

This Committee is made up of the eighteen countries represented on ECOSOC and six other members elected from among member countries of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies.

The regular programmes of the United Nations are also operated through the Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations. The most important development in these programmes during 1959 was the inauguration of a special programme of technical assistance in public administration.* The need for special measures in this field was first discussed by ECOSOC at its 24th session in July 1957. As a result of consultations by the Secretary-General with the governments of member nations ECOSOC recommended in its resolution 681 (XXVI) adopted on July 16, 1958, that the General Assembly take action to set up a special programme in the field of public administration on a limited and experimental basis. In resolution 1256 (XIII) of November 14, 1958, the General Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to supplement the existing technical assistance programmes by helping governments, at their request, to obtain the temporary services of well-qualified persons for executive or operational duties in their public services. These duties would normally include the training of nationals to assume as soon as possible the responsibilities temporarily assigned to the internationally-recruited experts. The Assembly decided that the recipient government should meet the cost of this assistance to the extent of not less than the emoluments which one of its nationals would receive for performing similar duties. The Secretary-General was authorized to meet whatever other expenses were incurred in the assignment. Within the first six months of operation of this programme, known as OPEX, more than ninety requests had been received from some 35 governments. A number of experts have already taken up their duties.

Contributions pledged to the EPTA for 1958 by 85 governments totalled \$31,307,200, which represents the largest number of contributors and the highest amount pledged since the inception of the Expanded Programme. Canada, which contributed \$2 million in 1958, maintained the same level of contribution in 1959, bringing the total Canadian contribution since the Expanded Programme began to \$12.95 million. In addition to assistance under the EPTA and the regular programmes, some 21 countries received technical assistance from the United Nations and Specialized Agencies on a paid basis. This included some "third-party financing", by which donor governments paid for specific types of assistance provided to certain recipient countries; the value of this was some \$1.3 million. Assessments on recipient governments in 1958 for the local costs of assistance provided amounted to the equivalent of about \$2.2 million, of which part was met by providing local lodging, transportation and other services.

A United Nations Regional Training Centre was established at the University of British Columbia in 1959 as an experimental project designed for the better co-ordination and supervision of fellowships and scholarships. The Centre, which is operated by the University on behalf of the Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations, received a grant of \$10,000 from the Canadian Government for the year 1959-60. At the end of 1959 thirteen United Fellows were attached to the Centre, studying a variety of subjects in Western Canada and the North-western states of the United States. This region, which is geographically and economically variegated and is in the process of rapid industrial development, was selected by the United Nations as particularly well-suited for the location of a centre for training fellows from many different countries. The ready co-operation of the University of British Columbia and the support of the Government of Canada has ensured the success of the experiment in its first year.

* See *Canada and the United Nations, 1958*, p. 44.