

The primary responsibility for solving the Berlin crisis rests with the four occupying Powers in that city, but the United Nations could be called upon to play a role in a Berlin settlement. In any event, the United Nations cannot abdicate its responsibility in relation to any problem which raises acutely the fundamental issue of peace or war.

There are at least three ways in which the United Nations might be of assistance in the Berlin situation.

The first is to focus world attention on the problem and to leave the four Powers in no doubt whatever that they have an obligation to reach a negotiated settlement. This debate is already serving that purpose.

Secondly, if the four Powers agreed, the United Nations could serve in an observer capacity in the whole city and on the access routes. Properly integrated into a four-Power settlement a United Nations presence in the Berlin area would add stability and would restore confidence.

A third possibility is that the United Nations might be asked by the four Powers to assume some responsibility for operating an international regime for the whole city of Berlin. The influence of such an international regime could be strengthened by locating the European office or other agencies of the United Nations in Berlin. If Berlin were internationalized in this way, a heavy burden, it is true, would be placed upon the Organization, but the United Nations should not shrink from assuming the responsibility and accepting any obligations involved.

The Radiation Peril

I go on to nuclear testing and radiation. During the last two weeks of September, following recent Soviet weapons testing in the atmosphere, the level of radioactive fall-out over one major Canadian city -- Toronto -- jumped by as much as 1,000 times over previous readings. We are making available to the United Nations complete details of Canadian readings but the following figures will demonstrate that there is real cause for the gravest concern.

Whereas in the week ending 10 September the highest level recorded anywhere in Canada was 20 disintegrations per minute per cubic metre, in the next week the following high readings were recorded: Ottawa, 90 units; Montreal, 100 units; Fredericton, 140 units; Windsor, 260 units; and Toronto, 470 units.

Long before this new and hazardous increase in the radiation to which our people are exposed, my Government had made crystal clear in this Assembly and elsewhere that it was unalterably opposed to the testing of nuclear and thermo-nuclear weapons. Now more than ever we are confirmed in our opposition to test explosions, particularly, of course, those which produce radioactive fall-out, whether such tests occur in the atmosphere, in outer space, or elsewhere.