

In 1955, in response to a resolution of the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General prepared two reports dealing with "Processes and problems of industrialization in under-developed countries" and setting out "A programme of work on industrialization and productivity". A list of studies and projects was prepared on the basis of these reports, and was approved by ECOSOC in 1956. Studies on land reform, the development of co-operatives, sources of energy and water resources prepared by the Secretariat of the United Nations, the Specialized Agencies and panels of experts, were considered at the 23rd, 24th and 25th sessions of ECOSOC.

At its 25th session ECOSOC discussed the impact of commodity problems on industrialization and emphasized in this connection the desirability of achieving a sound international economic balance. At the same session unanimous approval was also given to resolutions providing for the expansion of the Secretariat staff concerned with studies on industrialization, the creation within the Secretariat of a centre to promote co-ordinated efforts for the development of water resources, and the establishment of a committee of experts to review the programme of work undertaken by the United Nations in the field of industrialization and productivity.

Special Fund

At its twelfth session the General Assembly decided to establish a Special Fund to assist in the economic development of under-developed countries¹. General Assembly resolution A/RES/1219(XII) provided that "there shall be established as an expansion of the existing technical assistance and development activities of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies a separate Special Fund which would provide systematic and sustained assistance in fields essential to the integrated technical, economic and social development of the less developed countries". This resolution represented a compromise between a United States proposal for an enlargement of the scope of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and a resolution sponsored by many of the less developed countries calling for the establishment of a Special United Nations Fund for Economic Development (SUNFED) to serve as a basis for a large-scale economic assistance programme under the auspices of the United Nations.

A Preparatory Committee, of which Canada was a member, was established to define the fields of assistance which the new Fund should encompass and the administrative and operational machinery which would be required to ensure its effective functioning. The recommendations of the Preparatory Committee were unanimously agreed upon in the summer of 1958 by the members of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), after several amendments moved by the USSR concerning the membership of the Fund and the currencies in which contributions might be made were defeated². In the course of the debates preceding the adoption of the ECOSOC resolution, the Canadian Delegation strongly supported the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee and expressed the view that the proposed organizational and administrative arrangements of the Fund would permit the selection of sound projects and their implementation on economic lines. The Canadian spokesman concluded his remarks by saying that "Canada could conceive of no greater contribution to the future development of international co-operation in the economic field than the successful inauguration of the new Fund".

¹See *Canada and the United Nations 1956-57*, pp. 45-47 and 1957 pp. 29-31 for previous discussions.

²See ECOSOC Resolution 692A (XXVI).