

resolution requested the Scientific Committee to study appropriate arrangements to stimulate the flow of information and data on the effects of radiation on man between the various national and international scientific organizations and individual scientists.

In response to these directives the Scientific Committee held its seventh and eight sessions in 1960 in New York and Geneva respectively. At the Committee's seventh session both the World Meteorological Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization contributed a number of scientific presentations on subjects relevant to the Committee's work. Moreover, the World Health Organization at the Committee's request co-sponsored a seminar on "The Use of Vital and Health Statistics for Genetic and Radiation Studies", which was held in September, 1960 in Geneva. A "Consensus of Opinion" calling on nations to undertake specific programmes of vital statistics and health information surveys in a standardized form, was adopted by the participants to that seminar and it was hoped that the World Health Organization would be able to assist individual countries to initiate such programmes.

With a view to stimulating the flow of data and information on the effects of radiation on man, the Scientific Committee addressed a letter to all member states outlining the type of data and research required from certain areas of the world. In Canada special measures were taken by the appropriate authorities to give this letter the widest possible distribution among scientists specializing in that field. The Scientific Committee also submitted as an Annex to its Progress Report a paper on the problems relative to the availability of appropriate and useful statistical information on radiation exposure and related biological and genetic data.

The Canadian Government has long been concerned about the hazards of radiation. Canada has been an active member of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation<sup>1</sup>, since its establishment in 1955. This active interest in supporting international efforts to increase man's knowledge of the effects of radiation has resulted in the development in Canada of an extensive system of radio-active sample analysis. At the same time, it has led Canada to offer to share with other countries not as adequately equipped, these extensive Canadian facilities for radio-active analysis. This offer was made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs in November, 1959 at the fourteenth session of the General Assembly. One of the most important features of the 1959 General Assembly resolution called for a broad programme of scientific assistance whereby the more advanced countries would undertake the scientific analysis of radioactive samples collected in less advanced countries. Since then twelve other countries, the IAEA and the WHO have followed Canada's lead and offered to

<sup>1</sup> The other members of the Committee are Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Czechoslovakia, France, India, Japan, Mexico, Sweden, the U.S.S.R., the United Arab Republic, the United Kingdom and the United States.