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STATEMENT IN SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE ON
REPORT OF UNITED NATIONS SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION ON THE
EFFECTS OF ATOMIC RESEARCH
BY MR. HEATH MACQUARRIE, M.P., NOVEMBER 2, 1962

Just over a year ago on October 16, 1961, against a background of sharp alarm following on the sudden resumption of nuclear weapons testing in the atmosphere, the Canadian representative on this Committee stated: "Whatever disagreement or doubt there may be about the level of radiation which would pose an immediate menace to human wellbeing, the fact that all radiation does present a potential hazard and that higher levels increase this hazard is beyond dispute." The Canadian Representative added: "Everything we learn about ^{the} nature and the extent of consequences of radiation reaffirms the gravity of the problem. The fact that we have still so much to learn about its longterm effects cannot fail to add to our apprehension."

Since those words were spoken, Mr. Chairman, two important developments have added to our apprehensions for the health and safety of present and future generations. One is the ominous fact that nuclear testing in the atmosphere has, during the last twelve months, been taking place with ever-increasing frequency. The other is receipt by the General Assembly of a second comprehensive report of the Scientific Committee on the effects of atomic radiation. This carefully written and objective report makes it clear that fallout from nuclear tests represents a significant contribution to the total level of radiation to which the human race is exposed. The inescapable conclusion is that such fallout increases the danger of harmful somatic and hereditary effects of radiation for present and future generations.

With the forbearance of the Committee, I shall add a very few figures -- very recent figures -- from Canadian sources. The Canadian health authorities, in their most recent report on radioactive fallout in Canada covering the months of July, August