

### Economic Developments

In the economic field an important item on the agenda was the problem of economic development of under-developed countries. There has been considerable difference between the points of view of the developed and the under-developed countries both as to the substance of the proposals and the possibility of immediate action. But the developed countries this year took an important step by accepting in principle the desirability of the eventual establishment of an international development fund. This suggestion has been discussed for many years. Governments have been invited to submit their views on certain aspects of this question as a basis for further examination. Study of the proposals for an international finance corporation are also to continue.

Two other important items concerned the raising of funds for technical assistance and for Korean reconstruction. The United Nations expanded programme of technical assistance was renewed, and pledges and contributions from member countries have reached a record total of more than \$24 million. Canada was one of the 23 countries which announced their intention to increase their contributions. Subject to the approval of parliament, the Canadian contribution will be increased from \$800,000 to a maximum of \$1,500,000. I think it is fair to suggest that our action in making this pledge had a significant influence in encouraging other countries to promise more than this programme. The exact amount to be made available by Canada can be decided when more is known about the actual contributions of other countries. The Assembly decided to continue the United Nations International Children's Fund indefinitely, with provisions for periodic review.

On the question of a Korean reconstruction programme a resolution was adopted urging those who had made pledges to make good on their commitments, and recommending that Specialized Agencies and Non-governmental Organizations furnish assistance to the United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency.

### Human Rights

In the field of social affairs, the Assembly touched on various aspects of the human rights question, and dealt with two items of general political importance. These were the question of the repatriation of prisoners-of-war from the Second World War, and the question of forced labour. It concerned itself also with the problem of refugees, and a proposed programme for concerted United Nations action for progress in the social field.

In the administrative field, the Assembly concerned itself again with personnel problems. It adopted certain changes in the staff regulations, clarifying in some measure the powers of the Secretary-General. The Assembly also endorsed the Secretary-General's far-reaching proposals for simplifying the top structure of the Secretariat, and for reducing the total staff of the Secretariat by 15 per cent during the next two years. It deferred a decision on the troublesome question of the awards of compensation granted by the administrative tribunal to certain dismissed United States nationals, until it could obtain a legal opinion from the International Court of Justice.