

FOREWORD

The Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE) was established by ICSU in 1969 to (a) advance knowledge of the influence of man and his activities upon his environment, as well as the effects of these alterations upon man, his health and his welfare with particular attention to those influences and effects which are either global or shared in common by several nations; and (b) serve as a non-governmental, interdisciplinary and international council of scientists and as a non-governmental source of advice for the benefit of governments and intergovernmental agencies with respect to environmental problems.

Much of the work of SCOPE is concerned with the effects of small or trace quantities of a variety of chemical elements and compounds in various segments of the environment, in air, water, soil and biota. The determination of trace amounts of certain substances entail difficulties. It is obviously of paramount importance that results obtained in various parts of the world be strictly comparable, and the present volume presents a number of carefully chosen analytical methods for use by those seeking advice on the choice of method.

SCOPE expressed its gratitude to the Chairman and members of the working group on methods of analysis for selected pollutants for the extensive work which they have carried out. It is hoped that this task will be further extended in a succeeding volume dealing with other chemical substances including the revision of methods as required.

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