

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.

It is essential, therefore, that we should not pass lightly over this item concerning the annual progress report of a scientific body established by the General Assembly to study the effects of atomic radiation. In dealing with it, we must take account of current developments which have such direct and important implications for the studies which that body is carrying out. If we failed to do so, we should be ignoring the views of the Scientific Committee itself. As its report states, the Committee recognizes that the resumption of nuclear test explosions increases the urgency for the intensification of relevant scientific studies.

It is difficult for my delegation to understand how the distinguished representative of Czechoslovakia could suggest, as the resolution submitted by his delegation does, that despite the present disturbing circumstances we should treat this item concerning radiation hazards in a routine and, indeed, almost casual manner. Item 24 is, after all, the only item on the agenda of the Sixteenth Session which deals specifically with the consequences of atomic radiation. I am sure the Committee will agree with me that as representatives of our peoples - the very men, women and children directly threatened by the radiation menace - we cannot do less in this Assembly than to take the kind of positive and substantive action which they expect of us. We must, therefore, seize the opportunity afforded by the consideration of this item to ensure that the focus of world opinion is held on this grave problem.

Before I pass on to the scientific proposals contained