

A number of resolutions of special interest emerged during the thirteenth session of the General Assembly from discussions in the Second Committee. In the field of international commodity problems, a resolution sponsored by some of the important producing and consuming countries, including four Commonwealth countries (Australia, Canada, Pakistan and the United Kingdom) was adopted. The resolution recognized *inter alia* the importance of export earnings to the economic development of many countries, in particular the less developed countries, and the urgent need for continuing efforts to bring about more assured conditions in commodity trade and a mitigation of difficulties facing many producers of both agricultural and mineral commodities. The resolution urged governments of member states to examine on a commodity by commodity basis what measures might be desirable and feasible in offering solutions to particular commodity problems. It recommended that the principal producing and consuming countries give careful consideration to the possibility of becoming parties to existing international commodity arrangements, expressed the hope that non-participants would refrain from the use of unfair trading practices, and appealed to governments of all member states to increase their efforts to promote conditions favourable to the expansion of international trade.

In the field of economic development two resolutions adopted by the General Assembly deserve special mention. One of these arose from a proposal made by the United States Secretary of State, Mr. Dulles, calling for "new initiatives in the long-term process of economic growth". This resolution, which was adopted by an overwhelming majority, called upon member countries to undertake a review of the efforts they have made so far to achieve the aims of the United Nations in the field of economic development, to chart anew their courses of co-operative action in order to give further impetus to economic development, and finally to enlist the aid of their universities and scientific institutions in the search for solutions to development problems. Another resolution, initiated by Malaya, concerned the role of private capital investment in the development of under-developed countries. This resolution, which was co-sponsored by Canada, re-emphasized the role of private capital in the economic development of under-developed countries and requested the Secretary-General to undertake a comprehensive survey of measures already taken or contemplated for increasing the flow of private capital investment into the less developed countries. The studies and reports which will be prepared on the basis of these resolutions will be considered by ECOSOC and other bodies of the United Nations in the course of 1959.

### **Industrialization of Under-Developed Countries**

Many of the under-developed countries attach importance to early industrialization, which they consider an essential step towards raising their standard of living and maintaining economic stability. The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and other bodies of the United Nations have for the past several years discussed action which the United Nations might take to promote and accelerate industrial development in under-developed areas. Canada has supported the establishment of a programme of work in this field on the understanding that care would be taken to define specific areas of United Nations interest and to insure that assistance provided under such a programme would be of a practical nature and would avoid duplicating facilities which are already available under other multilateral or bilateral programmes.