

number of costly meetings. Originally the major Specialized Agencies held annual meetings. Now that their more important organizational and administrative problems have been solved, the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) have decided to hold their general conferences every second year. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) holds a full meeting every third year, with smaller intervening annual meetings to deal with administrative and budgetary questions. The World Health Organization (WHO) is considering biennial meetings. This increase in the interval between the sessions of the main legislative conferences of the Specialized Agencies permits important savings in time, effort, and money, both for the organizations themselves and for member governments. Similar efforts have been made to reduce the numbers of meetings of bodies subsidiary to the main legislative bodies. Other operating economies have been achieved by the Specialized Agencies through improved personnel policies, the development of services common to two or more Agencies, and closer supervision over expenditures. Particular attention has been given to the avoidance of unnecessary travel costs and other forms of administrative waste.

Canadian representatives at Agency conferences have expressed the belief that, with persistent efforts of this kind, the Agencies should be able to carry out their essential work without further budgetary increases. Although the pressure for larger programmes continues, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) have already decided to stabilize their 1953 budgets at the 1952 levels.

Similar views were expressed by Canadian representatives when the budgets of the Agencies were reviewed by the United Nations General Assembly. As a result of the Assembly's discussions, three resolutions were adopted stressing the need for concentration of resources and recommending new or improved procedures for achieving this objective. The Assembly also adopted a resolution recommending the establishment of a basic pattern of United Nations conferences in Geneva which would lead to the most effective use of facilities there and at headquarters in New York, and possibly to savings in the total expenditures of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies.

Apportionment of Expenses

During 1951 member states continued to press for more equitable sharing of the costs of administering the United Nations and its subsidiary bodies. In the United Nations Assembly and in most of the Specialized Agencies, there was a critical examination of the principles on which costs have been shared in the past and determined efforts were made to effect improvements in the scales to be applied for 1952¹.

¹A table showing the percentage scales of contributions from the 14 main contributors to the United Nations and to 6 of the principal Specialized Agencies appears as Appendix 8.