

Universal Postal Union

The Universal Postal Union came into existence in 1874 and is one of the oldest international organizations. Over the years it has arranged innumerable international agreements for the rapid and efficient transmission of mail throughout the world and has made important contributions to the improvement of national postal services. Many under-developed countries have in recent years sought the assistance of the UPU in setting up or extending their postal services.¹

There are now 94 member countries of the Universal Postal Union. They meet usually at intervals of five years at Universal Postal Congresses to re-examine and revise, if necessary, the various international agreements for postal co-operation and to discuss other aspects of the work of the organization. The thirteenth Universal Postal Congress held at Brussels in 1952 produced a revised Universal Postal Convention and seven supplementary Agreements, which have been ratified by, and are in force for, many of the members, including Canada. The fourteenth Universal Postal Congress will be held at Ottawa in 1957.

The permanent organ of the UPU is the International Bureau in Berne, which has an annual budget for ordinary expenditure set by the Universal Postal Congress at a maximum of about 1,857,000 Swiss francs. The Bureau acts as a clearing house for the accounts of member nations relating to the international exchange of postal services, circulates information among the member countries, conducts inquiries on technical matters, and co-operates as required with the United Nations and other Specialized Agencies. The International Bureau is also entrusted with the task of giving opinions on disputes between members, but in the year under review there were no disputes submitted to it. There is also an Executive and Liaison Committee composed of 20 member countries elected by the Universal Postal Congress to meet annually and ensure continuity of work of the UPU between Congresses. Canada is not at present a member of this Committee.

International Labour Organization

The International Labour Organization came into existence in 1919 and was at that time associated with the League of Nations. In 1946 it entered into association with the United Nations as one of the Specialized Agencies. The ILO has among its objectives the furtherance among the nations of full employment and the raising of standards of living; just policies of wages, hours and conditions of work; recognition of the right of collective bargaining; extension of social security; and equality of educational and vocational opportunity.²

The constitution of the ILO contains unique provisions for "tripartite" participation in all its organs by representatives of

¹See *Canada and the United Nations 1952-53*, pp. 71-72.

²See *Canada and the United Nations 1952-53*, pp. 66-68.