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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-seventh session at the Redoutensaal, Hofburg, in Vienna from 17 to 21 April 1978. Mr. M. Klímek (Czechoslovakia), Mr. F. E. Stieve (Federal Republic of Germany) and Mr. K. Sundaram (India) served as Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur, respectively.

2. During the session the Committee, after taking note of General Assembly resolution 32/6 of 31 October 1977, reviewed on the basis of documents prepared by the Secretariat some subjects in the field of radiation sources and effects that merited reporting. As a result of this review, the Committee decided to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session a report reviewing the following subjects:

Dose-response relation at low doses of radiation;

* A/33/50/Rev.1.

^{1/} The terms of reference of the Scientific Committee, which was established by the General Assembly at its tenth session in 1955, 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 Assembly in consultation with the Chairmen of the regional groups: Germany, Federal Republic of, Indonesia, Peru, Poland and Sudan.

Genetic effects of radiation;

Synergism between radiation and other environmental agents;

Non-stochastic effects of radiation;

Sources of radiation and the corresponding human exposures;

Analyses of the models for assessing radiation dose.

3. The Committee also expressed its intention to report annually to the General Assembly on its progress, and decided on the type of information from various sources that the Secretariat would seek to obtain in order to continue the Committee's assessment of radiation exposures.

4. The Committee continued the preparation of a contribution to the United Nations Environment Programme document relating to criteria on selected radionuclides, and reviewed on the basis of drafts prepared by the Secretariat the information available on strontium-90. The committee made detailed decisions regarding the treatment of this subject for the continuation of the work.

5. The Committee elected Mr. F. E. Stieve (Federal Republic of Germany), Mr. J. R. Moroney (Australia) and Mr. Z. Jaworowski (Poland) to serve as Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur, respectively, at the twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth sessions of the Committee.

6. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the facilities provided by the Government of Austria for the holding of its twenty-seventh session.

7. The Committee discussed the time schedule for the preparation of the scientific working papers and drafts to be discussed at its twenty-eighth session. The time necessary for the collection of information, evaluation of data, consultation with the scientific community and the interested international organizations, and the additional need to avoid overlapping with scientific meetings in the field of radiation assessments and effects would make it impossible to hold the twenty-eighth session before June 1979. In view of the difficulty of providing at that time appropriate facilities at Vienna and informed about the offered possibility to meet at the headquarters of the World Health Organization, for which the Committee expressed its appreciation, the Committee decided to hold its twenty-eighth session at Geneva from 11 to 15 June 1979.