

- (4) Eight technical commissions established by the Congress to study and make recommendations on: aeronautical, agricultural and marine meteorology; operational hydrology; special applications of meteorology and climatology; basic systems; instruments and methods of observation; and atmospheric sciences.
- (5) A secretariat located in Geneva with about 230 staff members under the direction of a secretary-general.

Budget and finances

The WMO operates on a four-year financial period. The Congress sets the maximum expenditures for the financial period and authorizes the Executive Committee to approve appropriations within these limits for each financial year of the period. The budget approved for 1978 was \$11,824,000 (U.S.). Canada's contribution in 1978 amounted to \$280,000 or 2.37 per cent of the whole.

Major programs

The World Weather Watch is the basic program of the organization, on which the success of other program activities is largely dependent. It has three components. The first is the Global Observing System, which consists of the arrangements for obtaining meteorological observations

from all sources — including land stations, merchant and special ships, aircraft and, in recent years, special meteorological satellites. The analysis and processing of these observations by world, regional and national meteorological centres is the second component of the WWW — the Global Data-Processing System. The exchange of raw and processed data between the countries of the world is effected by the Global Telecommunication System, the third component of the WWW.

The intent of the WWW is to establish throughout the world facilities meeting minimum standards for weather observations, data-processing, communications, education, training and research. All activities under the WWW on the territory of individual members are, in principle, the responsibility of the member countries themselves. Where national resources are inadequate, financing from outside is arranged by bilateral or multilateral agreements, through the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) or, where necessary, through a WMO voluntary-assistance program (VAP). WWW implementation in regions outside national sovereignty (the oceans, Antarctica, outer space) is based on voluntary participation by members. The Research and Development Program includes all activities relating to the improvement of