

radiation. At the same time, having developed in Canada an extensive system of facilities for analyzing radioactive samples, we offered to share these facilities with other countries not as adequately equipped to carry out these studies. It is gratifying that, since then, 13 other member states of the United Nations and two of the Specialized Agencies have similarly offered to make their laboratories available for analysis of radioactive samples. Several countries already have taken advantage of these facilities for analysis, or are arranging to do so.

I have mentioned these developments ... to emphasize the long-standing and continuing concern of the Canadian Government about the harmful effects of radiation. Our apprehensions of course have been greatly intensified by the recent resumption of nuclear weapons testing in the atmosphere. The Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada, in his statement on October 3 to the General Assembly, stressed what this disturbing development has meant for Canadians. Following the resumption of tests in the atmosphere, the level of radioactive fall-out over one of our major cities - the city of Toronto - multiplied by about one thousand times. There were at the same time sharp increases in fall-out readings at several other points in Canada.

Latest Fall-out Figures

I would like to place before the Committee today just a few figures to illustrate how sharply fall-out levels have jumped. In the week ending September 10, the highest fall-out level recorded anywhere in Canada was 20 disintegrations per minute per cubic metre of air. During the following week, however, there were readings of 90 units at Ottawa, 100 units at Montreal, 260 units at Windsor and 470 units at Toronto.

Even higher levels were reached during the week of September 18 to September 24. The average reading for that week at Fort William was about 280 units, and this included peak daily readings of 1,000 units and 600 units. Montreal, the largest centre of population in Canada, had an average reading of 207 units for the week - that included three consecutive daily readings of more than 350 units. Ottawa also had very high fall-out readings during the same period; the average for the week was 246 units, and two consecutive daily readings were above 500 units. At Windsor a reading of 570 units was recorded on September 22, and the average for the week there was 185 units.

I am sure the Committee will agree with me that this is most disturbing information. Nor are we certain what further increases in radiation levels may be expected as a result of the tests which have been carried out, for past experience has shown that a large portion of the radioactive fall-out is likely to be delayed. Moreover, several further atmospheric tests have been