

Government was prepared, subject to Parliamentary approval, to contribute up to a maximum of \$1,500,000 to the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance in 1954. This pledge was made on the condition that support from other contributing countries would warrant such Canadian action and that contributions of all member countries would maintain the Programme at an economically sound level. On February 10 the Secretary of State for External Affairs told the House of Commons that these conditions appeared to have been fulfilled, and subsequently Parliament voted the funds required for a contribution equal to Canada's maximum pledge, which is freely convertible and represents an increase of \$700,000 over last year. It is exceeded only by those of the United Kingdom and the United States. The number of countries contributing to the 1954 Programme (72 including Canada), is larger than at any previous time, and the total pledge of about \$24,284,529 is also a record.

The Fifth Report of the Technical Assistance Board, which was presented to the Technical Assistance Committee of the Economic and Social Council at its sixteenth session, drew attention to the financial and administrative difficulties caused by the fact that the total amount pledged in previous years had been made known to those responsible for planning only after the programme year had been well advanced; that a number of contributing countries have delayed making good their pledges and that their contributions to the Programme have been made in some 50 different currencies. Moreover, several countries (including the Soviet Union) have limited the convertibility of their contributions. The Soviet Government also stipulated at first that its contribution to the 1953 Programme (the only one to which it has so far pledged support) must be used to assist projects administered directly by the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration. Negotiations with the Director of UNTAA have however resulted in some relaxation of this condition. During the year Canada followed with interest the discussions on the administrative problems involved in the technical assistance programme, and, although not represented on ECOSOC, gave careful attention to the administrative changes which were initiated, or proposed, for the improvement of the financial procedures in the light of the discussions on these and other relevant questions.

From 1950 to June 1954 training facilities for some 246 United Nations trainees were arranged in Canada under both the Regular and Expanded Programmes of Technical Assistance, while at least 170 Canadians served abroad as United Nations experts during the period. During 1953 alone, 78 Canadian experts were engaged on United Nations or Specialized Agency technical assistance projects, some for a matter of only a few days, others for as long as the entire year.