

as the Regional Office of WHO in the area, and the Directing Council of PAHO, as the Regional Committee of WHO for the Americas. Canada has been represented by an observer at meetings of the Regional Committee which are held alternately in Washington and capitals of the member states. The most recent meeting was held in Havana, from August 14 to 26, 1960.

The defined objective of WHO is "the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health." To achieve this goal, WHO acts as the directing and co-ordinating authority on international health matters and provides advisory and technical services to help countries develop and improve their health services. It sends out expert consultants and demonstration teams of specialists upon request by interested countries, trains experts in modern methods of combating diseases, assists governments in control operations against communicable diseases, supports research in numerous virus and parasitic diseases, awards fellowships and assists in improving public health administration and in programmes of maternal and child health, mental health, nutrition and sanitation. It publishes a number of periodicals to inform national health administrations and scientists of progress in public health; and it maintains an international centre for the compilation and analysis of medical and health statistics.

The thirteenth World Health Assembly met in Geneva from May 3 to 20, 1960 and reviewed the expanding activities of the Organization.

One of the more important items discussed at the Assembly was how to provide sufficient funds to finance the malaria eradication programme in 1961, and on a continuing basis, until it has achieved its objective. This programme is financed by voluntary contributions from all possible sources, including government, industry, private organizations and individuals. (Canada made a \$100,000 voluntary contribution in 1960.) The Director-General was authorized to prepare a paper outlining ways and means by which the programme could be financed in a more permanent and satisfactory manner, including the absorption of all or part of the expenses in the annual budget of WHO. The Director-General's proposals will be considered at the next World Health Assembly in 1961.

The Assembly approved an increased budget of \$20,309,254, of which Canada's share was \$539,240.

The most outstanding activity of WHO in 1960 was the assistance provided to the Republic of the Congo (Leopoldville) to meet efficiently and quickly the grave health problems of this newly independent country. As the Director-General said in the introduction to his annual report for 1960 "by recruiting without delay a few immediately essential health personnel, WHO helped avert the threat of a breakdown in the services of environmental sanitation and the control of endemo-epidemic diseases. WHO was also able to work out a programme for training and education of Congolese medical and paramedical personnel, at the same time recruiting the foreign personnel needed in the first instance to staff basic health services."