

of economic survival. In most less-developed countries, it has been an indispensable element in development programmes, and the United Nations approach to the problems of want and of raising living standards has clearly been dynamic and vital. Since 1961, these activities have been pursued within the context of the United Nations Decade of Development. During the Decade, the intensified international discussion of the many problems in both the aid and trade fields has led to a greater awareness of the wide differences between the scientific and technical progress in the advanced countries and the urgent needs in the developing countries. It has focussed attention on the need to bridge the gap between rich and poor nations through concentrated international effort.

Although foreign aid is an essential element in the economic development of the developing countries, the main emphasis in 1963 was on their trading problems and, more specifically, on the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. This international gathering, which is to be held in Geneva from March 23 to June 15, 1964, will be a major event in the Decade of Development. It will be the largest trade conference since the United Nations Conference on Trade and Employment held in Geneva in 1946, which laid the basis for GATT. It is being convened as the result of increasing pressure from the developing nations to obtain from the developed countries recognition of their special trade problems and of their vital need for stable and expanded markets for their products. Without these markets, the developing countries could not obtain the foreign exchange necessary to carry through their development programmes and achieve a satisfactory rate of economic growth. It is hoped, therefore, that the conference will complement the efforts of the GATT Contracting Parties at the forthcoming tariff and trade negotiations to reduce tariffs and other barriers to world trade.

In the long run, the economic, social, and humanitarian work of the United Nations may make a more lasting contribution to the cause of peace than many of the successful operations in the political field. Quite obviously, economic and social improvement in the less-developed countries is closely connected with political stability. In other words, in seeking to eradicate the basic causes of conflict, the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies are contributing solidly to the development of lasting stability in international relations.

The prime task is to help the developing countries to help themselves in their efforts to accelerate their economic and social development. The drawing-up of sound development plans and programmes is an essential element in this process, and the United Nations is actively engaged in assisting developing countries in this field. It is also essential that national and international assistance efforts be well co-ordinated. Unrestricted competition among international agencies for projects, and unreasonable demands