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CANADA'S PRESCRIPTION FOR A BETTER WORLD

"I refuse to believe that the human genius which has led to the mastery of the atom is unequal to the far more compelling necessity of controlling and ultimately outlawing its annihilating capability," Mr. Green, Secretary of State for External Affairs, told the annual meeting of the Board of Evangelism and Social Service of the United Church of Canada in Toronto on February 26. "...Already the outlines of man's multiple approach to the problem are becoming apparent in a series of related fields: improvement of the state of scientific knowledge of the effects of radiation; prevention of the spread of nuclear weapons to outer space; and the development of an enforcement ban on the testing of such weapons." Mr. Green went on to expound as follows the policy of the Canadian Government on this and a number of other major international problems:

"...In most of these hopeful endeavours, each of which testifies to the ultimate desire of nations to restore sanity to a world on the brink of disaster, Canada has been an active participant. In the field of radiation research we can claim to have been in the forefront. The Canadian authorities have long recognized that one of the causes of the deep public concern felt in this country over the development and testing 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 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

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