

the gross national product of the developing countries had been much smaller than that in the developed countries; instead of narrowing, the gap in the standards of living between developing and developed countries had, in fact, widened in both absolute and relative terms. The export earnings of the developing countries had expanded much more rapidly, but they were significantly smaller than those of the rest of the world, with the result that the share of the developing countries in world trade had continued to decline. Described in harsher terms, the overwhelming majority of United Nations members have a *per capita* income of less than \$250, compared with \$3,000 in the United States. In about half of the 80 less-developed countries which are members of the World Bank, *per capita* income is rising only by about 1 per cent a year or less. In the words of the President of the World Bank:

If present trends are allowed to continue, there will be no adequate improvement in living standards in vast areas of the globe for the balance of this century. Yet over the same period richer countries will be substantially increasing their wealth.

In 1965, the United Nations sought to improve its capacity to meet the needs of the less-developed countries by reorganizing and expanding its machinery in the economic development field.

While it has always included technical assistance in its regular budget, the main burden of United Nations efforts in this area has been borne by two voluntary programmes, the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (EPTA) and the Special Fund. Set up in 1950 with the co-operation of the Specialized Agencies, EPTA in the intervening years has used some \$500 million to provide 32,000 man-years of technical advice and to award 31,700 fellowships to 120 developing countries. By 1959, it became apparent that countries could not develop their resources unless they knew what they were and the Special Fund was brought into existence to help undertake pre-investment exploration designed to facilitate public and private investment. It has undertaken 522 projects at a cost of \$1,151 million, of which 58 per cent was provided by the recipient governments themselves. By 1965, the functions and responsibilities of these two programmes were so closely related that logic demanded they be housed under one organizational roof, to be known as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).¹ This merger was enacted to ensure close co-ordination and planning and a more solid base for the future growth and evolution of the development-assistance activities of the United Nations. An annual target of \$200 million in voluntary contributions for the UNDP was called for by the Assembly but, given current and

¹See Page 24.