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ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS SCIENTIFIC
COMMITTEE ON THE EFFECTS OF ATOMIC RADIATION FOR 1961

1. The Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation was established by resolution 913 (X) on 3 December 1955 at the tenth session of the General Assembly. It has the following members: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czechoslovakia, France, India, Japan, Mexico, Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Ninth session

2. The Committee held its ninth session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 13 to 24 March 1961. Dr. Manuel Martínez-Báez of Mexico served as Chairman and Dr. Ferdinand Hercik of Czechoslovakia served as Vice-Chairman.

3. At this session, the Committee considered preliminary drafts of some of the annexes of its second comprehensive report, prepared by the Secretariat under the guidance of groups of delegates nominated by the Committee. It also discussed oral presentations and reports contributed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

4. Dr. Ferdinand Hercik of Czechoslovakia was elected Chairman and Dr. Kempo Tsukamoto of Japan was elected Vice-Chairman to serve at the tenth and eleventh sessions.

Tenth session

5. The Committee held its tenth session at Headquarters from 28 August to 15 September 1961. Dr. Ferdinand Hercik of Czechoslovakia served as Chairman and Dr. Kempo Tsukamoto of Japan served as Vice-Chairman.

6. At this session, the Committee discussed further draft annexes and the first draft of the main text of its forthcoming comprehensive report, which will deal with a number of subjects of current interest, including sources of radiation exposure (such as fall-out from weapon tests, environmental contamination, radiation from medical practices), the effects of radiation on living cells, the effects on individuals and the hereditary effects. The Committee also prepared its annual progress report for 1961.

7. The Committee decided to request that its eleventh session be held at Headquarters from 5 to 23 March 1962.

Contractual study

8. In pursuance of the recommendation made by the Committee in its annual Progress Report for 1959^{1/} which was approved by the General Assembly in resolution 1376 (XIV) and the associated financial provision, the United Nations drew up in 1960 a special service agreement with the International Commission on Radiological Protection and the International Commission on Radiological Units and Measurements to study the methods of evaluation of the responses of man to ionizing radiation resulting from medical procedures, with special reference to radiation-induced diseases. Under the terms of the agreement, the Commissions were requested to submit as soon as possible to the Committee, and in any event before the end of 1960, a report of their deliberations and conclusions.

9. The Committee notes that it received the report of the Commissions in December 1960 and that its content complies with the requests made by the Committee in its annual Progress Report for 1959. The Committee is satisfied that the report of the Commissions embodies a vast amount of information of greatest relevance to the Committee's own field of study and wishes to commend the Commissions for the work they have accomplished.

Flow of information

10. During the period from 1 September 1960 to 15 September 1961 the Committee has received 238 reports from States Members of the United Nations or members of

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Fourteenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 24, documents A/4119 and Add.1.

the specialized agencies, and from specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

11. The Committee hopes to continue to receive from those Governments and bodies information on radiobiological questions, radiation levels and contamination occasioned by fall-out, disposal of radioactive wastes and accidental releases of radioactivity.

12. The Committee recognizes that the resumption of nuclear test explosions since the publication of its last comprehensive report increases the urgency for intensification of relevant scientific studies.

13. The Committee notes that, as recommended in its annual Progress Report for 1960,^{2/} which was approved by the General Assembly in resolution 1574 (XV), and in the associated financial provision, a number of external consultants, in addition to the scientific staff regularly recruited, have assisted in the preparation of the Committee's draft comprehensive report for 1962.

Further reports

14. The Committee intends to submit its second comprehensive report to the General Assembly during 1962.

^{2/} Ibid., Fifteenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 24, document A/4528.