

## The Permanent Delegation in Geneva

Although the original intention was to centralize all United Nations activities in one place, the headquarters of specialized agencies have been established in various centres. Geneva, in particular, has now assumed an importance as a centre of United Nations affairs second only to that of New York. Such is the volume of work being done in Geneva that an office was established in the autumn of 1948 for a Permanent Representative of Canada at the European headquarters of the United Nations. During 1949 this office had a small staff under the direction of a Secretary. The principal function of the Geneva office is that of liaison with the European Office of the United Nations and with the headquarters of those specialized agencies (ILO, IRO, ITU, WHO) which are situated in Geneva. At the same time the office keeps in touch with the work of the Secretariat and with the representatives in Geneva of other participating countries in order to assist in the development of Canadian policy.

A substantial proportion of the work done by the office at present is in connection with the large number of United Nations and other conferences which are held in Geneva or in the immediate vicinity.\* The staff in Geneva is at present too small to provide the nucleus of delegations in the way in which this is done by the larger Permanent Delegation in New York. During 1949, however, the Secretary assisted wherever possible on delegations and acted as Canadian observer at meetings of such United Nations bodies as the Economic and Social Council and the Trusteeship Council, of which Canada was not a member. The office has proved most helpful in providing communications and other facilities for Canadian delegations and in making arrangements for accommodation and transportation.

## The Working of the United Nations

A comprehensive chart showing in graphic form the relationship between the various organs of the United Nations will be found in an appendix to this volume.\*\* It may be of interest, in addition, to describe something of the methods by which three of the most important organs of the United Nations conduct their business, and something of the atmosphere in which they function. These organs are the General Assembly, the Security Council, and the Economic and Social Council. The United Nations Secretariat is also briefly discussed in this section.

### The General Assembly

Unlike the Security Council, the General Assembly is not in session continuously throughout the year. It is nevertheless the main organ of the United Nations, and all fifty-nine member states are represented\*\*\*. The Assembly holds one regular session per year, beginning in September and usually lasting until the end of November or even later. It may in

\*Details of Canadian representation at all Conferences of the United Nations and the specialized agencies during 1949 are given in the *Annual Report of the Department of External Affairs, 1949*, page 94.

\*\*See Appendix 38, pp. 304-305.

\*\*\*Membership of the United Nations and of all the specialized agencies is given in Appendix 37, pp. 300-302.

Members of the main organs and subsidiary bodies of the United Nations are listed in Appendix 39, pp. 307-311.