methods.

All member states can make a vital contribution towards this objective by co-operating to the fullest possible extent in the collection of data and in remitting it to a central agency for collation. The collated data would then be available to governments and to scientific and medical research institutions for investigation of the biological effects and industrial hazards of radiation. The pooling in turn of the results of such research through the United Nations Radiation Committee can make a further valuable contribution to the world's collective knowledge of this common problem.

We believe that mankind would derive relief from anxiety if the nations of the world were to acknowledge an obligation to do what they can to ensure that the world-wide physical measurement of the intensity and distribution of radiation is made as accurate and complete as possible.

At this session, the Canadian Delegation intends to submit proposals which we sincerely hope will encourage the world-wide collection of more accurate data on radiation and will provide for its central collation.

Economic and Social Matters

I turn now to certain economic and social questions.

First I should like to re-emphasize my country's concern for economic development in less-developed areas.