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EFFECTS OF ATOMIC RADIATION

Report of the United Nations Scientific Committee  
on the Effects of Atomic Radiation

1. The United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation 1/ held its twenty-fourth session in New York from 15 to 19 September 1975. Mr. F. H. Sobels (Belgium), Mr. M. Klimek (Czechoslovakia) and Mr. Z. Jaworowski (Poland) served as Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur, respectively.

2. During the session the Committee, after taking note of General Assembly resolution 3226 (XXIX) of 12 November 1974, discussed, on the basis of extensive reviews prepared in the Secretariat, recent information on the following subjects: genetic and somatic effects of radiation, including experimental results and risk assessments in man; population exposures from the natural radiation sources, from the environmental contamination due to nuclear explosions, and from the power production by nuclear fission; occupational exposure to radiation, and medical irradiation. The Committee made detailed decisions regarding the treatment of these subjects in the comprehensive report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session, and correspondingly gave the Secretariat instructions for the preparation of working drafts.

1/ The Scientific Committee was established by the General Assembly at its tenth session in 1955. Its terms of reference are set out in resolution 913 (X). It was originally composed of the following Member States: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, France, India, Japan, Mexico, Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America. By resolution 3154 C (XXVIII) the General Assembly decided to increase the Committee's membership by up to five additional members, and the following Member States were appointed members of the Committee by the President of the General Assembly in consultation with the Chairman of the regional groups: Germany (Federal Republic of), Indonesia, Peru, Poland and Sudan.

3. The Committee expressed satisfaction at the amount of data on dose contributions from various radiation sources received in response to the Committee's request from States Members of the United Nations, members of specialized agencies and of the International Atomic Energy Agency. The Committee stressed that further information of this kind would be of great value in the preparation of its report to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session.

4. The Committee has received no request to set up a group of experts from among its members to carry out the additional responsibilities authorized by General Assembly resolution 3154 C (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973. The Committee considered that the interim procedure to set up such an expert group, 2/ as established at its twenty-third session, is adequate to respond to a specific request from a Member State, and decided therefore to maintain the application of this procedure.

5. The Committee noted with satisfaction that adequate facilities have now been provided for its secretariat in Vienna.

6. The Committee decided to hold its twenty-fifth session at Vienna from 6 to 17 September 1976.

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2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Annexes, agenda item 41, document A/9632, annex.