

ducts through food chains, and also the relationship between radiation dose and effects. It plans also to study genetic problems and the physical and biological problems concerned with Carbon-14, which remains radioactive for centuries.

In its work the Committee has received co-operation from many governments, from Specialized Agencies, from the International Atomic Energy Agency, from international non-governmental and scientific organizations as well as from individual scientists. It appears that useful arrangements have been worked out for co-operation between this Scientific Committee and the agencies concerned, which is a source of satisfaction to my Delegation.

However, it is clear that, notwithstanding this co-operation and the fact that the Committee has received much useful information on fallout, radiation levels and radio-biological questions from many member states, it requires more information on these questions in order to discharge its full responsibilities, and in order to make the maximum use of the scientific knowledge and skills available to it. Indeed, the Committee itself has found it necessary to invite member states to provide further data of the type already contained in its earlier comprehensive report and to suggest that this collection of information be supplemented in various other ways.

Information Gathering

For the purpose of filling the gaps that continue to exist in our knowledge of the phenomenon of radiation, we believe the scientists should have at their disposal the fullest and most reliable information possible. This can be obtained only by the widest co-operation of member states and the international organizations concerned. We consider it important that a greater effort should be made to obtain such information and to enlist the necessary co-operation. We wish to place the authority of the General Assembly squarely behind this effort.

For this purpose my Delegation, in company with the delegations from Argentina, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Ghana, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand and Norway, has presented the draft resolution which is contained in Document A/L 268.

In its simplest terms, what the resolution is designed to do, in addition to approving the various recommendations of the Scientific Committee, is to ask that Committee to examine the possibility of making arrangements, which I hope will be more effective, for the collection and analysis by member states of radiation samples of air, water, soil and food, on the basis of uniform standards; and also for the encouragement of genetic and biological studies of the effects of exposure to radiation.

In its examination of these questions, in consultation with the agencies concerned, the Committee may discover gaps in the technical resources of member states that would prevent them from contributing to this co-operative programme as they would like. If this should be the case, I hope that the agencies concerned will consider the possibility of extending assistance to fill these gaps.