

amongst themselves and with the United Nations; and that they should demonstrate techniques, give guidance and generally stimulate national efforts rather than engage themselves in direct operations.

The responsibilities which the Specialized Agencies have assumed are so vast, and the opportunities for useful work so numerous, that great difficulty has been experienced in setting limits to and priorities for their programmes. This has had to be done however, since in the past few years there has been a growing resistance on the part of some members to yearly increases in the budgets of the Specialized Agencies. Many countries, including Canada, have urged the Specialized Agencies to concentrate on those undertakings which will have the most significant and far-reaching results.

Effective co-ordination of the programmes of the Specialized Agencies to ensure that the greatest possible benefit will be derived from the work of the United Nations family of organizations is a question which has been given a great deal of study by ECOSOC and particularly by the Committee on Co-ordination. The chairman of this Committee at its 1956 session was Dr. G. Davidson, Deputy Minister of Welfare in the Canadian Department of National Health and Welfare. This Co-ordination Committee, to which ECOSOC has given the task of working out arrangements for inter-agency co-ordination of programmes, the application of priorities, and joint planning so as to avoid duplication of effort, has a most complicated and difficult duty. The Committee follows a procedure of holding many meetings with representatives of the Specialized Agencies, and at these meetings the representatives from the Agencies undergo a questioning session, with the Committee endeavouring to uncover any instances of duplication, or wasted effort, or examples of redundant programming. At the twenty-second session of ECOSOC the Canadian Delegation expressed the view that great strides had been made in co-ordinating the activities of United Nations organizations, but it was imperative that governments exercise care and restraint in pressing the secretariats of the Specialized Agencies to undertake new tasks, and also that the secretariats themselves should be imbued with determination to look beyond the development of procedures for co-ordination to the achievement of effective co-ordination in matters of substance. It was recognized that there was need for more effective co-ordination of governmental policies by member states if uncontrolled expansion of international programmes were to be held in check. The Secretary-General recalled that his organization, on its own initiative, had effected a 15 per cent reduction within two years in the strength of its Secretariat and had made proposals for reducing work programmes. The Secretary-General also drew special attention to the desirability of building up an adequate administration in less developed countries. Canada endorsed the view of the Secretary-General that the constructive programmes of the United Nations family of organizations, and particularly the work of the Specialized Agencies, have already left their mark on the history of our time.

The work of the Specialized Agencies is extensive and complex, and is described in detail in the publications issued by each Agency. The account which follows gives only in summary form a survey of their activities for the period under review.