

of nuclear weapons arises from the conflicting assessments of the risks to human health and future generations caused by exposure to radioactive fall-out. Throughout Canada, there has been for some time a well-developed programme of scientific investigation into the effects of nuclear radiation. Canada has been fortunate in having adequate scientific resources to conduct these investigations. But many other countries lack of the necessary resources and satisfactory international standards do not exist which would permit accurate correlation of the results of national studies.

With these considerations in mind, Canada took an important initiative at the last session of the United Nations General Assembly in proposing more intensive studies on a world-wide scale of the effects of nuclear radiation. As its special contribution to those studies, the Canadian Government, as an initial offer, declared its readiness to receive and analyze on a regular basis, samples of air, soil, water and food from 20 to 25 sampling stations in each of these four categories.

I am gratified to say that our initiative was warmly welcomed and unanimously supported by the Assembly and that a number of countries with scientific resources for conducting studies of this nature have followed the Canadian lead in offering to make their facilities available to countries lacking the technical capacity to undertake a sampling programme of their own.

The Canadian effort is being followed up by individual discussions with potential user countries and plans are in hand to extend Canadian scientific facilities to the extent which may be required. Out of this world-wide scheme, we hope to perfect knowledge of the consequences of radio-active exposure to the point where all mankind will be made aware of the exact hazards to which he is already being exposed.

Test Ban Urgent

The problem of radiation would, of course, become far more tractable if the testing of nuclear weapons could be banned. For more than a year now, representatives of the United Kingdom, United States and the Soviet Union have been negotiating in Geneva with a view to drawing up a treaty which would enforce an agreement on the discontinuance of nuclear weapons tests. The opposition of the Canadian Government to any further nuclear tests is a matter of public record. Government spokesmen have returned to this theme time and again, both in the United Nations and elsewhere. Now, there are those who purport to see some incompatibility in the Canadian desire to see an end to testing and our support for the efforts of the United States and United Kingdom to achieve a workable inspection and control system in the Geneva negotiations with the Soviet Union. On the contrary, the Government welcomes the progress which is being made in these