

At the thirteenth session of the General Assembly, the Second Committee had before it a draft resolution recommended by ECOSOC for adoption by the General Assembly, and two draft resolutions submitted, respectively, by Pakistan and 23 co-sponsors and by India and 15 co-sponsors (agenda item 28). The main point at issue was the desire of many delegations to include in the resolution setting up the Special Fund language that would hold out the possibility of the Special Fund's developing into a major capital assistance programme on SUNFED lines. While the Pakistan proposal simply noted a previous resolution of the General Assembly providing that "the Assembly shall review the scope of future activities of the Special Fund and take such action as it may deem appropriate", the Indian proposal suggested the substitution of the General Assembly for ECOSOC as the body responsible for electing the Governing Council of the Special Fund, in the hope that this arrangement might facilitate its development into a major capital aid fund.

The Second Committee devoted 16 meetings to these and ancillary proposals. It became clear in the course of these meetings that any major departure from the ECOSOC proposals would be unacceptable to a large number of countries, particularly to the economically more developed countries. It was therefore agreed that there should be no reference to a capital aid fund in the resolution establishing the Special Fund, but that this would not preclude a separate discussion on this issue at a later stage in the deliberations of the Committee. As a result, the resolution which emerged from these discussions and which was finally adopted by the thirteenth session of the General Assembly<sup>1</sup> by 77 votes in favour, 0 against, and 1 abstention, embodied virtually without change the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee. This resolution cleared the way for the establishment of the Special Fund on January 1, 1959, the date specified at the twelfth session of the General Assembly.

A separate resolution requesting member states to contribute to the Special Fund in amounts commensurate with the \$100 million objective previously set by ECOSOC for technical assistance activities of the United Nations and urging them "to continue working for the establishment of a United Nations Capital Development Fund" was later approved by a vote of 58 in favour, 0 against, with 18 abstentions (including Canada, France, the United Kingdom and the United States). These abstentions were based, broadly speaking, on the non-availability at the present time of resources on the scale required to finance a large-scale capital assistance programme operating directly under the aegis of the United Nations.

The Canadian Delegation played a significant role in the debate and negotiations which led to the creation of the Special Fund. It directed its efforts, as previously, towards ensuring that the organizational and administrative arrangements of the Fund were broadly acceptable to other members of the United Nations and were such as to lead to the selection of sound and useful projects and to their effective execution.

In his address to the United Nations Pledging Conference last October, the Secretary-General of the United Nations described the main objective the Special Fund is intended to serve in the following terms:

"The new instrument of international co-operation has been well-fashioned to do a specific job, and one closely

<sup>1</sup>A/RES/1240 (XIII).