

ber of experts were killed and projects disrupted but, in its report for 1964, the Programme noted that, partly because of the advice and help of the United Nations experts, the country's financial position had nonetheless improved.

Over the past two years, the United Nations has focused special attention on two areas of particular interest to the developing countries. In 1963, the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology was held to examine how these countries could benefit from the application of scientific and technological advances. In 1964, the Advisory Committee established by the Conference recommended to the thirty-ninth session of the Economic and Social Council that it consider the possibility of a concerted attack on a limited number of important research-application problems, that a programme of international co-operation in science and technology be undertaken, and that an examination be made of the institutions needed by the developing countries to enable them to make further advances in this field. In 1963, the General Assembly recommended the establishment of the United Nations Training and Research Institute and, in 1964, about 75 countries pledged, or indicated that they would pledge, contributions to it. The Institute, whose headquarters will be in New York, is designed to train personnel, particularly from the developing countries, for service in member governments and United Nations organizations, and also to study major problems relating to the maintenance of peace and the promotion of economic and social development.

The principal objective of the economic programmes of the United Nations is to help the developing nations to help themselves by giving them sufficient trained personnel, capital resources and technical competence to make their own way, provide for their people an improved standard of living and compete with confidence and profit with the more advanced countries. The difficulties of aid-giving are enormous. The identification of any given economic problem and a decision on how it should be solved are alone considerable, quite apart from the actual process of solution, since many countries have had to embark on their economic development almost from scratch with little reliable knowledge of their own resources and considerable uncertainty as to what priorities to establish. Consequently, the United Nations has stressed the importance of carefully-drawn development plans and programmes based on thorough research. While United Nations assistance is given only at the express request of the recipient government, the very real limits on sources available have led to agreement that sustained impact and high-priority need are paramount considerations in the provision of technical and pre-investment assistance.