

Programmes of Assistance

Introduction

The United Nations sponsors special programmes of assistance administered by agencies and funds established for the specific purposes of providing aid for children and refugees. These are financed as "extra-budgetary funds" by the voluntary contributions of member states. A short account of three of these special programmes is given in the immediately following sections.

Aid for Children (UNICEF)

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) was established by the General Assembly in December 1946 to provide emergency aid to children in war-devastated countries following the termination of the United Nations Refugee and Relief Agency (UNRRA). It assists governments to develop permanent health and welfare services for children, and helps in campaigns to control tuberculosis, yaws, malaria, trachoma and other diseases to which children are particularly susceptible. The under-developed countries are the main recipients of this aid.

The Fund is entirely dependent upon voluntary contributions from governments and private associations. Income from all sources in 1958 has been about \$22 million; approximately \$20 million from governments and \$2 million from other sources. The 1958 total sales of UNICEF greeting cards were estimated at \$500,000. Governments requesting assistance from the Fund must be prepared to put into the programme amounts at least equal to those received from UNICEF; this encourages serious consideration before requests are made and also means that double the amount of money contributed to UNICEF is available for the programme. In many cases, the local contributions far exceed those made by the Fund.

The Canadian Government has contributed \$11,325,000 to UNICEF since 1946, including a \$650,000 contribution for 1958. Voluntary contributions from private Canadian sources exceeded \$185,000 in 1958; of this, the assistance given by Canadian children in their "Shell-out for UNICEF" collected at Halloween amounted to over \$125,000. Subject to parliamentary approval, Canada's pledge for 1959 is \$650,000. In addition, UNICEF has distributed in 1958 some 10 million pounds of dried skim milk given by Canada.

At its meetings this year the Executive Board of UNICEF called for stronger financial support, pointing out that contributions were not keeping pace with increased requests for services. The Board also considered the possibility of expanding the Fund's activities into the field of education. Consultations are to be held with the United Nations Educational and Scientific Council (UNESCO) in this connection.

Canada's membership on UNICEF's Executive Board expired on December 31, 1958, completing a long period of membership that began with the establishment of the Fund in 1946. During the past year Mr. R. B. Curry, the Canadian Representative, served as Vice-Chairman of the Programme Committee. Another Canadian, Mrs. Adelaide Sinclair, is Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF.

Assistance for Palestine Arab Refugees

According to the annual report of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), 963,958 refugees were receiving