

# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES



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## THE THREAT OF ATOMIC RADIATION

Statement by Mr. Paul Tremblay, Canadian Ambassador to Chile and Canadian Representative on the Special Political Committee of the United Nations, on October 16, 1961

... When we took up in this Committee just over a week ago the question of allocating priorities to the various items on our agenda, I stressed the urgency of giving consideration to the problem of radiation hazards to human health. At that time several other delegations indicated similar concern that the item on the effects of radiation should be taken up urgently, and it was placed first on our agenda. My delegation now has been joined by 22 others in putting forward a resolution on this subject. The number of delegations which are co-sponsoring this resolution, and the broad geographic distribution reflected in the list of co-sponsors, testify to the depth and extent of international concern about the growing menace of radioactive fall-out. This is also underlined by the many expressions of support for the objectives of our resolution which have come from delegations other than the co-sponsors.

This afternoon I propose to outline somewhat more fully the basis for this widespread apprehension. I should also like to explain the general nature and objectives of our resolution, which reflects the approach to this problem shared by Canada with so many other countries in all parts of the world.

### Canada's Concern Over Radiation Peril

The concern of the Canadian Government about the hazards of radiation is not a recent development. We have been actively represented on the United Nations Scientific Committee, whose annual progress report is now before us, since that Committee was established in 1955. At the fourteenth session of the General Assembly, Canada played a leading part in developing the resolution which detailed the current terms of reference of the Scientific Committee, and sought to intensify the efforts being made to advance man's knowledge about the effects of