

## **Commission on International Commodity Trade**

The Economic and Social Council established the Commission on International Commodity Trade in 1954, and assigned to it the task of examining "measures designed to avoid excessive fluctuations in the prices of and the volume of trade in primary commodities, including measures aiming at the maintenance of a just and equitable relationship between the prices of primary commodities and the prices of manufactured goods in international trade and to make recommendations". The Commission is composed of 18 members, elected by ECOSOC. Its membership consists largely of countries with special interest in the production of and trade in primary products, such as Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia and India, as well as more industrialized countries such as France and Belgium. Canada has been a member since the establishment of the Commission and was re-elected at the twenty-second session of ECOSOC.

Canada was represented at the third meeting of the Commission in New York in May 1956, and at the fourth meeting held at Geneva from November 28-December 7, 1956. During these meetings, a number of commodity problems were brought to the attention of the Commission by member countries. The Commission proceeded with its examination of fluctuations in prices of, and in the volume of trade in, fats and oils and non-ferrous metals—these two groups of commodities having been selected at an earlier session for special attention.

At the twenty-second session of ECOSOC there was considerable discussion of the relationship of the Commission to other United Nations bodies with interests and responsibilities in commodity problems, particularly the FAO Committee on Commodity Problems and the Interim Co-ordinating Committee for International Commodity Arrangements. The Council adopted a resolution providing for the continuation of the Commission but requested the Commission, together with the other organizations mentioned above to submit views on any defects in the existing organizational and procedural arrangements relating to United Nations activities in the field of commodity problems.

## **Special United Nations Fund for Economic Development**

### **(SUNFED)**

There are a number of United Nations programmes and organizations with resources to assist the economic development of under-developed countries. The Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance<sup>1</sup> finances the training in more advanced countries of students and fellows from under-developed countries. Its budget, which is provided by voluntary contributions from countries which are members of the United Nations, has been between \$25 million and \$30 million in recent years. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development as of January 31, 1956 had made loans totalling about \$2,500 million to forty-one countries, an increasing proportion of which has been to under-developed countries. The newly

<sup>1</sup>See "Technical Assistance" below, pp. 60-62.