

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

FOURTEENTH SESSION
Official Records



**839th
PLENARY MEETING**

Tuesday, 17 November 1959,
at 3 p.m.

NEW YORK

CONTENTS

	Page
<i>Agenda item 24:</i> <i>Progress report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation</i>	561
<i>Agenda item 11:</i> <i>Report of the Security Council</i>	574
<i>Agenda item 15:</i> <i>Election of three non-permanent members of the Security Council (continued)</i>	574
<i>Agenda item 28:</i> <i>United Nations Emergency Force:</i> <i>(c) Progress report on the Force</i>	575

President: Mr. Víctor A. BELAUNDE (Peru).

AGENDA ITEM 24

Progress report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation

1. The **PRESIDENT** (translated from Spanish): The General Assembly decided to discuss agenda item 24, progress report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, in plenary session. The Members of the Assembly have before them the progress report [A/4119] and the statement of financial implications [A/4119/Add.1] submitted by the Secretary-General in connexion with the progress report.

2. The Assembly also has before it an eleven-Power draft resolution [A/L.268] together with the statement of financial implications [A/4283 and Corr.1] submitted by the Secretary-General in connexion with the draft resolution. Paragraph 3 of the latter document states that the total financial implications amount to \$51,600. Before calling on representatives who wish to speak on this item, I desire to inform the Assembly that, if the draft resolution is adopted, the financial implications mentioned in the Secretary-General's statement will be communicated to the Fifth Committee, so that it may take the necessary steps in connexion with the proposed budget for 1960.

3. **Mr. GREEN** (Canada): Of all the scientific and technological achievements of recent years, the unleashing of the power of the atom has undoubtedly been the most spectacular and far-reaching. Henceforth mankind must live with the atom. Already many ways in which this new force can serve man in his pursuit of a better life are known or are foreseeable. Yet, at the same time, we must learn to control the terrifying potential of the atom for destruction.

4. The position of the Canadian Government on this question has already been made abundantly clear. For example, we are convinced of the need to reach agree-

ment on the cessation, under appropriate controls, of all nuclear weapons test explosions. We hope that negotiations to this end and in the general field of disarmament will soon lead to an agreement stopping further such explosions.

5. However, even when this desirable result is achieved, the problem of ionizing radiation will still exist. There will continue to be for several years fall-out of radioactive particles already in the atmosphere. There will also be long-term effects from the movement of radioactive isotopes through food chains. Even more important, there will continue to be for a long time genetic and biological effects from radiation, both man-made and natural, on the health of human populations.

6. In a matter of such concern to human life and to future generations, we believe it is vital to fill the gaps that continue to exist in our knowledge of the phenomenon of radiation. There is widespread concern that we should be able to assess more accurately than is now possible the nature and the extent of the hazard resulting from the addition of man-made radiation to that which already occurs in nature.

7. The United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, which was set up essentially for the purpose of inquiring into these questions, has done very useful work since it was established four years ago. Following its first comprehensive report [A/3838], which was considered at the last session of the General Assembly [792nd meeting], the Committee has gone on to prepare a programme of work for its forthcoming sessions. This programme appears to my delegation to be well balanced and practical.

8. The Committee plans to continue its study of the physical aspects of fall-out, the physical and biological problems concerning the transmission of fission products through food chains, and also the relationship between radiation dose and effects. It plans also to study genetic problems and the physical and biological problems concerned with C¹⁴ which remains radioactive for centuries.

9. In its work the Committee has received co-operation from many Governments, from specialized agencies, from the International Atomic Energy Agency, from international non-governmental and scientific organizations, as well as from individual scientists. It appears that useful arrangements have been worked out for co-operation between this Committee and the agencies concerned, which is a source of satisfaction to my delegation.

10. However, it is clear that, notwithstanding this co-operation and the fact that the Committee has received much useful information on fall-out, radiation levels and radio biological questions from many Member States, it requires more information on these questions in order to discharge its full responsibilities,

and also in order to make the maximum use of the scientific knowledge and skills available to it. Indeed, the Committee itself has found it necessary to invite Member States to provide further data of the type already contained in its earlier comprehensive report and to suggest that this collection of information be supplemented in various other ways.

11. For the purpose of filling the gaps that continue to exist in our knowledge of the phenomenon of radiation, we believe that the scientists should have at their disposal the fullest and most reliable information possible. This can be obtained only by the widest co-operation of Member States and of the international organizations concerned. We consider it important that a greater effort should be made to obtain such information and to enlist the necessary co-operation. We wish to place the authority of the General Assembly squarely behind this effort.

12. For this purpose my delegation, in company with the delegations of Argentina, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Ghana, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand and Norway has presented a draft resolution [A/L.268].

13. In simple terms, what the draft resolution is designed to do, in addition to approving the various recommendations of the Committee, is to ask that Committee to examine the possibility of making arrangements, which I hope will be more effective, for the collection and analysis by Member States of radiation samples of air, water, soil and food on the basis of uniform standards; and also for the encouragement of genetic and biological studies of the effects of exposure to radiation.

14. In its examination of these questions, in consultation with the agencies concerned, the Committee may discover gaps in the technical resources of Member States that would prevent them from contributing to this co-operative programme as they would like. If this should be the case, I hope that the agencies concerned will consider the possibility of extending assistance to fill these gaps.

15. In addition, the draft resolution asks Member States having facilities for laboratory analysis to assist in analysing radiation samples. The Canadian Government, for its part, is prepared to give assistance of this kind to other Member States wishing to avail themselves of Canadian laboratory facilities.

16. We are prepared to receive from other States radiation samples collected according to methods recommended by the Committee in consultation with the appropriate specialized agencies, and to analyse such samples in the Canadian Government laboratories which handle Canada's domestic sampling programme. If other Governments indicate their readiness to participate in such a co-operative programme of collection and analysis, the Canadian Government, as an initial offer, is prepared to receive and analyse on a regular basis samples of air, water, soil and food from 20 to 25 foreign sampling stations in each category.

17. Once it is known that others are prepared to co-operate in such a programme, these analyses could be undertaken within the space of the few months required to expand existing Canadian laboratory facilities and analytical staff. The Canadian Government is, of course, prepared to undertake that the analytical procedures used in its laboratories will be such as to ensure the comparability of results with those pro-

duced by other Governments co-operating in a programme of this nature. We believe that arrangements of this kind will materially assist the Committee in its task, and we invite other Governments to consider how they might participate in such a programme, either through the collecting of samples or through providing facilities for analysis.

18. If, as we hope, there is a widespread response to our offer, as well as offers by other Governments to make their facilities available, it is our understanding that the secretariat of the Committee would be kept informed step by step as appropriate arrangements are made between Member States offering samples and those offering analytical facilities. The secretariat would be notified of the availability of radiation samples by Member States willing to collect them; it would also be notified by Member States, and perhaps by the IAEA, if they are able to receive and analyse samples in addition to those they have collected themselves. It is our hope that in this way arrangements between Governments can be made whereby samples available for analysis are forwarded to the most convenient or appropriate laboratories. The results of the analyses would, of course, be communicated both to the Committee and to the country providing the samples.

19. In making this offer and in presenting this draft resolution for the General Assembly's consideration, the intention of the Canadian delegation is to strengthen the Committee's hand and to authorize it to work out practical arrangements designed to secure more of the information which it requires. The draft resolution leaves it entirely up to the Committee to decide how this can best be done and does not attempt in any way to direct or influence the Committee's scientific work.

20. All the suggestions in the draft resolution are within the terms of reference established for the Committee, which is already authorized to receive radiation data and to recommend uniform standards with respect to procedures for sample collection and instrumentation. The Committee has in fact already requested Member States to co-operate along these lines.

21. The draft resolution before the Assembly is the result of lengthy negotiations among delegations representative of various geographical areas and political opinions. We therefore trust it will commend itself to all Members of the General Assembly. It is a practical expression of what we judge to be a widespread desire that the Committee be strengthened in its work, to the end that man's knowledge of the biological effects of ionizing radiation may be as complete as possible. For this purpose it is important that the world-wide physical measurement of the intensity and distribution of radiation should be accurate and comprehensive and that research into the biological effects of radiation should be based on the fullest and most reliable information.

22. Mr. NOSEK (Czechoslovakia): The Czechoslovak Government attaches great importance to the activities of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, whose report [A/4119] is now under consideration, in view of its recent significant work in the study of the effects of ionizing radiation on man and his environment.

23. The achievements of the Committee, of which Czechoslovakia is also a member, demonstrate that it should continue its work, since science has not yet

discovered all the effects and scope of radioactive radiation caused particularly by radioactive fall-out generated by the nuclear weapons test explosions. The study and knowledge of the newly discovered particles of radioactive fall-out, and their somatic and genetic effects on man, have assumed tremendous significance from the point of view of safeguarding the health of the present generation and those yet unborn.

24. The Government of Czechoslovakia considers the present work of the Committee as satisfactory and is of the opinion that its activities should be carried out in the same direction as in the past. That is why my delegation fully approves of the report of the Committee covering its work in the year 1959 as well as the immediate programme of work for 1959 and 1960 contained in paragraph 18 of Annex I of the report.

25. The Czechoslovak Government maintains that the proposed programme of the Committee's work has followed a correct course and it takes note with satisfaction of the Committee's assurances that it will "centre its discussion in the immediately forthcoming sessions on radioactive fall-out and radioactive biological questions" [A/4119, para. 4].

26. It follows from the Committee's report that it has decided to hold two sessions each year in the future. In 1960, one would be held in New York and the other in Geneva or some other place, depending on an invitation from a Government or a United Nations agency extended in accordance with the terms of General Assembly resolution 1202 (XII).

27. I wish to recall in this connexion that the Czechoslovak Government has expressed its interest in, and its evaluation of, the Committee's work by inviting the Committee, through the United Nations Secretary-General, to hold one session in Prague in 1960, and it announced at the same time, in accordance with the provisions of resolution 1202 (XII), that it would defray additional costs connected with the holding of the Committee's session in Prague. The holding of one session in Prague in 1960 was also mentioned, from the budgetary point of view, in the Fifth Committee [716th meeting], at the current session of the General Assembly, when that Committee discussed the United Nations budget estimates for 1960.

28. In connexion with the report of the Committee, the Czechoslovak delegation, on 12 October 1959, submitted a draft resolution [A/L.263 and Corr.1] which, *inter alia*, drew attention to the fact that new dangerous particles of radioactive fall-out had been discovered in the atmosphere, and which invited the Committee, in its future activities and also in its report to the fifteenth session of the General Assembly, to devote more attention to radioactive fall-out and in particular to the biological and genetic effects of the radio isotope C^{14} .

29. The original Czechoslovak draft resolution also called upon the respective governmental and non-governmental organizations in all States to assist the Committee more intensively, in particular by providing information relating to radioactive fall-out and its physical, biological and genetic effects.

30. The results achieved by the Committee and the conclusions reached by prominent scientists of the world show that nuclear weapons testing represents a far greater danger to mankind than originally thought.

31. It is an alarming fact that in one single year—that is, since the thirteenth session of the United

Nations General Assembly, when the number of years given as an average half-life of the residence of radioactive substances in the stratosphere ranged from six to ten years—the results of new studies and new measurements have proved that the half-life of the radioactive substances in the stratosphere is only one to three years. Therefore, the anticipated doses of radiation affecting the present generation will be five times as high as formerly estimated, and similar increases will be recorded in the number of expected somatic and genetic effects in man. I refer to such phenomena as leukaemia, bone tumours and genetic defects in new-born children.

32. Enormous danger, the scope of which is not yet known jeopardizing the health of mankind, is presented by the intensified formation of radioactive C^{14} as a consequence of the nuclear weapons test explosions in particular of the hydrogen explosions. The reports thus far presented by the Committee dealt with these problems only sporadically. It is therefore commendable that the Committee decided to take up at its eighth session the physical and biological problems related to C^{14} , its circulation in nature and the role this element plays in the occurrence of genetic and somatic harmful effects on man.

33. Scientists, and among these also Czechoslovak experts, proved by their experiments that the quantity of radioactive carbon which is formed in the atmosphere as a result of cosmic radiation in total of 7 to 10 kilograms annually is sufficient to replace roughly the quantity of radioactive carbon, contained in organic and inorganic substances, which disintegrates in nature during the same period.

34. How is this equilibrium of radioactive carbon in nature affected by the nuclear weapons tests? The 1956 estimates dealing with the quantity of radioactive carbon formed by nuclear weapons tests suggest that each 10 megatons of energy released by the explosions produce 15 to 70 kilograms of radioactive carbon.

35. In 1958 this estimate was changed to 74 kilograms of radioactive carbon formed by each 10 megatons of released energy. According to the present theoretical calculations, however, the quantity of radioactive carbon formed per each 10 megatons of released energy can vary from 52 kilograms of radioactive carbon for fissionable reactions up to 330 kilograms of radioactive carbon for thermonuclear reaction.

36. One year's tests of nuclear weapons at their present tempo annually produce thirty times as much or even more radioactive carbon in the atmosphere than would otherwise be formed during the same period by natural cosmic radiation and its particles. Today the quantity of radioactive C^{14} in the atmosphere is already 10 per cent higher than five years ago.

37. According to the estimates of the United States scientist, Mr. Linus Pauling, the quantity of radioactive carbon formed in the atmosphere by the tests of nuclear weapons carried out so far can in the succeeding generations cause up to 1.2 million cases of genetic defects of various grades, ranging from physical or mental defects to death of new-born or little children. At the same time, the quoted number of cases will grow adequately to the increase of the birth-rate in the generations to come as against the present situation.

38. The fact that the average half-life of an atom of radioactive C^{14} is more than 8,000 years and many

other circumstances harbour the danger of unexpectedly great complications for humanity in the future. The information of today's science on these questions so far is scarce and inadequate and clarification will take many years of strenuous work. The present achievements of scientific research emphasize ever more strongly the urgent need for a permanent cessation of all tests with nuclear weapons.

39. What I have just said fully justifies the demand that the Committee should concentrate in its future activities on the study of the effects of radioactive fall-out and on C14 in particular.

40. This demand, as well as all that referred to the very substance of the matter in the original Czechoslovak draft resolution, is contained in the joint draft resolution [A/L.268] which emerged as the result of negotiations between the Czechoslovak delegation with other delegations, and especially with the delegation of Canada, in order that a generally acceptable text could be worked out. The Czechoslovak delegation, bearing in mind the seriousness of the complex of problems related to atomic radiation, did its utmost to reach agreement in the negotiations. Such agreement achieved, the Czechoslovak delegation withdrew its original draft resolution.

41. The draft resolution submitted today by eleven Powers and introduced just a few minutes ago by the Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Green, envisages the promotion of the activities of the Committee within its present terms of reference. The intention of its sponsors is not to expand the functions of the Committee or burden the Committee with tasks of an organizational or operative nature. The Committee should take the maximum advantage of the existing international organizations and with the given financial means should ensure the maximum effectiveness of its work. This is how we must interpret the demand of the eleven-Power draft resolution that the Committee should study the arrangements for the purpose of stimulating the flow of information on the questions of atomic radiation.

42. The Czechoslovak delegation expects that the activities of the Committee will bear new fruit in the study of radioactive fall-out and, in particular, in the field of the exploration of the biological and genetic effects of C14. The Czechoslovak delegation also expresses the hope that the General Assembly will approve the report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation as well as the eleven-Power joint draft resolution.

43. Mr. MATSUDAIRA (Japan): My delegation has the honour to co-sponsor the draft resolution before you [A/L.268]. The purpose of the draft resolution is threefold: first, to approve the recommendations in the annual progress report [A/4119] of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation; secondly, to respond to the Committee's repeated requests for more information and data of the type already contained in its comprehensive report [A/3838] of last year; and thirdly, to give general encouragement and stimulus to scientific research in this important field and to promote co-operation among the various bodies working in the field.

44. Mr. Green, the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada, stated at the plenary meeting on 24 September 1959:

"... Even if the nations agree to stop testing nuclear weapons, the problem of radiation will not vanish" [807th meeting, para. 72].

45. My delegation shares his views and is of the opinion that the more the peaceful uses of atomic energy are promoted the more the study of the radiation problem is needed. For the study of this problem, it is imperative to enable the scientists of the world to have at their disposal information and data on radiation from fall-out and other sources on a worldwide basis. On this point, the progress report of the Committee says:

"In the course of its discussions, the Committee ... hoped it would continue to receive, much useful information on fall-out, radiation levels and radiobiological questions from States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies and of the International Atomic Energy Agency" [A/4119, para. 4].

46. My delegation is of the opinion that such a worldwide collection of information and data by the Committee is possible only by the widest possible co-operation of Member States and of the international organizations concerned. According to part II, paragraph 2, of the draft resolution, the Committee is requested:

"... to consider and study appropriate arrangements for the purpose of stimulating the flow of such information and data;"

In part III, it is asked:

"... to consider and study appropriate arrangements for encouraging genetic, biological and other studies, including those concerned with C14, that will elucidate the effects of radiation exposure on the health of human populations;"

47. Furthermore, in part IV, paragraph 1, Member States having facilities for laboratory analysis are invited:

"... to make known to other Governments the extent to which they are prepared, at the request of other Governments, to receive and analyse samples in accordance with the programme of work of the Scientific Committee, and to keep the Committee currently informed;"

My delegation considers that arrangements of the kind suggested above will materially assist the Committee in its task and hopes that every Member State will co-operate in such arrangements.

48. In this connexion, my delegation is happy to announce, under the instructions of my Government, that Japan is prepared to receive from other States samples of air, water, soil and food collected according to methods recommended by the Committee in consultation with the competent specialized agencies and to analyse such samples in the Japanese laboratories which handle Japan's domestic sampling programme, and that the number of samples to be received and analysed by my country, the time of the analysis and how to implement such arrangements will be determined after consultation with the Committee.

49. My delegation sincerely hopes that the draft resolution will be adopted unanimously and that the General Assembly will support the future work of the Committee in this important field.

50. Mr. SHANAHAN (New Zealand): It is with satisfaction that my delegation has joined with ten others

in sponsoring the draft resolution [A/L.268] on agenda item 24, which was so ably introduced by the representative of Canada.

51. The wide co-sponsorship of this draft resolution is, we believe, a reflection of the confidence felt by the Assembly in the way in which the Committee has performed its duties. Since its establishment it has clearly followed the best tradition of scientific collaboration and, with admirable detachment, has remained free from political controversy.

52. In this way the Committee is contributing to the growth of a body of scientific knowledge which is universally accepted. In so doing, the Committee is increasing our understanding of the effects of radiation and is providing the basis for a more objective study of vital aspects of problems which still remain unresolved.

53. My delegation sincerely hopes that this draft resolution, which seeks to commend the work which has already been accomplished in the study of the effects of atomic radiation, to approve the plan of investigation proposed by the Committee, and to suggest ways in which those studies may be facilitated, will be accepted by the Assembly in that same spirit of co-operation.

54. We have always considered that there was urgent need for action at the international level to increase the sum of scientific knowledge available on the effects on man and his environment of ionizing radiation from all sources. We were confirmed in that view by the frank admission made by the Committee in its first comprehensive report [A/3838] that the present state of knowledge about radiation levels and effects was inadequate for an accurate evaluation of all the hazards involved. Clearly, in spite of the intensive work already undertaken much remains to be done.

55. If we are to ensure that the amount of man-made radiation to which the world's population is exposed is kept within safe limits, it is clearly of the utmost importance that the Committee and its expert staff should have the full benefit of the work which is being done in related fields. The IAEA is, of course, the body with primary responsibility for work of this kind. WHO, other specialized agencies and scientific organizations are also making very significant studies of particular aspects of this subject. The Committee is not a supervisory or administering body; nor is it suggested in the draft resolution before the Assembly that it should be given any supervisory or administrative functions. What is required is that the Committee should receive from these other agencies, and from Governments, all the data which may assist it to extend its own findings about the nature and extent of radiation hazards.

56. We are therefore pleased to note from the progress report [A/4119] of the Committee that there has been increasingly close co-operation between that Committee and the IAEA, Governments, specialized agencies and various scientific organizations.

57. Such collaboration will be needed, we feel, in even greater degree if the Committee is to carry out effectively the programme which it has recommended. My delegation fully endorses this programme. We feel that the Committee itself is the body most competent to decide which fields of study should be given priority and that it should be allowed a wide measure of discretion. It is moreover clear that the Committee's

proposals concerning submission of reports, organization of work, staff needs, and the Committee's relations with other bodies, are fully in keeping with the wishes of the General Assembly as expressed in resolution 1347 (XIII) adopted in December, 1958. It seems to us, also, that the estimated cost of the Committee's continued activities are reasonable.

58. We have noted the appeal made by the Committee for further relevant information of the kind already used in the comprehensive report. New Zealand responded to the original request for information made by the Committee, and my Government is now considering how best it may meet this further request.

59. The draft resolution before the Assembly also gives due prominence to this aspect of the Committee's needs, and invites the co-operation of Governments. The need, as we see it, is twofold. The Committee requires data collected and presented in a manner which permits true comparability of sampling. It needs also to receive this data from the widest sources possible, so that its findings may be based on the most comprehensive material available.

60. My delegation therefore endorses the suggestions made in the draft resolution which would encourage the wider and more uniform supply of information, particularly in the important fields of fall-out, radiation levels, and genetic and biological studies. Clearly, too, the Committee should be encouraged on the basis of its investigations, to suggest means by which the various agencies such as the IAEA, WHO, and FAO might help fill in any serious gaps which may be found to exist in studies now being undertaken.

61. The draft resolution contains the important proposal that those member Governments with the requisite laboratory facilities should assist in analysing samples. This proposal will, we trust, meet with a ready response. It is, however, essential that the Committee should be kept fully and currently informed in order to ensure that the results of analyses carried out by arrangement between member Governments can be effectively correlated with other information available to the Committee.

62. The draft resolution of which my delegation has the honour to be a co-sponsor does not lay down directives for the Committee, nor does it go beyond the terms of reference established for the Committee by the General Assembly. The recommendations embodied in this draft resolution are all derived from suggestions which the Committee itself has made. By their adoption we shall help the Committee to carry out the specific task which this Assembly has laid upon it.

63. We trust that the draft resolution will command widespread support.

64. Mr. POLDERMAN (Netherlands): The Netherlands Government has always followed the activities of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation with great interest and with gratitude. This Committee can count on our support in the present as well as in the future. In our minds there is no doubt as to the essential service rendered by the United Nations in this field. The problem of atomic radiation is of great concern to us all, as radiation could endanger the existence of each of us individually and of the species. I would therefore like to state, at the outset, as the Netherlands delegation has repeatedly done before, that now as well as

in the foreseeable future there is a need for an independent body of a high scientific level, that will continuously evaluate the dangers of atomic radiation and also will be able to judge the efficiency and completeness of the research activity going on in this field in the world. We welcome the draft resolution [A/L.268] proposed by Argentina and ten other countries for which the Minister for External Affairs of Canada has given such strong arguments, as this draft resolution reinforces the basis for the work of the Committee to which we attach much importance.

65. There is one point which I would like to elaborate particularly, because in previous years my Government has voiced a certain reservation in its judgement—and in this we have not changed—with regard to the question of enlarging the task of this Committee. What I want to say is that there is a necessity for some limitation. The fact that we take cognizance of the reports of this Committee in plenary, gives rise to the risk that other activities in the same field, both within and without the United Nations, could to some extent escape our attention; for such activities are not discussed in the plenary sessions of this General Assembly. We should therefore be careful not to approach the work of the Committee by isolating it from the other activities just mentioned—as the representative of New Zealand so rightly remarked a few moments ago.

66. The total problem of radiation and of the co-ordination of the work in this field has been on the agenda of several sessions, latterly of the twenty-eighth held in the summer of 1959, of the Economic and Social Council. I notice that mention of this has been made in the draft resolution before us, and my delegation agrees whole-heartedly with its reference to a wider framework. If we take on one activity in isolation, there is always a danger of losing touch with the wider implications of co-ordinating this activity with others in the same field and my delegation would certainly not favour a development which might lead up to a future role for the Committee as some sort of an informal specialized agency within the Secretariat. Again, the subject matter does not lack in importance, but this would not be the most ideal and balanced treatment to be given. Therefore, whereas my delegation is in agreement with the draft resolution, we would fail in our duty if we did not inscribe these remarks in its margin, and I can assure you that we do so wishing to give a positive contribution.

67. The report ^{1/} of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to which the draft resolution refers gives a most interesting review of the possibilities for concerted action in the field of atomic radiation. The report contains many strong arguments for such action, but its conclusions seem rather meagre. The Netherlands delegation to the Economic and Social Council was not wholly satisfied with these conclusions. We believed a more positive conclusion could have been drawn from the facts given in the report.

68. The debate on this subject left my delegation with the impression that the explanation lies in the fundamental question at the root of all problems of co-ordination in general: the difficulty of replacing vertical demarcation lines by horizontal ones. We are glad that the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination will, according to the Economic and Social

Council resolution [743 B XXVIII] mentioned in the draft resolution before us, give continued attention to multilateral and other measures directed to co-ordinated and concerted action among the organizations concerned in the field of peaceful uses of atomic energy and to providing reports thereon on a continuing basis.

69. My delegation has looked upon the draft resolution before us from the viewpoint just described and therefore as you will understand, with some initial hesitation. We have been convinced, however, that those concerned and the sponsors of the draft resolution will show understanding for the necessity of co-ordination within the totality of activities of the United Nations with regard to these matters. This understanding will be necessary in order to neutralize the risks we have mentioned. There is no doubt that the adoption of the draft resolution will entail an increase in the operational activity of the staff of the Committee itself. For the time being we could accept these risks because of the extent of the essential interests connected with the continuation of the Committee's work. This we do against the background of the consideration just given, and we might in the future feel our objection to be of greater weight, if within the Secretariat there would become visible the outline of a separate body, under the guidance of the Assembly, a body of which the further growth might not be harmoniously balanced by the expert knowledge, organizational power and wish for co-ordination existing within this hall and within the adjoining Secretariat building.

70. Both nationally and internationally, the problem of organization of the impressive efforts of scientists in all fields is one of our most challenging tasks. In our opinion it would therefore be desirable to keep the problem of concerted action in the field of atomic radiation under review, as is the intention of the Economic and Social Council resolution. We are glad to note that the sponsors of the present draft resolution have taken this into account. We also note with gratification that in the draft resolution which is now before the General Assembly due attention is given to consultation and co-operation with other organizations working in this field, such as WMO, WHO and FAO, and especially to the close co-operation with the IAEA, which has a leading position in the domain of the peaceful uses of atomic energy, and whose laboratory could help to develop the programme of work outlined in the draft resolution.

71. The Scientific Committee, as a scientific body, has already acquired great prestige by its reports, and we fully agree with the opinion of the Secretary-General, expressed at the thirteenth session of the General Assembly, before the First Committee [1012th meeting] that its basic activity—namely, the continuing comprehensive review of radiation levels and the effects of radiation on man and his environment, the collection of information and the stimulation of the study and research considered desirable—should be maintained. This activity is of essential value to mankind, and the Netherlands delegation would like to reiterate its appreciation for the meritorious service given by the scientists who are members of the Committee and the members of its staff who have assisted them so ably. This service would be even more valuable if the Committee's reports could be made more easily and more generally available. Being convinced of the necessity of the continued work of the Committee

^{1/} Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twenty-eighth Session, Annexes, agenda item 4, document E/3247.

within the framework of a concerted action in this field, my delegation will give its support to the joint draft resolution.

72. Mr. SOBOLEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (translated from Russian): We are considering today the annual report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation [A/4119].

73. The Committee is unquestionably performing very useful work in the study of atomic radiation, that is to say, in a matter which affects the most vital interests of all mankind.

74. Having made a thorough study of the contamination of the earth's atmosphere and surface by radioactive substances owing to atomic weapons tests, the Scientific Committee in its report last year to the General Assembly [A/3838] clearly showed that this radiation presents a serious hazard to human life and health. The most eminent scientists of fifteen countries, fruitfully collaborating in the United Nations Scientific Committee, came to the unanimous conclusion that the radioactive contamination of the environment constitutes a growing increment to world-wide radiation levels and that this involves new and largely unknown hazards. The Committee concluded that it was necessary to end the contamination of the environment owing to nuclear explosions.

75. It is necessary to cease all testing of atomic and hydrogen weapons immediately and for all time. This is the basic conclusion that emerges from the findings of the Committee. The Committee's findings provide convincing and scientifically substantiated proof of the real danger that threatens mankind owing to the test explosions of nuclear weapons.

76. In the light of these findings, the need to ensure the safety and preserve the health of this and subsequent generations becomes increasingly urgent. It is quite natural, therefore, that the world community should be displaying deep concern at the nuclear weapons tests and should be insistently pressing for their universal and permanent prohibition. Guided by the desires and vital interests of the peoples, the Soviet Government has consistently advocated such a solution to this international problem.

77. Agenda item 69, Suspension of nuclear and thermo-nuclear tests, is now being considered by the First Committee of the General Assembly, and the Soviet delegation will present a detailed statement of the Soviet Union's position on that question in the meetings of the First Committee. I should like, here, simply to reaffirm that the Soviet Union will spare no effort to ensure that an international agreement on this matter is concluded as quickly as possible. We expect that our partners in the Geneva negotiations will also make the necessary efforts to find a mutually acceptable solution.

78. As we see from the report of the Committee which is before this session of the General Assembly, the Committee has worked out a detailed programme for its work over the next few years. The programme envisages a further study of the problems of radioactive contamination caused by nuclear testing and of the effects of such contamination on living organisms in general and on human beings in particular. It is the view of the Soviet delegation that the Committee's programme of work is fully in keeping with the tasks assigned to it by the General Assembly. We are convinced that the Committee will fulfil these important

tasks and will submit a comprehensive report, which will constitute a further contribution to the study of the problems of atomic radiation resulting from nuclear explosions.

79. The Committee's four-year history has shown that it has worked successfully and effectively under its present terms of reference, as defined by the General Assembly at the time of the Committee's establishment in 1955. The Soviet delegation therefore considers that there are no grounds for enlarging the functions of the Committee in any way and, in particular, for burdening it with duties of an organizational, distributive or operational character. Any attempt to give the Committee functions wider than those assigned to it by the General Assembly can only divert it from the solution of the important and responsible tasks before it.

80. Were new functions to be assigned to it, the Committee might gradually be turned into a body which would quite unnecessarily duplicate the work of existing international organizations; a considerable increase in material expenditure and effort would also be involved.

81. Consequently, the task of studying arrangements for the purpose of stimulating the flow of information on atomic radiation, a task assigned to the Committee in the eleven-Power draft resolution [A/L.268], should not take the Committee beyond its current terms of reference or result in any enlargement of its functions whatsoever.

82. Acting on the assumption that the eleven-Power draft resolution is in conformity with the considerations I have just expressed, the Soviet delegation will support and vote for it.

83. Mr. RIEGELMAN (United States of America): In dealing with ionizing radiation, we face a typically modern problem. Astounding twentieth-century advances in science have not only made us acutely conscious of the magnitude of the problem but have also added to that magnitude.

84. The world has become increasingly aware of the age-old sources of natural background radiation in man's environment—the earth, water and air about us. At the same time, it must cope with those problems arising from modern man-made sources, ranging from the increasing medical use of radiation, through the ever-expanding peaceful uses of atomic energy, to fall-out from weapons testing.

85. It is of critical importance that the way be prepared for international co-operation in meeting, or at least minimizing, all these hazards. But, as we all recognize, before sensible and realistic measures can be taken in that direction, the extent of possible dangers must be determined with some degree of accuracy, and the contributing factors then must be identified and scientifically evaluated in terms capable of universal understanding and application.

86. The United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, whose function it is to answer these questions, has already accomplished a great deal. A reading of the Committee's comprehensive report [A/3838] as well as the progress report [A/4119] now before us, shows a penetrating recognition and a sober acceptance of its responsibilities. The comprehensive report represents a great stride towards an understanding of the dangers and their

effects, while the progress report is a valuable blueprint for accelerating progress towards the Committee's goal.

87. The rapidity with which the Committee can register progress depends, first, on the existence of relevant data and, secondly, on the degree of co-operation of the Member States and the international bodies concerned in providing data to the Committee for analysis, evaluation, correlation and publication. On the first aspect, the Committee is to be commended for its clear definition of the type of data it requires. On the second aspect, the Committee is to be commended for the manner in which it has sought the co-operation of Member States and the organizations chiefly concerned. We are convinced that the Committee's efforts, as reflected in the progress report before us, will not only stimulate the production of new information but also maintain the flow of information to the Committee from Member Governments and international bodies.

88. With regard to the latter, the report clearly shows the Committee's awareness that other agencies, United Nations as well as non-governmental, notably among them the IAEA, have functional duties as well as research missions in the field of radiation. The Committee has, as a matter of wisdom and necessity, made requests for specific studies to these organizations, thereby avoiding duplication, and assuring proper co-ordination of activity in assisting the Committee to achieve its difficult objective.

89. As for the co-operation of Governments, we call the attention of all Member States to the Committee's renewed invitation to provide it with further data. For its part, the United States has made every effort, since it first urged the establishment of the Committee four years ago, to assist it in carrying out the obligations assigned to it by the General Assembly. Since the publication of the Committee's comprehensive report last year, we have further intensified the flow of United States information to the Committee. We have also continued to render assistance in setting up and maintaining collection facilities in a number of other countries, by training individuals from other countries in collection techniques, and by making our national laboratory facilities available for the analysis of samples. At the Committee's sixth session last spring,^{2/} several of our leading scientists contributed their special knowledge to the Committee's scientific discussions. We reaffirm our intention to maintain this high level of co-operation in the Committee.

90. The United States is convinced that the Committee's excellent record demonstrates its competence to determine its own priorities of work—in other words, that it needs no back-seat advice from the General Assembly as to specific steps to be taken or emphasis to be placed in regard to the advancement of its work. However, we note that the last paragraph of the draft resolution [A/L.268] before us requests the Committee to report on its study of certain questions, for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifteenth session. In our view, such a report should be part of the regular annual report of the Committee; alternatively, if it should not prove possible to deal fully with these questions before the next Assembly session without interfering with the Committee's regular

schedule of work, we hope that an interim report will be submitted.

91. We believe it is appropriate to express at this time our satisfaction with the way the Committee is carrying on its task and particularly timely that all Member States, as well as United Nations and non-governmental agencies, be urged most earnestly to give full aid, support and co-operation to the Committee. We also believe it is desirable that the Committee be encouraged to consider, in consultation with the agencies most directly concerned, the most effective arrangements for supplementing the information of all types now available to it from activities and discussions to be undertaken by the United Nations, its specialized agencies, the IAEA, and certain non-governmental organizations.

92. To these ends, we support the draft resolution because its careful and detailed substance demonstrates our appreciation of the importance of the study of all aspects of ionizing radiation which the General Assembly has made the concern of the Committee. The draft resolution underlines the need for continuing and expanding the co-operative relations which exist between the Committee on the one hand and the Member States, the IAEA and the specialized agencies on the other. We believe the world is entitled to the assurance that our interest is informed and our determination to encourage the Committee to accomplish its entire mission is firm.

93. The draft resolution recognizes the validity of the Committee's outlined programme of work for 1959 and 1960 listed in part VII of Annex I of the Committee's progress report, where the Committee's decision to give priority consideration to the physical aspects of fall-out, and the physical and biological problems connected with C¹⁴ is clearly set forth.

94. For these reasons we will give this draft resolution our full support.

95. Mr. ORTONA (Italy): The annual progress report [A/4119] submitted by the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation this year to the General Assembly is satisfactory evidence of the fruitful continuance of its activities of research and co-ordination.

96. Its field of endeavours, we all know by now, has opened new perspectives which still remain largely unexplored and in which it has proven imperative, in the interest of the well-being of mankind, that basic knowledge be gained.

97. For its part the Italian delegation wishes to repeat this year its appreciation for the work of the Committee. The experience which it has been possible to gather during these past years through the Committee, as well as the fruitful beginning which it has been possible to achieve in establishing through it a form of international co-operation to gain more knowledge, by means of a concerted effort, of the phenomenon of radiation, are important results which cannot be overlooked and are, in our view, most encouraging.

98. However, research and studies on the effects of radiation are merely in an initial stage and the ground to be covered is so vast that the co-operation on the part of all Member States and international organizations in the scientific field appears not only desirable but even necessary.

^{2/} Held at Headquarters from 23 March to 1 April 1959.

99. The progress report submitted by the Committee gives a clear idea of the great gaps in our knowledge existing in this field. The use of nuclear energy and the nuclear tests carried out undoubtedly call for a better insight on the hazards from radiation. It has become imperative that the maximum knowledge be gained in this respect. The conclusions of last year's report of the Committee [A/3838] to a certain extent defined the nature of such hazards. At this time the best service that may be rendered to mankind would be to explore further, with all technical and scientific means, the dangers inherent in radiation in order that mankind may proceed in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the full knowledge that harmful effects will not derive therefrom, and without concern for dangers the extent of which are so far unknown to it.

100. The programme which the report outlines, and which has been so ably stated by the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Chairman of the Canadian delegation, Mr. Green, is designed to gather, disseminate and evaluate the fullest and most reliable information possible, and to enlist the co-operation of Member States and of international organizations concerned, with a view to facilitating research and gaining substantial knowledge on the effects of atomic radiation, and thus on a matter which is of such concern to human life and future generations.

101. In this context I wish to recall also a problem which my delegation raised last year. It concerns the disposal of radioactive waste. Concern in this respect was voiced again yesterday in Monte Carlo, during the scientific Conference^{3/} which is taking place there, by the Director of the IAEA, Mr. Cole, and by the Director of UNESCO, Professor Veronese. Hazards deriving from the disposal of radioactive waste no doubt deserve careful study.

102. Italy, on its part, is highly interested in contributing to the utmost to all forms of international co-operation and all initiatives undertaken to bring more light on all hazards deriving from radiation, especially with regard to its biological effects and to the extent of dangers from man-made as well as from natural radiation.

103. An extensive nuclear energy programme has been set up in Italy, which includes, besides many research reactors, three nuclear power plants for the production of electricity. Italy believes that also in this specific respect measures are necessary to determine any possible increase of radioactive contamination in the surrounding areas.

104. Regular sampling of radioactive substances present in the atmosphere at ground level is carried out on a routine basis by a number of stations distributed over the national territory. Likewise, samples are collected in the water of some rivers and lakes. Measurements are also taken of artificial radioactivity present in the soil, plants, milk, food, animal and human bones.

105. The Italian Government thus believes that a co-ordinated action among Member States in the collection, by standardized methods, of samples required for determining the distribution and rates of radioactive fall-out, in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee would be most desirable and is prepared to contribute to it to the fullest extent possible.

106. In this connexion, there is finally another point on which I should like to dwell briefly. It concerns the composition of the Committee. My delegation, in discussing this item last year, pointed out that the Committee had been set up in September 1955. That was before certain Member countries—which one still calls "new Members" after so many years—were admitted to the United Nations. Amongst these new Members there are surely some which are capable and certainly willing and desirous of giving, through their scientific and technical ability, their contribution to the work of the Committee.

107. Even amongst the other Member countries there may be some which have made progress in the field of nuclear sciences and which, now that the Committee has been set up on a permanent basis, would like to have a chance to participate in its work. I should like to recall the fact that the Secretary-General, being aware of this situation, suggested in last year's report [A/3864] on the subject that something could be done toward this purpose through a system of rotation. We thought and we still think, in our determination to expand our contribution, that this is quite a good suggestion, and we would favour an adequate rotation based on the co-option of three members to be replaced yearly.

108. We do not intend, however, owing to our busy schedule, particularly to press this point this year. Still, we recommend it to the careful consideration of the delegations here and particularly to those primarily interested, in the hope that it will be possible next year to reach a decision on this aspect. The Member States can be sure, at any rate, of the whole-hearted co-operation of the Italian Government in the whole matter.

Mrs. Lindström (Sweden), Vice-President, took the Chair.

109. Mr. NAUDE (Union of South Africa): The importance of the item now under discussion by the Assembly in plenary session needs no elaboration. We owe it to all mankind, existing and future generations, to give the most earnest thought to the problems posed by atomic radiation, and it is in this spirit that the South African delegation approaches this debate and ventures to offer a few comments.

110. One general remark. In paragraph 4 of its report [A/4119], the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation expresses the hope that as in the past it would continue to receive, much useful information on fall-out, radiation levels and radio-biological questions from Member States of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency. Further progress in this field of the Committee's work must inevitably to a considerable extent depend upon the receipt of such information. It is therefore to be hoped that the Committee's request will meet with a ready response.

111. I now propose to refer briefly to certain aspects of the pattern of study which the Committee has in mind. First, there is the stratospheric fall-out mechanism. The Committee decided to discuss problems relating to the stratospheric fall-out mechanism at the next session and to emphasize the need for further information of specific kinds bearing on this problem, a sphere where the assistance of WMO is invited.

^{3/} Conference on the Disposal of Radioactive Waste, held in Monaco from 16-21 November 1959.

112. We believe that studies of physical laws and the meteorological mechanisms of dispersion of gases and particles in the lowest atmosphere may be of interest to the proposed studies of similar processes in the upper atmosphere, just as the reverse would also be true. I am mentioning this aspect since the IAEA has in its field of activities a direct interest in the possible contamination of the lowest atmosphere by normal or accidental dispersal of wastes from peaceful uses of atomic energy. The Agency in fact intends, I am informed, to make studies, in co-operation with the appropriate bodies, on the mechanism of biospheric contamination. It would seem, therefore, that there is ample opportunity for mutual assistance and the exchange of information in this field by the Committee and the IAEA.

113. This possibility also extends to the sampling and measuring procedures by which deposition on the ground of contamination from the atmosphere can be appraised. The IAEA is concerned with the studies of sampling and measuring of low level contamination in relationship to problems of waste disposal in soil, water and in the air of the lowest atmosphere. A panel of experts was recently set up to deal with this subject. I am told that scientific principles and techniques in that field are not different if the low level activity comes from stratospheric fall-out. The IAEA in Vienna can therefore contribute to the information of the Committee, and it would presumably also be willing to make available to the Committee the use of the technical facilities for analysis of samples, calibration and standardization of equipment which will have to be put at the disposal of member States in the IAEA laboratory for low level measurement in connexion with other problems.

114. Then there is the food chain problem. We are glad that the Committee has emphasized the continued importance of further studies of the movement of radioactive nuclides in food chains. Furthermore, the protection of food and agricultural resources is, as the Committee implies, undoubtedly the primary concern of FAO. We therefore welcome the envisaged co-operation between the Committee and FAO.

115. A further aspect should, however, also be borne in mind, namely, the question of safe waste disposal. Safe waste disposals, which have a direct bearing on this problem, can be devised only if sufficient knowledge of the mechanism involved in the contamination of food chains, whether on land or in the water, is obtained.

116. Now, as is generally known, the IAEA has a statutory responsibility to ensure that waste disposals associated with projects which it assists are made safely. It must examine the prospects from this point of view and indicate whenever necessary the appropriate safety measures to be taken. Consequently, in connexion with the problem of food chain contamination it would be in the general interest and to the advantage of the Committee, the FAO, IAEA and all other interested organizations, if the resources of all could be pooled to increase general knowledge and carry out studies necessary to solve the particular problems. The Monaco Conference on the Disposal of Radioactive Waste, to which my colleague from Italy has just referred, organized jointly by FAO, the IAEA and UNESCO, is an example of co-operation in this field.

117. Now a brief comment on the studies of exposed groups of populations. The Committee rightly empha-

sizes the present importance of the radiation on human populations from the medical uses of radiation. We should not, however, forget the danger of exposure of workers or special groups of populations due to other peaceful uses of atomic energy. While it is hoped that such occupational or other exposures will be kept to the lowest possible level, it is nevertheless expected that the number of people exposed to various types of radiation will increase with the development of atomic energy.

118. In this field—and particularly in respect of subparagraphs (a) (b) and (c) of paragraph 4 of Annex I of its report—I am sure that the Committee agrees that the technical knowledge of the staffs of the IAEA may be complementary to the knowledge of the WHO, the International Commission on Radiological Protection, and the International Commission on Radiological Units and Measurements.

119. In the light of these comments, my delegation, for its part, accepts the recommendations of the Committee. I wish to record our appreciation of the Committee's work and of the initiative of the sponsors of the draft resolution [A/L.268] before us. We express our confidence in the future activities of the Committee in accordance with its existing terms of reference, and in pursuance of the provisions of the draft resolution upon which we shall be voting very soon.

120. Mr. ORMSBY-GORE (United Kingdom): I propose to be exceedingly brief, but two reasons have led me to ask for the floor this afternoon.

121. In the first place, I wish to express once again the very real importance which my Government attaches to the work of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation. For this reason they welcome this progress report [A/4119], which shows that the Committee is making good progress. I understand that the sixth session of the Committee went very well, and that free discussion of the relevant problems and information provided a sound basis for the Committee's programme of work.

122. While the Committee's next comprehensive report is not due until 1962, the Committee will meanwhile follow a programme of study from which valuable reports should result and which will be available to us as they appear.

123. My Government attaches particular importance to maintaining representation on the Committee at its present expert level. We agree that for this purpose the plans and suggested activities, including the arrangements for meetings outlined in the Committee's progress report, are satisfactory. If the General Assembly agrees that this Committee should hold occasional meetings in Europe, we think the decision as to precisely where such meetings should be held should lie with the Committee itself. This must be determined in the light of the technical needs of the Committee.

124. I should like now to speak briefly on the draft resolution [A/L.268] which is before us. May I first say how gratified my delegation is that the sponsors of the two earlier draft resolutions [A/L.263 and Corr.1, A/L.266] on the subject have succeeded in reaching agreement on a single draft. My Government can support this draft resolution. I must add, however, that I shall vote for the draft resolution on the understanding that the additional work laid upon the Com-

mittee is not to be regarded as having priority over the existing programme, nor should it, in our view, require an additional meeting of the Committee.

125. I suggest, moreover, that if the report requested in the last paragraph cannot be completed in time for the fifteenth session of the General Assembly without detriment to the Committee's other activities, only then is an interim report needed to cover the arrangements made for stimulating the supply of information and studies, and not the actual results of such studies. These will be covered in the comprehensive report which the Committee hopes to present in 1962. We will await with interest the report envisaged in this draft resolution.

126. Mr. BERARD (France) (translated from French): I have only a few brief comments to make on the report [A/4119] submitted to the General Assembly by the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation and on the draft resolution [A/L.268] submitted by Argentina and ten other countries.

127. The first of these documents, the annual progress report, is a milestone in the history of the Scientific Committee. Following the adoption of General Assembly resolution 1347 (XIII) the Committee reviewed its programme and, to some extent, its methods of work and the results of that review are now before us. I shall not refer to the results in detail, but I should like to say that my delegation has examined them with the greatest interest and is happy to approve them.

128. Our attention was particularly drawn to the Committee's pattern of scientific study. In connexion with the study of the irradiation of exposed groups of populations, the Committee's report rightly lays stress on radiations of medical origin. This is in keeping with the findings of French doctors and biologists.

129. We also approve of the Committee's conception of its function, in particular, its very proper concern to co-ordinate the research undertaken by the various national and international organizations in this field, which would enable it to play its full part as a central body responsible for drawing general conclusions from the work undertaken by other organizations. We shall look forward with equal interest to future progress reports, the various memoranda the Committee intends to submit to us, and the comprehensive report it is to present in 1962.

130. With regard to the Committee's pattern of meetings, it seems wholly reasonable that meetings should be held in Europe from time to time. My delegation believes that meetings in Europe could most usefully be held at the European Office of the United Nations at Geneva or, when appropriate, at Vienna, the headquarters of the IAEA. This would strengthen relations between the Committee and the IAEA and further the common task. It will, of course, be for the Committee itself to decide in the best interest of its work, where meetings in Europe should be held.

131. I now come to the draft resolution submitted by Argentina and ten other countries. My delegation considers that the draft resolution faithfully reflects the interest that all Members of the United Nations have shown in the work of the Committee from the outset and expresses their confidence in it for the future. It also confirms the Committee's role as a co-ordinator between Member States, and proposes to strengthen its relations with the other international organizations concerned.

132. In this connexion, I should like to say that my country, which is a member of the Committee, is continuing its researches in all the fields related to radioactivity. In the physical or physical-chemical field, our experts are measuring radiation levels in the atmosphere, in bodies of water, in the soil and in foodstuffs. Other laboratories are undertaking research on the mechanism of radiation action on cells, and French doctors and biologists are studying these effects on men and animals.

133. Our programme of physical studies can be considered under three heads. First, specialized stations are maintaining a constant watch on radiation levels in the vicinity of French nuclear centres. Secondly, other stations—approximately forty in France and in the other States of the French Community—are observing the natural and artificial radioactivity in the atmosphere from day to day. Thirdly, we are engaged in various research projects, such as dating the ice sheets of the Antarctic and Greenland and studying the radioactivity of the upper atmosphere. These measurements are published regularly in the French scientific reviews, in particular the Bulletin d'informations scientifiques et techniques of Saclay. They are also communicated to the European international organizations and, of course, to the Committee.

134. In accordance with the programme established by the Committee and the complementary provisions of the draft resolution before us, France will continue, as in the past to make the full co-operation of its research workers and laboratories available to the Committee.

135. A further aspect of the draft resolution—to which our President has rightly drawn our attention—is the expenditure which its implementation would involve. The suggested figure of \$51,600 is an estimate and it will, of course, be for the Fifth Committee to present its recommendations in the matter to the General Assembly after a detailed examination of the statement of financial implications submitted by the Secretary-General [A/4283 and Corr.1].

136. In the light of these considerations, my delegation will vote for the draft resolution.

137. Mr. PLIMSOLL (Australia): The Australian delegation welcomes the draft resolution [A/L.268] that has been put before us, and we shall support it.

138. Australia is a member of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation and it takes part in several other co-operative and national projects in the field that is before us today. For example, we have our own national committee which presents reports and collects data for the Committee and for the IAEA. The task of the Committee is primarily to fill in the considerable gaps in our knowledge of radiation.

139. The reports as presented by the Committee, of course, undergo revision and change in the light of advancing knowledge and in the light of the new factors that come into play in the world today. The earlier 1958 report [A/3838] has proved, for example, to be rather too pessimistic in certain respects. And, on the other hand, since this first report was presented there have been new factors to which perhaps sufficient attention was not paid at the time, and sometimes factors that are completely new. I am thinking, for example, of the sectional increase in strontium-90

and the new concern about the possible effects of another fall-out material, C14. These are things which the Committee is now taking into account and which we can expect to have covered in succeeding reports.

140. What we want in 1962, of course, is not just a review of the 1958 report, but, as the Committee itself says, what we need is a completely new and self-contained comprehensive report, and we can expect to have that before us in 1962. We will welcome any annual progress reports as foreshadowed in the one [A/4119] we have before us.

141. The Committee is not a political body, it is a scientific body. It has a duty to bring forward information, whatever its political consequences. Equally, it has a duty at the same time not to emphasize certain aspects unduly for political reasons.

142. I should like to place on record our appreciation of the way the Committee has approached its task. It has, on the whole, been a genuinely scientific body in its approach. I agree with the Committee that attention should be paid to all sources of ionizing radiation to which man is exposed, and also endorse its proposal to consider, further, certain fundamental problems in genetics and radiobiology, and also its desire to see an intensification of research in fundamental biology.

143. The draft resolution notes the increasingly close co-operation which is occurring between the Committee and the IAEA. We particularly welcome this co-operation since we consider that the laboratory and scientific facilities of the IAEA should be used to the greatest possible extent by the Committee. The IAEA already has a provisional laboratory near Vienna, and its report submitted last month [A/4244] referred to scientific assistance given in such things as, for example, the determination of the radioactive content of milk ash. The IAEA stated that this type of service could now be performed on request. The Australian delegation considers that as much use should be made of the IAEA's facilities as possible in collating radiation data and in the scientific analysis which will be made by Member Governments under the bilateral sampling arrangements referred to in the draft resolution.

144. The present facilities of the IAEA, the facilities which it can be expected to supply now and in the future, will increase when the permanent functional laboratory being constructed for the IAEA is completed in late 1960.

145. I should not like to conclude without paying some tribute to the Canadian delegation and to its Chairman, Mr. Green, for the way in which they have helped prepare the discussion of this item in the General Assembly this session. The discussion before us is not taking a very controversial form. The whole subject is one we have all tried to approach in a noncontroversial spirit. But normally there would have been many points of detail and emphasis that would have needed to be argued out here. The fact that we have a draft resolution, which I hope is going to go through without any trouble, is due to the fact that a few delegations have taken an initiative in obtaining the consensus of opinion and working out a draft resolution. The Canadian delegation has taken the lead in that, and we should be grateful to them and also to the delegation of Czechoslovakia in getting together now one composite draft resolution, which I think we will all support.

Mr. Belaúnde (Peru) took the Chair.

146. Mr. HAYMERLE (Austria): The speakers who have preceded me in introducing the draft resolution [A/L.268] before us have so brilliantly explained its purposes and ideas that there is hardly any need for me to elaborate any further. Still, the Austrian delegation would like to offer some brief comments.

147. We have studied with great interest the progress report [A/4119] of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation. The discovery of nuclear fission and fusion has opened up tremendous new prospects. We are only at the beginning of a development which promises to utilize these forces to the benefit and for the advancement of mankind. At the same time, however, the consequences of the radiation resulting from nuclear experiments have hardly been explored, nor has the degree been determined to which such radiation is dangerous to man.

148. The Austrian delegation, therefore, welcomes any steps that may be taken in order to obtain a deeper knowledge of the extent of these hazards and to create the necessary conditions for effective protection. That is why we feel that the work done so far by the Committee deserves our utmost attention and appreciation. May I add that we attach special importance to the two problems which will be discussed in the immediately forthcoming sessions of the Committee, namely, radioactive fall-out and radiobiological questions. We are, furthermore, convinced that the comprehensive report announced for 1962 will give us a clearer picture of all the manifold aspects of the complex and most important problem of atomic radiation.

149. Permit me now to comment briefly on the draft resolution before us. We feel that it initiates useful measures towards the ends which I emphasized in my introductory remarks. That is why the Austrian delegation was pleased to co-sponsor this draft resolution.

150. The three-fold purposes of this text have already been made clear in a most eloquent way by the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada. We, too, feel very strongly that in a matter of such concern to human life, it is important to fill the substantial gaps that continue to exist in our knowledge by putting at the disposal of the scientists the fullest and most reliable information possible.

151. This is all the more important as the number of scientific experts qualified to deal with questions concerning the utilization of atomic energy is relatively limited. It is, therefore, necessary to employ these experts in an economical way. Consequently, the Austrian delegation welcomes the fact that the present draft resolution stresses the value of co-ordinated activities of all the organizations concerned.

152. Allow me to refer in this connexion especially to the IAEA established for the specific purpose of dealing with all aspects of the peaceful use of atomic energy.

153. There is a close link between the questions within the competence of this body and the studies of the Committee. Furthermore, the IAEA disposes of the necessary laboratory facilities and a large staff of trained scientists. In our view it is, therefore, not only the most competent body, but also is in a particularly good position to contribute to this task.

154. The Austrian delegation ventures to suggest that the consultations between the Committee and the IAEA

referred to in the present draft resolution, will lead to an ever-increasing co-operation and to concerted efforts towards the attainment of the common goal.

155. May I conclude by expressing the hope that this draft resolution which, we are convinced, is a major step forward towards eliminating the risks involved in atomic radiation, will be adopted unanimously by this Assembly.

156. Mr. ORTIZ MARTIN (Costa Rica) (translated from Spanish): On reading the draft resolution [A/L.268] today, I noticed an omission which I should like to draw to the attention of the sponsors, the representatives of Argentina, Austria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Ghana, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Norway and New Zealand.

157. The omission which is, I believe, merely an oversight in drafting, consists of the failure to mention UNESCO among the specialized agencies. It seems to me that in part II, paragraph 2, a reference to UNESCO should be inserted before the reference to the World Health Organization. Similarly, in Part III a reference to UNESCO should be inserted before the reference to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

158. In making this proposal, may I say once again that I believe that the omission is simply an oversight in drafting. I do not think there is any need to discuss UNESCO's participation in these activities at length or to produce extensive material in support of the proposal since the omission is, I believe, obvious.

159. Nevertheless, I should like to refer to a United Nations press release of 15 June 1959 concerning the biological effects of radiation, which were discussed at Venice under the auspices of IAEA and UNESCO. The press release refers to the various bodies which took part in the meetings.

160. Another United Nations press release of 13 November 1959 deals with the Monaco conference of two hundred experts to discuss the disposal of radioactive wastes organized by the IAEA. UNESCO was one of the sponsors of the conference, as will be seen from the press release of 13 November 1959.

161. UNESCO's activities in this field are also discussed in the October and June 1959 issues of the UNESCO Chronicle.

162. It is, I believe, unnecessary to cite the many documents, facts and arguments which prove the great importance and extensive activities of UNESCO in this field. I am sure that the omission was simply due to an oversight in drafting and that the sponsors will have no difficulty in accepting a formal proposal to insert a reference to UNESCO after the words "Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations" and before the words "the World Health Organization" in part II, paragraph 2, and after the words "International Atomic Energy Agency" in part III.

163. If the sponsors have no objection, I trust that they will accept the proposal which I am now formally making.

164. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): I shall consult the sponsors after calling on the last speaker on my list, the representative of Norway.

165. Mr. NIELSEN (Norway): The Norwegian delegation has always taken great interest in the scientific efforts under the auspices of the United Nations to

assess the effects of atomic radiation. We are, therefore, now co-sponsoring the draft resolution [A/L.268] before the Assembly, designed to continue and broaden the scope of the valuable work being carried out in this field by the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation.

166. The provisions and purposes of the draft resolution have already been explained to the Assembly by the representative of Canada and other co-sponsors. I shall, therefore, limit myself to expressing the satisfaction of the Norwegian delegation that the discussions leading up to the draft resolution and the correspondingly wide group of sponsors should justify our hopes that the work of the Committee will be continued, without being complicated or hampered by divergencies of a non-scientific nature within the Committee.

167. In this connexion I want to emphasize that the proposed programme of work is in accordance with the suggestions of the Committee itself. Due regard has been given to the capabilities in this field of other international agencies so as to avoid duplication or waste of effort.

168. We firmly believe that it is to our common benefit and of great importance to widen the general knowledge of the effects of radiation, both man-made and natural, and that a greater effort should be made on an international basis to obtain all available information to this end.

169. My delegation is pleased to announce that Norway wholeheartedly supports the programme outlined in the draft resolution and is prepared to participate actively within the resources available to us. We are ready to take part in the over-all collection of radioactive samples and to make available such samples as might be of general interest. Furthermore, Norway is prepared to assist in undertaking analyses of radioactive samples along the same lines as offered by the delegation of Canada. More specifically, Norway is in a position to place at the disposal of the Committee the results of studies which have been carried out in the health sector in order to establish possible personal measures of a preventive character against radioactive hazards.

170. In conclusion, my delegation recommends for the favourable consideration of the Assembly the draft resolution before it, confident that the outlined programme will lead to intimate and effective co-operation between the Committee, the IAEA and the specialized agencies concerned.

171. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): Before putting to the vote the draft resolution I should like to ask the sponsors if they have any objection to including UNESCO among the specialized agencies listed in parts II and III. If they have no objection, I shall assume that a reference to UNESCO is to be included in parts II and III.

It was so decided.

172. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): I now put to the vote the draft resolution [A/L.268] submitted by Argentina, Austria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Ghana, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand and Norway.

The draft resolution was adopted by 78 votes to none.

AGENDA ITEM 11

Report of the Security Council

173. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): The delegations of Canada and Tunisia have submitted a draft resolution [A/L.267], under which the General Assembly will take note of the report of the Security Council [A/4190] covering the period from 16 July 1958 to 15 July 1959. If no representative wishes to speak, I shall take it that the Assembly adopts the draft resolution without objection.

The draft resolution was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 15

Election of three non-permanent members of the Security Council (continued)*

174. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): The Assembly will recall that on 3 November 1959, at the end of the 935th plenary meeting, held in order to fill vacancies which will arise in the Security Council on 1 January 1960, the first of a series of three ballots restricted to the candidatures of Turkey and Poland was taken. In accordance with the rules of procedure, a second ballot restricted to those two countries will now be taken.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Auguste (Haiti) and Mr. Masfar (Indonesia) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	81
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	81
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	80
Required majority:	54
Number of votes obtained:	
Poland	42
Turkey	38

175. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): In view of the inconclusive result of the second ballot, we will now proceed to the third restricted ballot.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Auguste (Haiti) and Mr. Masfar (Indonesia) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	82
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	82
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	81
Required majority:	54
Number of votes obtained:	
Poland	42
Turkey	39

176. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): In accordance with the rules of procedure, we must now take a series of three unrestricted ballots. All countries are eligible other than those which are already members of the Security Council or have been elected to that body. We shall now take the fortieth ballot, the first unrestricted ballot of this series.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Auguste (Haiti) and Mr. Masfar (Indonesia) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	82
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	82
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	81
Required majority:	54
Number of votes obtained:	
Poland	39
Turkey	39
Luxembourg	2
Ireland	1

177. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): We will now hold the forty-first ballot, the second unrestricted ballot of the series.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Auguste (Haiti) and Mr. Masfar (Indonesia) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	82
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	82
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	81
Required majority:	54
Number of votes obtained:	
Poland	40
Turkey	36
Ghana	1
Ireland	1
Iceland	1
Luxembourg	1
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic	1

178. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): We shall now take forty-second ballot, the third unrestricted ballot of the series.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Auguste (Haiti) and Mr. Masfar (Indonesia) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	82
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	82
Abstentions:	2
Number of members voting:	80
Required majority:	54
Number of votes obtained:	
Poland	40
Turkey	39
Greece	1

179. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): We shall now take the forty-third ballot, the first of a series restricted to Poland and Turkey.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Auguste (Haiti) and Mr. Masfar (Indonesia) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	82
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	82
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	81
Required majority:	54
Number of votes obtained:	
Poland	42
Turkey	39

180. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): In view of the results of the balloting, if there is no

* Resumed from 835th meeting.

objection by the Assembly, I suggest that the balloting be postponed until 1 December 1959, on the understanding that the countries concerned and all other delegations will make a further effort to solve this problem.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 28

United Nations Emergency Force: (c) Progress report on the Force

181. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): Before adjourning the meeting I should like to suggest that we take up another item, General Assembly agenda item 28: United Nations Emergency Force: (c) Progress report on the Force.

182. It is my understanding that the Secretary-General prepared and circulated the report [A/4210] for information purposes, and that there is no need for the General Assembly to take any specific decision on the matter. The only decision that has to be taken with regard to UNEF concerns its financing, and that is of course within the competence of the Fifth Committee, which will report to the General Assembly in due course. I understand that it would be useful, from the point of view of the Fifth Committee's programme of work, if the General Assembly were to take note today of the report on the functioning of UNEF submitted by the Secretary-General. The Fifth Committee

would then be able to deal with the item assigned to it concerning the financing of UNEF.

183. I call on the representative of the Soviet Union on a point of order.

184. Mr. SOBOLEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (translated from Russian): Agenda item 28: United Nations Emergency Force: (c) Progress report on the Force, does not appear on today's agenda. It is scheduled for consideration at the General Assembly's plenary meeting on Friday 20 November 1959.

185. The Soviet delegation had naturally assumed that it would be considered then. Since we wish to speak on the matter, and since other delegations may wish to do so also, I should like to ask that this item should be taken up not today but at Friday's plenary meeting, as scheduled.

186. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): A point of order was raised by the Soviet representative just as I was about to say that, if there were no objections and if no representative wished to speak, we would take up agenda item 28 (c).

187. The purpose of taking up agenda item 28 (c) now, provided there were no objections, was to enable the Fifth Committee to get on with its work. However, as an objection has been raised by the Soviet Union, I see no reason why this item should not be discussed on Friday, 20 November 1959.

The meeting rose at 6.30 p.m.

