

ing the initiatives of other delegations for our own purposes. In pursuit of this objective the Canadian Delegation was one of the most active at the meeting. In the plenary sessions, in the Coordination Committee, the Economic Committee, the Technical Assistance Committee and the Social Committee, Canadian statements were among the more influential, and the Canadian Delegation participated in the negotiation on all major decisions. (See Section III for further details of the Canadian role at the meetings).

3. In a word, the 26th session could best be characterized as — constructive. Of considerable importance were the discussions on international trade problems. The Western delegations face considerable difficulty as a result of increased Soviet bloc interest in opening new channels for trade relations with the West since this interest coincides with concern by the less developed countries, particularly those of Latin America, at current instability in world commodity markets. The great interest shown in world commodity problems, if it did nothing else, emphasized the importance attached to these problems by both developed and under-developed countries. This may in the long run create an increased awareness of the difficulties inherent in international commodity trade which could have desirable results from a Canadian standpoint.

4. One of the major achievements of the 26th session was the decision to change the terms of reference of the C.I.C.T. and to reconstitute it so as to permit the U.K. and U.S.A. to rejoin the Commission. This decision may have useful consequences for Canada if the Commission benefits from U.S.A. and U.K. membership and if it is able to develop a work programme which does not conflict with the work ICCICA, GATT and the FAO are doing in the same field. This general issue will certainly be revived during the 13th session of the General Assembly.

5. The approval of the Special Fund Preparatory Committee Report was the next most important achievement of the 26th session. This action will enable the Canadian Government and other governments to plan their contributions to the Special Fund for announcement during the 13th session of the General Assembly. As the President noted in his concluding remarks, the creation of this new Economic Development Fund represents the first major forward step which the Council has taken in this general field since the establishment of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance in 1949.

6. The establishment of the International Administrative Service could result in improved national administrations in the less developed countries. This was a proposal encouraged by the Secretary-General himself as one of the most important contributions which the United Nations could make in promoting the economic development of the less developed countries.

7. The Council's decision to encourage the establishment of National Food Reserves can also be considered a significant decision of probable future importance to Canada.

8. Action was taken by the Council in respect of the narcotics and refugees items. In both these cases the Council did not face major issues of principle, except possibly in one instance, i.e., the decision to convene in plenipotentiary conference for the purpose of adopting a single convention on Narcotic Drugs. In this case, the Canadian Delegation was instrumental in persuading the Council to take a positive decision at this session. It should be added that difficult financial problems will arise in the near future in connection with the provision of international assistance to refugees.

9. Relations between the Council and the Specialized Agencies also appear to have improved considerably in comparison to the conditions which existed in the last two years. The Council may well claim some credit for this development and also for the possibility