

There is, however, a further draft resolution before the committee which deals only with the question of advance registration of nuclear test explosions, that is to say, with the proposal made in Plenary by the Foreign Minister of Norway. This resolution stands in the name of Norway as well as of Japan and Canada.

The proposal incorporated in this resolution is inspired by a belief that it may be better to do now what is possible and feasible with respect to nuclear test explosions, rather than to do nothing at all because it is not possible to take more far-reaching action. If a proposal of this kind can be worked out, we would, for the first time, have moved, if only one step, away from dead centre on this whole problem.

Our resolution recommends that urgent attention be given to establishing, as a preliminary step, a system for registration with the United Nations of nuclear test explosions. The resolution also requests the Secretary-General and the Radiation Committee to co-operate with the states concerned in this registration system with a view to keeping under constant observation the world situation regarding present and expected radiation. This would, I repeat, be only a preliminary step, but I am certain it would be an important preliminary step and I hope that it too will be given most serious consideration.

In conclusion, I hope that all the proposals that have been submitted to this Committee will be referred for early and effective action to the United Nations Commission which has been set up for that purpose.

I do not need to emphasize to this Committee the gravity of the problem. Man has now developed weapons capable of his own complete destruction.

If he does not bring and keep them under control and, even more important, bring about a state of affairs where their use would be unthinkable and impossible, then life on this planet will indeed soon become--in the words of the English philosopher "nasty, brutish and short".

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