

carried out since the fall-out levels which I have quoted were recorded. Every possible effort must be exerted to ensure that there is no further intensification of the already sharply increased levels of radioactive fall-out.

It is true that Canada is one of the countries geographically located in the latitudes which, on the basis of evidence so far available, seem to have received some of the heaviest concentrations of radioactive fall-out. I am sure, however, that the anxiety aroused in Canada by the effects of recent test explosions is shared by peoples of every nation represented in this Committee. There are too many grim uncertainties about this matter of radiation hazards to human welfare for any of us to be complacent. Intensity of radioactive fall-out varies from one locality to another, and from one week to the next. Concentrations build up in particular areas. The long-term effects of exposure are by no means clearly established; some of these effects may not appear for many years. It is thus not only ourselves and our children who face the consequences of ever higher levels of radiation; generations yet unborn also may suffer, to an extent which it is not now possible to measure. Another ominous aspect of the increase in levels of radioactive fall-out is the evidence that some individuals are more susceptible than others to harmful consequences of radiation.

Whatever disagreement or doubt there may be about the level of radiation which would pose an immediate menace to human well-being, the fact that all radiation does present a potential hazard, and that higher levels increase this hazard, is beyond dispute. Everything we learn about the nature and extent of the consequences of radiation re-affirms the gravity of the problem. The fact that we have still so much to learn about its long-term effects cannot fail to add to our apprehension.

Canada Protests

It is with these sombre considerations in mind ... that my delegation has participated in formulating the expressions of international concern which are found in the resolution we have put before this Committee. As the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada, Mr. Green, said when he addressed the General Assembly, we take the most vigorous exception to having our own and succeeding generations exposed, through the actions of other states, to the dangers of radioactive fall-out. We must register in the most unequivocal terms the anxiety felt among members of this world organization, and the populations represented here, about the growing threat to which mankind is being exposed. By any standard for the conduct of international relations, it cannot be accepted that any state by its actions should cause populations of other states, and their descendants, to be exposed to these incalculable risks. We firmly believe it to be a responsibility of this Assembly to make this point sharply and clearly.