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# REFERENCE PAPERS

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NO. 60 CANADA AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

## INTRODUCTION

Article 55(a) of the Charter of the United Nations states:

"with a view to the creation of conditions of stability and well-being which are necessary for peaceful and friendly relations among nations based on respect for the rights and self-determination of the peoples, the United Nations shall promote ... high standards of living, full employment and conditions of economic and social progress and development ...".

After the end of the Second World War it became apparent that assistance, in the form of economic aid, technical training and expert advice would be necessary to implement these aims of the Charter by helping to raise the very low standard of living of the peoples in areas of the world where the natural resources have been little developed. It is the object of technical assistance to aid the governments of these countries to use to the full these natural resources by finding means to increase food production, improve health standards, develop their communications and transportation systems, and train efficient public administrators.

It is hard for us with our western standards of well-being to imagine the hunger and poverty which exist in some of these lands. In India, for example, the diet of the people consists almost entirely of cereals, and in the rationed urban areas they eat only about 12 ounces of such food grains a day. In many other parts of the country the peasants are forced to subsist on even less. Such an essential food as milk is almost unknown.

## REGULAR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

To begin the task a small portion of the regular annual budget of the United Nations, and of certain of the Specialized Agencies, was allocated for the provision of technical assistance. In 1946 the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) sent a body of technicians to Greece to study and to develop means of reconstructing the war-ravaged agricultural economy of that country. In 1948 a combined mission of experts from the United Nations and some of the Specialized Agencies was sent to Haiti, at that country's request, to carry out a survey of its economy and to recommend measures for its development. The World Health Organization (WHO) has been active in establishing, in co-operation with the local governments, health centres for the study and treatment of specific diseases in countries of South America, the Middle East and South and South-East Asia.