

ENGLISH VERSION OF THE SPEECH GIVEN BY AMBASSADOR JEAN CHAPDELAIN
IN SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE ON THE EFFECTS OF ATOMIC RADIATION.

Our Organization is sometimes accused of being satisfied with words and of having degenerated into a forum of fruitless debates. These detractors would quickly change their minds if they were to examine closely the subject we are approaching today and the treatment it has received and will continue to receive in the General Assembly. For the taking up by the United Nations of the study of the effects of atomic radiations -- a study already undertaken by many national and international organizations -- shows the deep concern of world opinion which soon resulted in the Organization taking up the conduct and coordination of this study.

We are aware that during recent years massive quantities of harmful atomic radiations were poured into the atmosphere. We know that these radiations affect all aspects of human life. Concern, and even deep anxiety, has developed, especially as radiations of this nature are long-lived and their effects have a continued impact on man and on the coming generations.

We must perfect our knowledge of these effects. This is the task of the Scientific Committee, which receives assistance from various agencies. The specific function of one of these bodies, the World Meteorological Organization, is to register data on fall-out movements and concentration: its responsibility is therefore vital.

Radiations come from various sources, some of which are less important though not to be neglected. The main source ^{without any} / doubt has been and remains nuclear testing.

The conclusion of a test ban treaty on the cessation of nuclear tests in the atmosphere, outer space and under water represents indeed an important step in reducing, if not eliminating, these radiations. United Nations action will have contributed to the conclusion of this treaty.

We should, however, remain alert. Radiations which could be qualified as normal continue to exist; so do the effects of past nuclear experiences; and there are tests which are not covered by the Moscow