

developing countries. There was, in addition, an important initiative by the United States, the United Nations Decade of Development, whereby the Secretary-General was authorized to develop proposals for the intensification of United Nations action in a number of areas including industrialization; agrarian reform; the elimination of hunger, illiteracy and disease; vocational and technical education; the application of science and technology; and the co-ordination of all economic aid. The Secretary-General is required to report to ECOSOC, in the summer of 1962, and to the seventeenth session of the General Assembly. The hope is that the Decade of Development programme will provide new impetus to the existing activities of the United Nations in the field of economic assistance and will bring about better co-ordination in the various programmes of the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies.

A development of particular interest to Canada was the General Assembly's approval of a World Food Programme, which will run for an initial experimental period of about three years. This proposal was launched by the Prime Minister of Canada at the fifteenth session of the General Assembly and pursued in the Food and Agriculture Organization meeting in Rome during the autumn. Early in 1962 a 20-country committee, of which Canada is a member, is to work out a Charter for the World Food Programme.

The activities of the United Nations in the social sector are not widely publicized, yet they make up a substantial and continuing part of its work. This is largely done by the autonomous Specialized Agencies, whose activities are co-ordinated with those of other United Nations organs. There are projects, studies, surveys and seminars in the separate fields, all with the general objective of fostering social development. The rapid economic development needed to ensure stability in many of the newly independent nations will be impeded, if it is not accompanied by concurrent advances in social development. At the sixteenth session considerable progress was made, when the Assembly approved a number of resolutions designed to achieve better balance and co-ordination between economic and social development. In 1961 Canada began a four-year term on the Social Commission.

The United Nations is also engaged in formulating international covenants and conventions in the field of human rights, consent to marriage and the freedom of information, with the hope that legally binding commitments will eventually be applied in all member states. The United Nations lends its assistance in the humanitarian work of providing for the needs of refugees through such agencies as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, supported by voluntary contributions from member states, including Canada.

These and other programmes of economic and social development under United Nations auspices are important for the future of the Organization. For the less developed nations, their new-found political independence will be meaningless unless they can achieve, soon and sufficiently, economic uplift and social well-being. In a very real sense, therefore, whatever the United