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Agenda item 54

EFFECTS OF ATOMIC RADIATION

Report of the Special Political Committee

Rapporteur: Miss Ruth DOBSON (Australia)

1. The item entitled "Effects of atomic radiation: report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation" was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-second session of the General Assembly in accordance with General Assembly resolution 31/10 of 8 November 1976.
2. At its 5th plenary meeting, on 23 September 1977, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the Special Political Committee.
3. The Special Political Committee examined the item at its 3rd to 5th meetings, from 17 to 19 October. It had before it the report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation. 1/
4. At the 4th meeting, on 18 October, the representative of Czechoslovakia introduced a draft resolution (A/SPC/32/L.1), which was sponsored by Australia, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Japan, New Zealand, Norway and the Sudan. Subsequently, Austria, Belgium, Chile, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, Germany, Federal Republic of, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.
5. At the 5th meeting, on 19 October, the representative of Canada, on behalf of the sponsors, orally revised the draft resolution by:

(a) Substituting the words "report and scientific annexes" for the words "report and/or scientific annexes" in the third line of operative paragraph 6 immediately following the word "its";

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 40 (A/32/40).

(b) Deleting operative paragraph 7 and renumbering the remaining paragraphs accordingly.

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution (A/SPC/32/L.1), as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 7 below).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

7. The Special Political Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Effects of atomic radiation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 913 (X) of 3 December 1955, by which it established the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, and its subsequent resolutions on the subject, including resolution 31/10 of 8 November 1976,

Reaffirming the desirability of the Scientific Committee continuing its work,

Concerned about the potentially harmful effects on present and future generations resulting from the levels of radiation to which man is exposed,

Conscious of the continued need for compiling information about atomic radiation and for analysing its effects on man and his environment,

1. Notes with appreciation the comprehensive report submitted by the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation; 2/

2. Commends the Scientific Committee for the valuable contribution it has made since its inception to wider knowledge and understanding of the levels, effects and risks of atomic radiation;

3. Requests the Scientific Committee to continue its work, including its important co-ordination activities, to increase knowledge of the levels and effects of atomic radiation from all sources;

4. Expresses its appreciation for the assistance rendered to the Scientific Committee by Member States, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and non-governmental organizations;

5. Notes with satisfaction the continued and growing scientific

co-operation between the Scientific Committee and the United Nations Environment Programme;

6. Requests the United Nations Environment Programme to continue providing for the effective conduct of the Scientific Committee's work and for the dissemination of its report and scientific annexes to the General Assembly, the scientific community and the public;

7. Requests the Scientific Committee to review the important problems in the field of radiation at its twenty-seventh session and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session;

8. Requests all Member States and the United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations concerned to continue to supply to the Scientific Committee further data relevant to its work with a view to facilitating the preparation by the Committee of its report.
