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EFFECTS OF ATOMIC RADIATION

- (a) CO-ORDINATION OF INFORMATION RELATING TO THE EFFECTS OF ATOMIC RADIATION UPON HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY
- (b) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON THE EFFECTS OF ATOMIC RADIATION AND ON THE EFFECTS OF EXPERIMENTAL EXPLOSIONS OF THERMO-NUCLEAR BOMBS

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Carlos ECHEVERRI-CORTES (Colombia)

1. On 4 August 1955, the United States of America requested (A/2931) the inclusion in the supplementary list for the agenda of the tenth session of the General Assembly of the item "Co-ordination of information relating to the effects of atomic radiation upon human health and safety" and enclosed an explanatory memorandum.
2. On 30 August 1955, India requested (A/2949) that an item entitled "Dissemination of information on the effects of experimental explosions of thermo-nuclear bombs" should be added to the agenda of the tenth session. An explanatory memorandum (A/2949/Add.1) was submitted on 16 September.
3. At its 102nd meeting on 21 September, the General Committee recommended that the two items should be considered as parts (a) and (b) of a single item under the general heading "Effects of atomic radiation". At its 530th meeting on 30 September, the General Assembly decided to include the item in its agenda and referred it to the First Committee for consideration and report.
4. The First Committee considered the item at its 773rd to 782nd meetings, held between 31 October and 7 November 1955.

5. At the 775th meeting, Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America submitted a joint draft resolution (A/C.1/L.138), also co-sponsored by Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Sweden under the title "Co-ordination and dissemination of information relating to the effects of atomic radiation on man and his environment". The joint draft resolution provided, inter alia, that the General Assembly should:

(1) Establish a scientific committee consisting of Australia, Brazil, Canada, Czechoslovakia, France, India, Japan, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and request those Governments each to designate one scientist to represent them on that committee;

(2) Request that committee: (a) to receive and assemble in an appropriate and useful form the following radiological information furnished by States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies: (i) reports on observed levels of ionizing radiation and radioactivity in the environment, and (ii) reports on scientific observations and experiments relevant to the effects of ionizing radiation upon man and his environment already under way or later undertaken by national scientific bodies or by authorities of national Governments; (b) to recommend uniform standards with respect to procedures for sample collection and instrumentation, and radiation counting procedures to be used in analyses of samples; (c) to compile and assemble in an integrated manner the various reports, referred to in (a) (i), on observed radiological levels; (d) to review and collate national reports, referred to in (a) (ii), evaluating each report to determine its usefulness for the purposes of the committee; (e) to make yearly progress reports if appropriate and to develop by 1 July 1958, or earlier, if the assembled facts warrant, a summary of the reports received on radiation levels and radiation effects on man and his environment together with the evaluations provided for in sub-paragraph (d) above and indications of research projects which might require further study; and (f) to transmit from time to time as it deems appropriate the documents and evaluations referred to above to the Secretary-General for publication and dissemination to States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies;

(3) Request the Secretary-General to provide appropriate assistance to the scientific committee in organizing and carrying on its work, and to provide a secretary of the Committee;

(4) Call upon all States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies to co-operate in making available reports and studies relating to the short-term and long-term effects of ionizing radiation upon man and his environment and radiological data collected by them;

(5) Request the specialized agencies to concert with the committee concerning any work they might be doing or contemplating within the sphere of the committee's terms of reference to assure proper co-ordination;

(6) Request the Secretary-General to invite the Japanese Government to nominate a scientific representative to the committee.

6. At the 776th meeting, India submitted amendments (A/C.1/L.139) to the eight-Power joint draft resolution. In their revised form, circulated on 3 November (A/C.1/L.139/Rev.1) and as modified on 7 November (A/C.1/L.139/Rev.1/Corr.1), in addition to making certain changes of a drafting nature, the amendments provided that:

(1) The committee would be called "Special Technical Committee" and its membership would additionally include Egypt and Mexico, with provision for others, and the members would "designate scientists" rather than one scientist each to represent them on the committee;

(2) The committee would act "in co-operation with the Secretary-General" in carrying out its functions;

(3) The sources of information and co-operation and the recipients of the results of the committee's work would not be limited to Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies;

(4) The committee would receive and assemble radiological information on "other relevant matters" as well as the specific reports provided for in the joint draft resolution;

(5) Evaluation of reports to determine their usefulness would not be limited solely to "the purposes of the committee";

(6) Yearly progress reports would be mandatory;

(7) Specific reference to an invitation to Japan would be omitted and the Secretary-General would be requested to take steps to convene the committee; and

(8) The General Assembly would decide to transmit to the Special Technical Committee its proceedings on the present item.

7. At the 777th meeting, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics submitted amendments (A/C.1/L.140 and Corr.1) to the eight-Power joint draft resolution which would, in addition to inserting in the preamble paragraphs noting that there was no protection from the harmful effects of radiation formed in atomic explosions and considering that the only way of freeing mankind from the dangers of such radiation was through agreement on the prohibition of nuclear weapons and the establishment of international control,

(1) Provide that the General Assembly should call upon States, and in the first place States possessing nuclear materials and the means of producing nuclear weapons, to continue their efforts towards the earliest possible solution of the question of the prohibition of nuclear weapons and, as a first step, towards the reaching of an agreement on the cessation of experiments with all types of nuclear weapons;

(2) Provide that the scientific committee should be a committee "of the United Nations";

(3) Include the People's Republic of China and Romania in the States designating scientists to represent them on the committee;

(4) Additionally ask the committee to carry out the collection, circulation and distribution of information relating to the problem of protection from the effects of atomic radiation and to the problem of remedies and methods for the treatment of illnesses resulting from the effects of such radiation; and

(5) Delete the references to Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies as the collaborators with the committee.

8. At the 778th meeting, the Secretary-General introduced a paper (A/INF/67) entitled "Certain aspects of the proposed committee on effects of atomic radiation", prepared in response to a request made by the representative of India at the 775th meeting.

9. On 3 November, Indonesia and Syria submitted an amendment (A/C.1/L.141/Rev.1) to the eight-Power joint draft resolution whereby the General Assembly would request all the Powers concerned, pending a conclusive report on the effects of atomic radiation, to cease all experimental explosions of all types of nuclear weapons.

10. At the 780th meeting, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela submitted an amendment (A/C.1/L.142) to the eight-Power joint draft resolution whereby the scientific committee would consist of Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, France, India, Japan, Mexico, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.
11. At the 781st meeting, India submitted an amendment (A/C.1/L.143) to the twenty-Power amendment to the eight-Power joint draft resolution to provide that the members would designate "scientists" rather than one scientist to represent them on the scientific committee.
12. Also at the 781st meeting, the representative of the United Kingdom introduced orally, with the agreement of the other sponsors of the eight-Power joint draft resolution, an amendment to the draft resolution by which each Government, while designating one scientist to be its representative on the committee, would be empowered to designate alternates and consultants as appropriate.
13. At the 782nd meeting, the representative of India withdrew his delegation's amendments (A/C.1/L.139/Rev.1 and Corr.1), to the eight-Power joint draft resolution with the exception of those which provided that the sources of information and co-operation and the recipients of the results of the committee's work would not be limited to Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies. He noted that the United Kingdom, on behalf of the sponsors of the eight-Power joint draft resolution, had stated in the course of the discussion their acceptance of the Indian amendments whereby the submission of yearly progress reports by the committee would be mandatory and the General Assembly would decide to transmit to the committee its proceedings on the present item.
14. At the same meeting, the Chairman announced that the co-sponsors of the twenty-Power amendment (A/C.1/L.142) had revised the text so that each Government, while designating one scientist to be its representative on the Committee, would be empowered to designate alternates and consultants as appropriate. The representative of India, in connexion with his delegation's amendment (A/C.1/L.143) to the twenty-Power amendment, stated his support for this revision.

15. At the same meeting, on behalf of the co-sponsors, the representative of the United Kingdom withdrew the title contained in the heading of the eight-Power joint draft resolution (A/C.1/L.138). He also announced that the provision concerning the invitation to Japan had been revised so that the Japanese Government, while designating one scientist to be its representative on the committee, would be empowered to designate alternates and consultants as appropriate.

16. Also at the 782nd meeting, the First Committee proceeded to vote on the eight-Power joint draft resolution and the amendments thereto. The results of the voting were as follows:

Preamble:

Paragraph 1 of the first USSR amendment (A/C.1/L.140 and Corr.1) was rejected by 37 votes to 11, with 11 abstentions.

Paragraph 2 of the first USSR amendment was rejected by 39 votes to 6, with 12 abstentions.

The preamble of the eight-Power joint draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

Operative part:

The second USSR amendment was rejected by 39 votes to 9, with 8 abstentions.

Paragraph 1 of the third USSR amendment was rejected by 39 votes to 8, with 11 abstentions.

The twenty-Power amendment (A/C.1/L.142), as revised, was adopted by 48 votes to none, with 11 abstentions.

Paragraph 2 of the third USSR amendment was rejected by 40 votes to 9, with 9 abstentions.

The Indian amendment to paragraph 2 (a) (A/C.1/L.139/Rev.1, paragraph 2 (ii)(I)) of the eight-Power joint draft resolution was rejected by a roll-call vote of 28 to 25, with 6 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

<u>In favour:</u>	Afghanistan, Bolivia, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lebanon, Liberia, Mexico, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Yugoslavia.
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Against: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Israel, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Sweden, Turkey, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Abstaining: Greece, Iraq, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand, Yemen.

The fifth USSR amendment, relating to sub-paragraph 2 (a) of the eight-Power joint draft resolution, was withdrawn.

Sub-paragraphs 2 (a), (b), (c) and (d) of the eight-Power joint draft resolution were adopted by 58 votes to none, with one abstention.

The fourth USSR amendment, to insert a new sub-paragraph after sub-paragraph 2 (d), was rejected by 33 votes to 13, with 12 abstentions.

Sub-paragraph 2 (e) of the eight-Power joint draft resolution, revised in accordance with the Indian amendment, was adopted unanimously.

The Indian amendment to sub-paragraph 2 (f), as modified (A/C.1/L.139/Rev.1/Corr.1) was rejected by a roll-call vote of 28 to 23, with 8 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Bolivia, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Lebanon, Liberia, Mexico, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Israel, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Abstaining: Afghanistan, Argentina, Ethiopia, Greece, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Philippines.

The fifth USSR amendment, relating to sub-paragraph 2 (f) was withdrawn.

Sub-paragraph 2 (f) of the eight-Power joint draft resolution was adopted by 53 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.

The revised amendment of Indonesia and Syria (A/C.1/L.141/Rev.1) was rejected by a roll-call vote of 36 to 17, with 6 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Lebanon, Liberia, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Israel, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Abstaining: Bolivia, Ethiopia, Iran, Iraq, Mexico, Pakistan.

Paragraph 3 of the eight-Power joint draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

The Indian amendment to paragraph 4 of the eight-Power joint draft resolution was adopted by a roll-call vote of 25 to 22, with 12 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Argentina, Bolivia, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lebanon, Liberia, Mexico, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Turkey, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Abstaining: Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Greece, Iraq, Israel, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Sweden, Thailand.

The fifth USSR amendment, relating to paragraph 4, was withdrawn.

Paragraph 4 of the eight-Power joint draft resolution, as amended, was adopted by 51 votes to one, with 5 abstentions.

Paragraph 5 of the eight-Power joint draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

Paragraph 6 of the eight-Power joint draft resolution, as revised, was adopted by 58 votes to none, with one abstention.



Paragraph 7 of the eight-Power joint draft resolution, being the addition proposed in the Indian amendments, (A/C.1/L.139/Rev.1, paragraph 6), accepted by the co-sponsors in a revised form was adopted unanimously.

The eight-Power joint draft resolution, as a whole, as amended (A/C.1/L.139/Rev.1, paragraph 6), was adopted unanimously.

17. At the invitation of the Chairman and without objection, the representative of Japan made a statement to the Committee in accordance with his request.

18. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

#### EFFECTS OF ATOMIC RADIATION

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the importance of and the widespread attention being given to problems relating to the effects of ionizing radiation upon man and his environment,

Believing that the widest distribution should be given to all available scientific data on the short-term and long-term effects upon man and his environment of ionizing radiation, including radiation levels and radioactive "fallout",

Noting that studies of this problem are being conducted in various countries,

Believing that the peoples of the world should be more fully informed on this subject,

1. Establishes a scientific Committee consisting of Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, France, India, Japan, Mexico, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and requests the Governments of these countries each to designate one scientist, with alternate and consultants as appropriate, to be its representative on this Committee;

2. Requests this Committee:

(a) To receive and assemble in an appropriate and useful form the following radiological information furnished by States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies: (1) reports on observed levels of ionizing radiation and radioactivity in the environment; and (2) reports on scientific

observations and experiments relevant to the effects of ionizing radiation upon man and his environment already under way or later undertaken by national scientific bodies or by authorities of national Governments;

(b) To recommend uniform standards with respect to procedures for sample collection and instrumentation, and radiation counting procedures to be used in analyses of samples;

(c) To compile and assemble in an integrated manner the various reports, referred to in (a) (1), on observed radiological levels;

(d) To review and collate national reports, referred to in (a) (2), evaluating each report to determine its usefulness for the purposes of the Committee;

(e) To make yearly progress reports and to develop by 1 July 1958, or earlier, if the assembled facts warrant, a summary of the reports received on radiation levels and radiation effects on man and his environment together with the evaluations provided for in sub-paragraph (d) above and indications of research projects which might require further study;

(f) To transmit from time to time as it deems appropriate the documents and evaluations referred to above to the Secretary-General for publication and dissemination to States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to provide appropriate assistance to the scientific Committee in organizing and carrying on its work, and to provide a Secretary of the Committee;

4. Calls upon all concerned to co-operate in making available reports and studies relating to the short-term and long-term effects of ionizing radiation upon man and his environment and radiological data collected by them;

5. Requests the specialized agencies to concert with the Committee concerning any work they may be doing or contemplating within the sphere of the Committee's terms of reference to assure proper co-ordination;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to invite the Government of Japan to nominate a scientist, with alternatives and consultants as appropriate, to be its representative on the Committee;

7. Decides to transmit to the scientific Committee the proceedings of the General Assembly on the present item.

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