

tion of the refugees. In recent years, owing to increasing demands for relief, health and educational services, to rising costs in the countries where the Agency operates, to unrest in Lebanon, where the Agency's headquarters were located, and to the failure of contributions to keep pace with costs, UNRWA has been faced with very serious financial difficulties. In 1976, Canada responded to a special appeal to prevent UNRWA defaulting in its obligations with a special contribution of \$300,000 (Cdn). Canada's regular contribution to UNRWA in 1976 amounted to \$3,500,000 (Cdn), of which \$1,500,000 was in cash and \$2 million in flour. In total cash contributions since the inception of UNRWA in 1949, Canada ranks third, having contributed over \$39 million (Cdn).

The *United Nations Environment Program* was established following the UN Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm in 1972. UNEP provides policy guidance for the direction and co-ordination of environmental programs within the UN system, keeps under review the world environmental situation in order to ensure that emerging problems of international significance receive consideration by governments, and promotes the acquisition of information about the environment. A voluntary fund has also been created to finance environmental programs and to encourage institutions and agencies to pay special attention to environmental problems in their activities. For the initial five-year period of the Fund (1972-77), Canada pledged a total of between \$5 million and \$7.5 million (Cdn).

The *United Nations Institute for Training and Research* was established in December 1963, and became operational in 1966. UNITAR conducts a number of training programs to prepare individuals, mostly from developing countries, for service with international organizations. The Institute also arranges informal and formal opportunities for exchanges of opinions and ideas among scholars, diplomats and national officials. In addition, it carries out special studies on topics such as the problems and status of very small states and territories. For 1976, UNITAR's budget was about \$2.2 million (U.S.), of which Canada contributed \$60,000 (Cdn).

In addition to contributing to independently-administered United Nations programs, member states frequently make significant voluntary payments to special-purpose funds to meet certain pressing global, regional or local problems. These funds differ from those