

the demand for radio channels had far outrun the supply. New services, notably those set up to serve international civil aviation, had to be provided for. A new plan for the rationing and use of radio channels was urgently required. In 1947 the Atlantic City Conference drew up a comprehensive plan for the re-allocation of frequencies to all types of services in a band ranging from 10 kilocycles to 10,500 megacycles. This band contains all the frequencies regarded as commercially useable for communications at the present time. Since 1947 it has been ITU's task to bring about the acceptance and implementation of the Atlantic City plan by member states. A series of conferences has been held to this end. Great difficulties have been encountered, especially in the high frequency bands where world-wide agreement is essential. Nevertheless, considerable progress has been recorded.

An ITU Conference known as an Extraordinary Administrative Radio Conference met in Geneva from August to December 1951 to obtain agreement on certain parts of the Atlantic City plan. It was largely successful in its work. Frequency assignment lists were adopted which will eventually provide some 80,000 permanent channels for specific stations, and plans were agreed upon for the gradual transfer of such stations to their new channels. For frequency bands in which assignment lists could not yet be drawn up, the Conference drafted a plan for gradual adjustment of allocations over the next few years so that in these bands, too, the Atlantic City plan will eventually be implemented.

Other major activities of ITU in 1951 and the first half of 1952 were related to the second Plenipotentiary Conference which is scheduled to meet in Buenos Aires in October 1952. The three Consultative Committees continued work of a highly technical nature in their respective fields. Each Committee maintains a number of study groups which draft technical reports and provide expert advice to member states on equipment and transmission problems.

At the beginning of 1952 ITU became associated with the United Nations Programme for Technical Assistance to Under-Developed Countries, and since that time has dealt with requests for technical assistance from eleven countries. The assistance being given is essentially of a type which ITU has always tried to provide for its member states, but the allocation of funds from United Nations resources for this purpose will permit a material increase in the amount of assistance ITU is able to give.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

As one of the charter members of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Canada has played an active part in the affairs of the Agency, which is now in its seventh year. Canadian Delegations have attended all the General Conferences of UNESCO and have supported constructive UNESCO projects such as technical assistance and fundamental education. They have consistently warned against impractical proposals and over-ambitious programmes.