

Press Note

CANADIAN DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(SIXTEENTH SESSION)

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Statement by Mr. Paul Tremblay,
Canadian Representative on the Special Political
Committee, on Monday, October 16, 1961

Item 24: Report of United Nations Scientific
Committee on Effects of Atomic Radiation

Mr. Chairman:

When we took up in this Committee just over a week ago the question of allocating priorities to the various items on our agenda, I stressed the urgency of giving consideration to the problem of radiation hazards to human health. At that time several other delegations indicated similar concern that the item on the effects of radiation should be taken up urgently, and it was placed first on our agenda. My delegation now has been joined by twenty-two others in putting forward a resolution on this subject. The number of delegations which are co-sponsoring this resolution, and the broad geographic distribution reflected in the list of co-sponsors, testify to the depth and extent of international concern about the growing menace of radioactive fall-out. This is also underlined by the many expressions of support for the objectives of our resolution which have come from delegations other than the co-sponsors.

This afternoon I propose to outline somewhat more fully the basis for this widespread apprehension. I should also like to explain the general nature and objectives of our resolution, which reflects the approach to this problem shared by Canada with so many other countries in all parts of the world.

The concern of the Canadian Government about the hazards of radiation is not a recent development. We have been actively