

at the inter-governmental level as in the United Nations or in the highly important area of international co-operation among scientists.

RADIATION

"I should like now to touch upon another question of vital importance - the hazards resulting from the addition of man-made radiation to that which already occurs in nature. The United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, in its report this year to the General Assembly, has outlined what appears to my Delegation to be an admirable and useful programme for the next few years.

"All mankind is concerned that knowledge of the biological and other effects of radiation and of the present extent of the hazard should be enlarged. We must also realize that even if the nations agree to stop testing nuclear weapons, the problem of radiation will not vanish. The large and growing use of radiation in medicine; the atomic era in industry with the possibility of accidents, for example in power stations soon to become a familiar sight in many lands; the risks connected with the disposal of radioactive waste; all these and similar perils unforeseeable now, will be with us henceforth. They will present complex problems demanding constant observation, study and precaution.

"There is an urgent need to fill the substantial gaps which continue to exist in our knowledge of the phenomenon of radiation. In a matter which is of such concern to human life and future generations, all member states have an equal interest in ensuring that research into the biological effects of radiation is based on the fullest and most reliable information. For this purpose, scientists must have at their disposal data on radiation from fallout and other sources which would be as nearly as possible world-wide in its scope and collected by standardized methods.

"All member states can make a vital contribution towards this objective by co-operating to the fullest possible extent in the collection of data and in remitting it to a central agency for collation. The collated data would then be available to governments and to scientific and medical research institutions for investigation of the biological effects and industrial hazards of radiation. The pooling in turn of the results of such research through the United Nations Radiation Committee can make a further valuable contribution to the world's collective knowledge of this common problem.

"We believe that mankind would derive relief from anxiety if the nations of the world were to acknowledge an obligation to do what they can to ensure that the world-wide physical measurement of the intensity and distribution of radiation is made as accurate and complete as possible.

"At this session the Canadian Delegation

intends to submit proposals which we sincerely hope will encourage the world-wide collection of more accurate data on radiation and will provide for its central collation...

THE WORLD REFUGEE YEAR

"...I am pleased to announce...that as its special contribution to the World Refugee Year the Canadian Government will waive a normal immigration requirement and admit to Canada a substantial number of tubercular refugees and their families. This group will be brought to Canada and treated in sanatoria at Canadian expense. Furthermore, a family unable to support itself while a member is under treatment will receive maintenance payments. It is my hope that the first refugees selected will reach Canada by the end of this year.

"In this undertaking the Canadian Government will have the co-operation of provincial governments and the active support of a private organization, the Canadian committee for World Refugee Year.

"I am aware that a number of other members of the United Nations have outlined imaginative plans to receive handicapped refugees. Our collective efforts should have the effect of easing or bringing to an end the disproportionate burden which some European countries have carried since 1945. Above all, Canada welcomes the occasion offered by World Refugee Year to give a group of human beings, whose plight is particularly tragic, an opportunity to rebuild their lives in dignity and happiness.

UNITED NATIONS EMERGENCY FORCE

"One other item on the Agenda which is of special interest to Canada is the UNEF. This force has for another year admirably carried out the tasks set for it by the General Assembly. Canadians are proud of the part which their armed forces are playing, with those of other contributing states, in attaining this satisfactory result.

"In view of the relative quiet which now prevails in that area some member states might be of the opinion that the time has arrived to curtail UNEF's operations. I think we should bear in mind, however, that the reduction of frontier incidents between the United Arab Republic and Israel is due in large measure to the presence of the force. It would therefore be unfortunate if the contribution of UNEF to more stable conditions in the area should now be jeopardized by a premature limitation of its operations.

"All member states have an equal interest in ensuring the continuing effectiveness of the Force. We support the efforts of the Secretary-General to consolidate its financial position. We hope these efforts will receive a degree of co-operation commensurate with the political significance of the UNEF operation and the collective responsibility of all members to maintain international peace and security...."