

## VIII FINANCIAL QUESTIONS

### Introduction

The budgetary or fiscal year of the United Nations and most of the Specialized Agencies coincides with the calendar year, although this volume reports on the period July 1, 1953 to June 30, 1954. The manner in which financial questions are considered and decided varies considerably from agency to agency, since each has its own schedule of meetings, intervals between sessions, and other constitutional requirements. As an illustration of this variance, the United Nations General Assembly during its eighth session from September to December, 1953 discussed and approved the 1954 United Nations financial policies and practices. Most of the Specialized Agencies also draw up their budgets on an annual basis. Some of the other bodies, however, such as UNESCO and the International Telecommunication Union, adopt fiscal programmes for longer periods in advance. To improve budgetary co-ordination between the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies, frequent consultations take place and mutual arrangements are made such as joint systems of external audit, the common collection of contributions, and the resolving of problems affecting the currency of contributions.

### Cost of the United Nations

#### Administrative Costs<sup>1</sup>

The figures shown in Appendix III indicate a levelling off in the combined administrative expenditures of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies, although there is steady annual pressure to increase expenditures in most of the organizations. In 1947 the total administrative expenditures amounted to \$43.4 million.<sup>2</sup> From Appendix III it can be seen that this amount has almost doubled in the last three fiscal years. For 1954 it is estimated that appropriations will total \$77.7 million.

The Canadian contribution to the administrative budgets of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies will amount to \$2.76 million for 1954, compared with \$2.73 million for 1953 and \$2.67 million for 1952.

Although the formative period is now past, even for the most recently created of the Specialized Agencies, many members, including Canada, have found it necessary to continue to urge the Agencies

<sup>1</sup>For a detailed explanation of the distinction between "administrative" budgets and the budgets of operational programmes, see *Canada and the United Nations 1951-52*, p. 137.

<sup>2</sup>All figures in this section and related appendices are given in United States dollars unless otherwise specified. The final Canadian dollar amount of payments still to be made may vary slightly from the United States equivalent shown in the tables depending upon the exchange rate prevailing at the time of payment.