

the British West Indies also in terms of personnel. I will not take the time of the House to inform you with respect to the men who are now in those two countries, men who are particularly well qualified in their own chosen field, in order that they may assist these newly emerging countries and also help them to help themselves. The bulk of Canada's aid, however, is now under the Colombo Plan which is being directed to those parts of the world for which we have a special concern.

With respect to economic aid, I would remind the House that Canada has contributed to the establishment and the sustenance of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and we would hope that agency could be strengthened. We can take pride that Canada, on a per capita basis, is the second largest contributor to United Nations Technical Assistance; but getting away from the per capita yardstick, Canada is the fifth country of the world in terms of total contributions to the United Nations in her technical assistance and relief programmes.

Hon. members may recall - I am certain that those who were members of the Committee on External Affairs last session will recall - that there was much consideration given to the possibility of establishing a fund within the United Nations to be known as SUNFED. That concept as conceived at the United Nations was given up and in its place there was proposed the establishment of a special fund. This proposal was referred to a preparatory committee of the United Nations on which Canada was represented. The Economic and Social Council is now considering the report of this preparatory committee, and at the next General Assembly the final details should be settled and a new instrument of United Nations aid achieved. Canada has indicated that it would consider making an appropriate contribution to this fund provided that the organizational arrangements are well designed and provided that there is broad support for the proposal among, particularly, the contributor nations.

During the last session, information was given to the House with respect to Canada's extension of its aid in terms of flour and wheat in emergency situations.

I would go back for a moment to the West Indian contribution. I recall that a few weeks ago the hon. member for Laurier asked a question with respect to the giving by Canada of a steamship for interisland communication in the British West Indies. I intimated then that there would be a team of shipping and shipbuilding experts sent from Canada. That team has been to Port of Spain and has now returned. We expect that a report will be made in due course concerning the specifications for the new ship that Canada has undertaken to build and give to the British West Indies.