

PREFACE

"Canada and the United Nations" is a survey of the activities and accomplishments during 1950 of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies, and of the participation of Canada in these bodies. It attempts to put in perspective not only the political and military activities of the United Nations which are constantly brought to our attention, but also the economic and social activities of the whole United Nations system. This system consists not merely of the Security Council and the Assembly but of all the conferences, councils and commissions working under the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies in New York, Geneva, and throughout the world.

The diverse achievements of the United Nations in economic, social and humanitarian fields, though less spectacular and easier of accomplishment than in political fields, touch upon almost every aspect of human endeavour. The initiation in 1950, for instance, of the programme of technical assistance to under-developed countries has far-reaching implications. This programme, and related projects outside the United Nations, represent the beginning of a vast and constructive effort designed to assist countries which are retarded in material development to make better use of their own resources for the improvement of their own living standards. Such programmes are not designed as acts of charity; they are investments in prosperity in which all will share. As a complement to these programmes, new industries will be set up, agricultural techniques improved, and international trade stimulated so that the general standard of living may be raised. Methods by which the long-term economic development of the less-developed countries can best be financed are now being discussed in the United Nations.

But technical assistance and long-term development projects are not merely economic in nature. They are designed to improve health standards and living conditions, and in this way they are closely associated with other projects in the social field which are being pursued in the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies. The programme of advisory social welfare services, for instance, is proving an excellent channel through which the experience of the more highly-developed countries may be made available to the responsible authorities in less-developed areas. Outstanding work is also being done on behalf of refugees by the International Refugee Organization, which will terminate its activities in September 1951, but which by that time will have resettled over one million refugees. Under special United Nations programmes, refugees in the Middle East have been assisted and plans are being made for aid to be extended to victims of the war in Korea. These are but a few of the large number of economic and social activities of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies which are described in this report. The extent of these activities represents no mean achievement for an international system whose total annual budget is about \$80,000,000.

In the long run, the maintenance of peace is closely related to this great work of social and economic development. Peace un-