

The Conference adopted these proposals in substantially their original form; since they were necessarily framed in fairly general terms, it was left to the Board of Governors to work out in greater detail the particular activities which the Agency should undertake during the following year.

Accordingly the Board met at frequent intervals during the closing months of 1957 and throughout 1958, devoting itself primarily to the elaboration of the Agency's programme for 1958 and to the preparation of recommendations on the programme and budget for 1959. These were then presented to the second General Conference, held in Vienna from September 22 to October 4, 1958.

Despite the fact that it had been established only since the middle of the previous year, the Agency made notable progress during 1958 in organizing itself on a sound basis and in carrying out its initial programmes. A competent international secretariat has been built up at the Agency's headquarters, along the lines recommended by the Preparatory Commission; relationship agreements have been negotiated with the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies most interested in the Agency's work; a fellowship programme has been initiated and technical assistance missions sent to a number of less-developed areas. The Agency has also begun its technical information activities, has prepared a manual on the safe-handling of radio-isotopes, has established expert panels on radiation protection and on the safe disposal of radio-active wastes, and has begun a programme of scientific conferences. Finally, the Agency has begun negotiations for the conclusion of supply agreements with member states that have offered it fissionable materials and has, under Article XI of its statute, assisted Japan to obtain source material for a research project.

Canada has given substantial financial support to the Agency, in fulfilment of the Government's view that it gives every promise of becoming a valuable and constructive institution, deserving the support of all countries hoping to see the benefits to be derived from the peaceful applications of atomic energy become rapidly and widely available.

In addition, Canada has offered to the Agency, free of charge, the source material required for the research project mentioned above. This gift was offered in order to help the Agency initiate its activities in the supply of materials and to provide it with the additional revenues which it will derive by reselling this material to Japan.

During 1959 the activities of the Board of Governors will include the preparation of a detailed and comprehensive programme and budget for the Agency's third year of activity. It will be submitted for consideration and approval to the third General Conference in Vienna in October, 1959.

World Health Organization

The World Health Organization (WHO), one of the largest of the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations, was established as a permanent