

CANADIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

CAUTION: ADVANCE TEXT

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Text of Statement to be made in the Special Political Committee by the Canadian Representative, Mr. Pierre-Elliott Trudeau, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, on Item 35 (Effects of atomic radiation: report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the effects of Atomic Radiation) on Thursday, December 15, 1966.

Mr. Chairman,

The Canadian Delegation is pleased to introduce the draft resolution in A/SPC/L.143 requesting the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation to continue its programme of work. The co-sponsors of the resolution are the following: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Sweden, Thailand and United Arab Republic.

There is no need for me to comment at length on the draft resolution. It is similar to previous resolutions adopted unanimously by the Special Political Committee and by the General Assembly. Its purpose is to reaffirm the concern of the General Assembly with the harmful effects caused by atomic radiation whatever its source and therefore to call upon the Scientific Committee to continue its work.

It may be that some will question the need for the Committee to continue in being 11 years after its establishment in 1955 when atomic radiation was perhaps more of a cause for concern than it is today. It is true that there has been a continuing decline in the levels of environmental radiation from nuclear testing. Nevertheless, radiation levels are still high and all of us know that further atmospheric testing is likely to take place despite the partial test ban treaty. May I at this point renew the appeal which Canada has frequently made that all countries sign the partial Test Ban Treaty and express the hope that this treaty will soon apply to all nuclear tests wherever they may take place.