Preface

The RADTEST study, reported here, was started in April 1993 to assemble information on all the tests carried out on nuclear weapons. It was extended to cover the tests resumed in 1996 by France and China in view of public interest in conclusion of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. Information was also received from India and South Africa. The record of all data available is included to allow study of the releases and their transfer in compartments of the environment and ecosystems as reported in the earlier RADPATH report, 'Radioecology after Chernobyl'. This can be referred to for details, along with the SCOPE ENUWAR report, 'Environmental Consequences of Nuclear War', on methodology, models, isotopes and units.

The three reports give detailed information directed to a specialized scientific readership but can be of use to those with more general interest. They will find information that some early tests in the atmosphere, under water or near the surface, caused high levels of radiation in areas nearby, sometimes because of wind changes or high yield. Because medical records were not available in some cases, reconstruction has been attempted alongside the study of health effects. There is assurance that the 1996 tests gave no release of radioactivity to sea or atmosphere.

The RADTEST programme involved experts from major weapons testing nations including FSU, USA, China, France and UK, besides representatives from international organizations such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the International Union of Radioecology (UIR) and the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR). It set up three working groups on: information and database, dose reconstruction, and health effects.

Workshops to present and discuss findings were held periodically throughout the duration of the project. During 1994 two major international NATO Advanced Research Workshops were convened at the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, Austria, and in Barnaul (Siberia) Russia. The Vienna meeting examined the environmental and human consequences of atmospheric nuclear tests and provided an overall view of the American and FSU testing programmes. The Barnaul meeting was concerned with radioactive fallout in the Altai (Siberia) region of Russia, primarily from the early nuclear tests undertaken in the Semipalatinsk test site in Kazakhstan. A third workshop was held early in 1995 in Brussels/Liège, Belgium to examine the

methodologies of dose reconstruction, epidemiology, and subsurface transport. A final mini-workshop in October 1996 in Beijing assessed material from French and Chinese tests.

The project was directed by an Executive Committee, guided by a Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) of minister-level individuals, and monitored by SCOPE's Executive Committee. A single Steering Committee guided the closing stages for synthesis of the findings to a timely conclusion.

An archive of material associated with this (and the previous ENUWAR and RADPATH) project will be maintained at the University of Essex.

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