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Agenda item 47

EFFECTS OF ATOMIC RADIATION

Report of the Special Political Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Paul COTTON (New Zealand)

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-fourth session of the General Assembly in accordance with General Assembly resolution 33/5 of 3 November 1978.
2. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 21 September 1979, 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 4th and 5th meetings, on 15 and 16 October. It had before it the report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (A/34/322).
4. At the 4th meeting, the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany introduced a draft resolution (A/SPC/34/L.2), which was sponsored by Germany, Federal Republic of, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand and the United States of America. Subsequently, Austria, Belgium, France, Samoa and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland joined in sponsoring draft resolution A/SPC/34/L.2.
5. At the 5th meeting, it was announced that Argentina, Australia, Chile, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Indonesia, Norway, Peru, Sweden and Uruguay had joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.
6. In the course of the meeting, the representative of Australia, on behalf of the sponsors, orally revised the draft resolution by adding the words "inter alia", immediately following the word "reviewing" in the second line of the fifth preambular paragraph. The representative of the Federal Republic of Germany, on behalf of the sponsors, also orally revised the draft resolution by the insertion, as a foot-note, of the document symbol A/34/322, in reference to the second preambular paragraph.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/SPC/34/L.2, as revised, without a vote (see para. 8).

#### RECOMMENDATION OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

8. 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 33/5 of 3 November 1978, in which the Assembly, inter alia, reaffirmed the desirability of the Scientific Committee continuing its work,

Noting with appreciation the report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, 1/

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 as well as ionizing radiation from all other sources and for analysing its effects on man and his environment,

Noting the intention of the Scientific Committee to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session a report reviewing, inter alia, the dose assessment models, natural sources of radiation, technical modified exposures to natural radiation, radon and its decay products contamination from nuclear explosions, radio-active contamination due to nuclear power production, medical irradiation, doses from occupational exposure, dose-response relationships for radiation-induced cancer, late non-tumorous consequences of whole-body irradiation, non-stochastic effects resulting from localized irradiation and genetic effects of radiation.

1. Commends the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation for the valuable contribution it has made since its inception to wider knowledge and understanding of the levels, effects and risks of atomic radiation;

2. Requests the Scientific Committee to continue its work, including its important co-ordinating activities, to increase knowledge of the doses, effects and risks of ionizing radiation from all sources;

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1/ A/34/322.

3. Notes with satisfaction the continued and growing scientific co-operation between the Scientific Committee and the United Nations Environment Programme;

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

5. Commends the Scientific Committee for its work on selected radionuclides and on its objective of preparing a comprehensive document on this subject for the United Nations Environment Programme;

6. 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, and invites them to increase their co-operation in this field;

7. Endorses the Scientific Committee's request that Member States and the United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations concerned continue to supply to the Committee all relevant information and, in particular, data on exposures from various sources of radiation that would greatly assist the Committee in the preparation of its report to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session.

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