

Agencies to review their contributions to each of these programmes so that the combined Special Fund and Technical Assistance budgets may, in the immediate future, reach their target of \$150 million (total contributions paid and pledged currently stand at \$120 million).

Finally, the resolution on assistance to Rwanda and Burundi was approved by 81 votes in favour (including Canada), with none against and 11 abstentions. By this resolution, the Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to continue during 1963 the programme of technical and economic assistance it had authorized by Resolution 1746 (XVI) of June 27, 1962, on the accession of Rwanda and Burundi to independence. The first stage of the programme for 1963 is estimated to run in the neighbourhood of \$513,600.

The final item of an economic character considered by the Assembly at its seventeenth session had to do with population growth and economic development. The resolution recommended for adoption by the Second Committee would have had the Assembly endorse the view of the Population Commission that the United Nations encourage and assist governments in obtaining data and carrying out essential studies on the demographic aspects of their problems of economic and social development. It was approved by 69 votes in favour, with none against and 27 abstentions (including Canada), after the Assembly had rejected, on the proposal of France, Argentina and the Lebanon, the view (also held by the Population Commission) that the organization should provide technical assistance for national programmes dealing with the problems of population.

The seventeenth session also saw the approval, after a year's delay, of a Declaration on the Right of Peoples and Nations to Permanent Sovereignty over their Natural Wealth and Resources. A draft had originally been prepared by the Commission on Permanent Sovereignty over Natural Resources and submitted to the Assembly in 1961. The text was not considered, however, because of lack of time. The Declaration, as finally approved and embodied in an Assembly resolution of December 14, incorporates a number of amendments introduced by capital exporting and importing countries alike, both in committee and in plenary. It states that the right of peoples and nations to permanent sovereignty over their natural resources must be exercised "in the interest of their national development and the well-being of the people." It also outlines the principles to be followed concerning the import of capital and profits derived from it, and the terms under which a state can nationalize, expropriate and requisition economic enterprises.

It may be regretted that, in the Committee's discussion of the Declaration, the questions of colonialism, neo-colonialism and exploitation should have been allowed to predominate to the extent they did. At least, as a result of a decision taken in plenary on December 14, the Assembly was to request the Secretary-General "to continue the study of the various aspects of permanent sovereignty over natural resources, taking into account the desire of member states to ensure the protection of their sovereign rights while encouraging international co-oper-